

2023 Annual Awards



Kentucky Department of Corrections

A Message from the Commissioner

I am excited to welcome everyone to the 2023 Annual Awards Luncheon. The last year has seen many changes, challenges, and opportunities that will build a strong tomorrow for DOC, and it's all of you who will make that future bright.

Before we look to tomorrow, let's take a moment today to reflect on the last year and honor all our award winners. Their performance was an inspiration to all of us and we're thrilled to recognize them for their achievements. Corrections is a difficult job, and each of these winners demonstrate the DOC's commitment to our communities.

We're an agency of almost 4,000 employees, but we're also a family. This means we're here for each other; for the highs, lows, and everything in between. Today is a day of celebration for all of us.



Congratulations to all the 2023 award recipients. Your dedication makes this department special, and I am proud of the work all of you do each day. I am grateful for everything you do; it makes a difference. I am proud to lead and work with all of you. Thank you and enjoy the ceremony, it's for you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cookie Crews".

Cookie Crews
Commissioner
Department of Corrections

A Message from the Secretary

Dear Department of Corrections Team:

Hello, and congratulations. I want to take this opportunity to commend each and every one of you for the work you do daily to create secure facilities and safer communities. While today's event appropriately recognizes certain of our colleagues, it is in a broader sense a celebration of all of our DOC staff and the vital work you do.

Since I took office in August 2021, I have had the opportunity to visit several DOC facilities across the commonwealth. On each of these visits, I have been impressed by the work you do. What you accomplish for our commonwealth is remarkable.

Your work makes Kentuckians safer. Your work ensures that inmates returning to society have the best possible chance to succeed. Your work changes families for the better for generations to come when we help inmates find a better life. And your work brings necessary accountability to those who fail. All of you play an important role in maintaining public safety in Kentucky. You do so at considerable sacrifice.

I am honored to call you my partner in this ongoing effort to create a better commonwealth for future generations of Kentuckians. I look forward to our continued work together on behalf of the people of Kentucky. What you do is important, and it is appreciated.

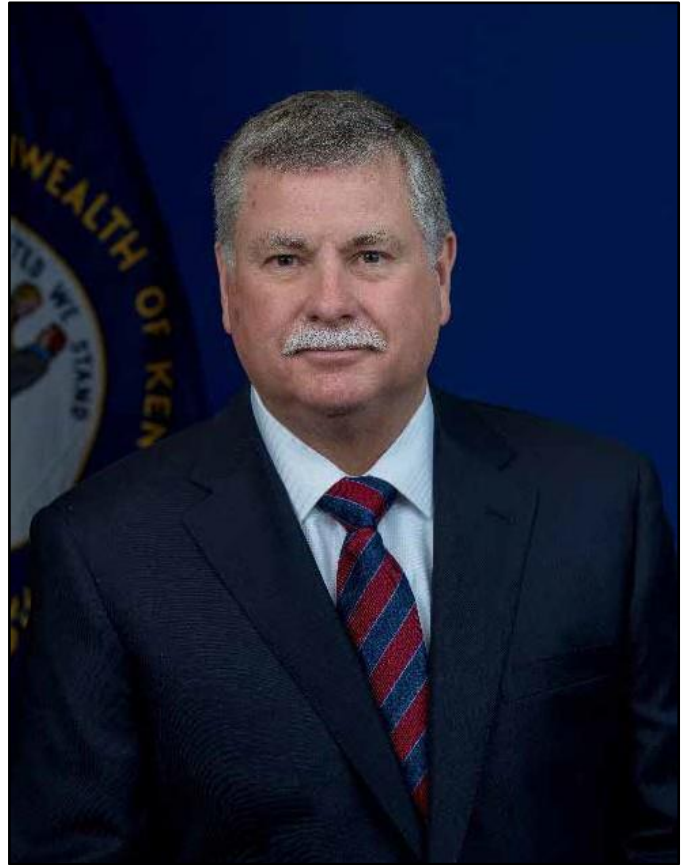
On behalf of Governor Beshear and the entire administration, thank you. The Beshear-Coleman administration appreciates your work and your dedication, and we will never stop fighting for you.

Congratulations to all today's awardees.

Sincerely,



Kerry B. Harvey
Secretary, Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet



2023 DOC Awards *Agenda*

Welcome

Honor Guard

Invocation

Luncheon

♦ ***Award Presentations***

♦ ***Commitment to Corrections
Award***

Kentucky Department of Corrections 2023 Award Winners

Adult Institutions

Deputy Commissioner's Award - Adult Institutions

Tim Baker
Branch Manager
Emergency Management

Division Award - Adult Institutions

Jerrod Milan
Justice Program Administrator
Kentucky Correctional Industries

Adult Institutions Achievement Awards

Ariel Nickell
Bell County Forestry Camp

Haley Nesselrode
Blackburn Correctional Complex

Keith Elam
Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex

Fairell Smith
Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex

Chase McRoy
Green River Correctional Complex

Angela Hernandez
Green River Correctional Complex

Courtney Osmanovic
Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women

Brandon Josey
Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women

Robin McCalister
Kentucky State Penitentiary

Christopher Swank
Kentucky State Penitentiary

William Fischer
Kentucky State Reformatory

Troy Klaber
Kentucky State Reformatory

Scottie Smiddy
Lee Adjustment Center

Linda Campbell
Lee Adjustment Center

Christopher Barker
Little Sandy Correctional Complex

Joshua Montgomery
Little Sandy Correctional Complex

David Tindle
Luther Luckett Correctional Complex

Michael Reese
Luther Luckett Correctional Complex

Kevin Wren
Northpoint Training Center

Kristi Glover
Northpoint Training Center

Lawrence Gunter
Roederer Correctional Complex

Don Smith
Roederer Correctional Complex

Matthew Crittendon
Southeast State Correctional Complex

Lona Taylor
Southeast State Correctional Complex

Aaron Revelett
Western Kentucky Correctional Complex

Jayne Walker
Western Kentucky Correctional Complex

Support Services

Deputy Commissioner's Award – Support Services

Dean Foster

Justice Program Administrator

Division of Parole Board Support

Division Award – Support Services

Vanda Adamson

Purchasing Agent II

Division of Administrative Services

Community Services and Local Facilities

Deputy Commissioner's Award – Community Services and Local Facilities

Melvin Jones

Reentry Coordinator

Division of Reentry Services

Division Award – Community Services and Local Facilities

Deanna Balentine

Administrative Specialist III

Division of Addiction Services

Chief of Staff

Chief of Staff Award

Jason Washington

Postal Technician III

Division of Administrative Services

Division Award

Jessica Payton

Justice Program Supervisor

Division of Compliance

Probation and Parole Achievement Awards

James Barnes

District 1

Kristen Strong

District 2

Deanna Grider

District 3

Gregory Gatewood

District 4

Taylor Henning

District 5

Chris Wilkinson

District 6

Mary Cheek

District 7

Collin Garrison

District 8

Brandon Summers

District 9

Salena Painter

District 10

Samuel Stamper

District 11

Sandra Dibble

District 12

Lisa Boone

District 13

Desi Brooks

District 14

Lori Walden

District 15

Daniel Goodlett

District 16

Tara Jackson

District 17

Natalie Popham

District 18

Ben Fine

District 19

Ashley White

District 20

Director of the Year

Kristin Porter

Division of Reentry Services

Probation & Parole Supervisor of the Year

Heather Foster

District 4

Warden of the Year

Vanessa Kennedy

Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women

Rookies of the Year

Dustin Dagdagan

Sergeant

Kentucky State Penitentiary

Austin Hacker

Probation and Parole Officer

District 14

Kiara Jones-McCracken

Correctional Officer

Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women

Allison Drake

Classification and Treatment Officer

Luther Luckett Correctional Complex

DOC Hero Awards

Carly Alverio

Correctional Officer

Kentucky State Penitentiary

Ian Timpe
Sergeant
Kentucky State Penitentiary

Derrick Isaac
Classification and Treatment Officer
Southeast State Correctional Complex

Daniel Lewis
Probation and Parole Officer
District 10

Clayton Shelton
Probation and Parole Officer
District 10

Jason Joseph
Branch Manager
Policy and Accreditation Branch

Jeremy Stevens
Training Instructor I
Division of Corrections Training

William Sparks
Training Instructor II
Division of Corrections Training

Aaron LaFollette
Probation and Parole Officer
District 4

Jason Warriier
Assistant Supervisor
District 4

Gregory Gatewood
Assistant Supervisor
District 4

Heather Foster
Supervisor
District 4

Justin Cody
Sergeant
Blackburn Correctional Complex

Serena Thomas

Administrative Specialist I

District 2

Tina Ellis

Administrative Specialist II

District 2

James Davis

Probation and Parole Officer

District 2

Matt Cobb

Probation and Parole Officer

District 2

Robert Bruch

Probation and Parole Officer

District 2

Brittany Jobes

Probation and Parole Officer

District 2

James Onkst

Lieutenant

Kentucky State Reformatory

Shane Rickman

Correctional Officer

Little Sandy Correctional Complex

Jason Turner

Probation and Parole Officer

District 12

Jason Robards

Probation and Parole Officer

District 12

Sonja Mays

Administrative Specialist III

Division of Medical Services

Lacey Ruble

Offender Information Supervisor

**Division of Information Services/Offender Information
Branch**

Karen Powell
Captain
Northpoint Training Center

Commissioner's Awards

Joshua Dillon
Correctional Officer
Kentucky State Penitentiary

Jason Lotter
Major
Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex

Crystal Fulks
Assistant Supervisor
District 5

Kevin Lewis
Training Instructor II
Division of Corrections Training

Derek Inman
Training Instructor I
Division of Corrections Training

Jeremy Stevens
Training Instructor I
Division of Corrections Training

Heather Woosley
Training Instructor I
Division of Corrections Training

Greg Moore
Maintenance Branch Manager
Green River Correctional Complex

Matt Spencer
Recreation Supervisor
Little Sandy Correctional Complex

Roy Whitt
Recreation Leader
Little Sandy Correctional Complex

Branden Adkins
Recreation Leader
Little Sandy Correctional Complex

Hallie Griffith
Recreation Leader
Little Sandy Correctional Complex

Jonathon Sloas
Recreation Leader
Little Sandy Correctional Complex

Iliannexis Williams-Hall
Branch Manager
Victim Services Branch

Connie Day
Health Services Administrator
Southeast State Correctional Complex

Brandon Toles
Systems Analyst III
*Division of Information Services/Information Technology
Branch*

John Rector
Lieutenant
Northpoint Training Center

Beth Frazier

Probation and Parole Officer

District 7

Will Knight

Crisis Negotiation Team Administrator

Kristopher Adams

Branch Manager

Kentucky Correctional Industries

*The 2023 Lucille Hurt Robuck
Commitment to Corrections Award*

Rodney Moore

Human Resources Director

Justice and Public Safety Cabinet

2023 Deputy Commissioner's Award Adult Institutions

Tim Baker *Branch Manager* Emergency Management



Emergency Management Branch Manager Tim Baker joined the Department of Corrections in 2019 after a long and distinguished career with the Federal Bureau of Prisons. As a program administrator assigned to Emergency Management, Baker quickly adapted to the DOC and established himself as a knowledgeable, capable, and respected employee. In 2021, Baker was selected as the state Corrections Emergency Response Team (CERT) administrator and promoted to his current position as branch manager in June of this year.

Baker joined DOC during an unparalleled time of unique challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic and a high level of staffing vacancies. Despite these challenges he remained highly adaptive and creative, and through his efforts was able to schedule multiple CERT basic training classes. Baker and his team have been called upon to assist with training and advising agencies outside of the DOC and these duties were carried out with high satisfaction and praise. Baker also travels extensively conducting critical incident training exercises and regional training exercises.

A proactive and self-driven employee, Baker continuously explores methods in which to improve operations. He does not settle for the status quo but seeks out new training opportunities and methods to improve and move CERT readiness forward. Baker maintains and updates the use of force equipment list, provides valuable input for use of force and emergency management policy reviews, and is highly dedicated to his role as the Emergency Management branch manager. Due to his devotion to DOC, Tim Baker is a worthy recipient of the 2023 Deputy Commissioner's Award for Adult Institutions.

2023 Adult Institutions Division Award

Jerrod Milan *Justice Program Administrator*

Kentucky Correctional Industries



Jerrod Milan was recently promoted to justice program administrator for Kentucky Correctional Industries (KCI) from his position as the operations manager at the Green River Correctional Complex furniture plant. He was selected for this position based not only on his work experience and knowledge of policies and procedures, but also because of his overall good character and positive attitude.

Currently, Milan's primary responsibility is coordinating ACA compliance for KCI. During the recent reaccreditation audit, Milan worked hard to ensure ACA records were thorough, correct and uniform across all of KCI. Milan worked with all locations to guarantee these parameters were consistently met and maintained. He also attended several onsite audits to assist as needed. As a result of his efforts, KCI received a perfect audit score.

Milan has been instrumental in establishing the first KCI Prison Industries Enhancement Certification Program (PICEP) this year at the Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women. Milan was assigned the task of initiating and administering the program. He worked diligently with Restoration Parts Unlimited Inc., the National Correctional Industries Association, local union leaders, the Labor Cabinet, and other entities in establishing the program while meeting federal guidelines.

Through careful planning, pioneering efforts, and commitment to his assigned tasks, Milan has not only paved the way for the initial PICEP program in Kentucky, but he has also established a successful outlook and high potential for growth of PICEP partnerships going forward. It is for these reasons that Jerrod Milan is worthy of the 2023 Adult Institutions Division Award.

2023 Achievement Award Adult Institutions

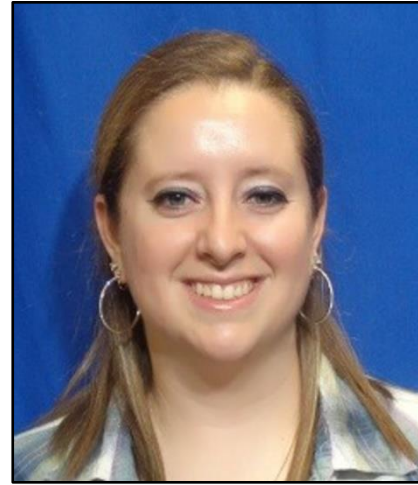


Ariel Nickell

Bell County Forestry Camp

Ariel Nickell has been a classification and treatment officer since January 2023. During that time, she has demonstrated leadership and maturity at levels above her age and experience. Since promoting to her new role from her previous position as a correctional education specialist I, Nickell has excelled even while continuing to help inmates attain their GEDs. Since being promoted to CTO, she has been instrumental in classification as well as handling the enrollment of inmates into classes. She has been a big part in making sure that all classification documents required by the American Correctional Association are in order. She assumes additional duties including serving on the institution's Crisis Negotiation Team. She is respected by both staff and inmates. Classification and Treatment Officer Ariel Nickell is a prime example of what an employee should be and is deserving of the Bell County Forestry Camp 2023 Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Adult Institutions



Haley Nesselrode

Blackburn Correctional Complex

Haley Nesselrode began her career as a corrections officer at Blackburn Correctional Complex and quickly promoted to administrative specialist II. From the start, she took on numerous jobs and responsibilities, often ones no one else wanted. She took on the supervision of a work detail tasked with sanitation for the institution, quickly gaining the respect from her crew of 20 inmates. Most recently, Nesselrode was promoted to maintenance, overseeing sanitation and special detail projects. She completely revamped and organized the entire sanitation building and created a process that ensured every building on the complex is maintained. She completed numerous major maintenance projects, including renovation of the inmate bathrooms and replacing the old tile flooring in the inmate kitchen. Nesselrode's initiative saved our institution large amounts of money. Her hands-on approach to managing her department is an inspiration to staff and inmates. Haley Nesselrode stands out as the "go-to" at BCC when any project needs completed, making her a worthy recipient of the 2023 Blackburn Correctional Complex Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Adult Institutions



Keith Elam

Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex

Correctional Captain Keith Elam is currently the internal affairs supervisor at Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex. Elam is a retiree who returned to work in 2012 and has supervised Internal Affairs at EKCC for approximately five years. In that time, he has built an impressive area that consistently does a tremendous job. Each morning, he briefs the warden on any developments that he needs to know. Elam's Internal Affairs office uses the latest techniques and technology to stop the introduction of contraband into the institution. He maintains perfect time and attendance and responds to the institution at any time needed, day or night, and is always willing to help other facilities if called upon. For these reasons Correctional Captain Keith Elam is deserving of the Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex 2023 Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Adult Institutions



Fairell Smith

Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex

Correctional Lieutenant Fairell Smith continually strives to make Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex a safer place for staff and inmates alike. As the security threat group coordinator, he identifies and monitors the gang population at DOC's largest and most diverse institution. He also monitors and assists with the institution's bed moves and facility transfers to ensure a safe environment for everyone. He always goes the extra mile to ensure that he and his staff have the tools and resources needed to do their job effectively. Smith has proven to be an effective leader in his department, supervising his officers as well as acting as the Internal Affairs supervisor in the absence of the Internal Affairs captain. Correctional Lieutenant Fairell Smith exemplifies all the qualities that any employer wants in an employee and is fully deserving of the 2023 Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Adult Institutions



Chase McRoy

Green River Correctional Complex

Correctional Captain Chase McRoy is the commander of Green River Correctional Complex's second shift and K-9 team. McRoy has shown incredible leadership in both roles. Despite staffing vacancies, he has managed his shift resourcefully. In addition, he takes time to make sure new staff who just graduated from the academy receive continued training on the job. He makes sure every staff member who is assigned to his shift knows how much they are appreciated and makes them feel a part of the team. Under his leadership, the K-9 team has been called out four times to assist local law enforcement throughout adjoining counties with locating individuals who have become lost. McRoy's team is always ready to help anyone when needed. The care and concern he shows for the K-9s and the staff he supervises on his shift are attributes we should all show in the department. For these reasons, Correctional Captain Chase McRoy is a worthy recipient of the 2023 Green River Correctional Complex Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Adult Institutions



Angela Hernandez

Green River Correctional Complex

Unit Administrator II Angela Hernandez began her Corrections career in 2006 as a correctional officer at Green River Correctional Complex. As a unit administrator, she supervises the special management housing unit and minimum-security unit at GRCC and serves as the transfer coordinator and back up grievance coordinator. Hernandez's experience gives her a wealth of knowledge, which enhances her perspective and enables her to make decisions that make positive impacts throughout the institution. One of her biggest impacts is her mentorship of newer employees. She is a team player who cares about her co-workers, demonstrates a strong work ethic, maintains a positive attitude and leads by example. Hernandez continually strives to continue her professional development and is always willing to learn about all aspects of institutional administration. During her career, Hernandez has served as PREA compliance manager/investigator, grievance coordinator, adjustment officer, fentanyl first responder, and member of the Crisis Negotiation Team. For these reasons, Unit Administrator II Angela Hernandez is a deserving recipient of the 2023 Green River Correctional Complex Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Adult Institutions



Courtney Osmanovic

Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women

Unit Administrator I Courtney Osmanovic began her DOC career in September 2013 as a correctional officer at Kentucky State Reformatory. Osmanovic promoted to unit administrator I and transferred to the Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women in December 2022. She jumped right into her new position with both feet at KCIW, bringing her can-do attitude along. Osmanovic demonstrates initiative when relieving officers for breaks, conducting cell searches, strip searches, and anything else that makes her housing unit and the institution safer and more secure. She leads by example and consistently demonstrates professional and ethical behavior. She has a calming influence on the inmate population and has adjusted remarkably well to dealing with female offenders. Osmanovic is honest, kind, strong, understanding, and fair and is constantly learning better ways to interact with staff and inmates. For these reasons, Unit Administrator I Courtney Osmanovic is a deserving recipient of the 2023 Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Adult Institutions



Brandon Josey

Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women

Correctional Captain Brandon Josey started his career at the Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women in January 2013 as a correctional officer. Josey has promoted through the ranks while working all shifts, off-days, and all posts within the facility without complaint. No matter what situation arises, he always keeps calm. He always works overtime to help with staff shortages and will not leave until his fellow captains are taken care of. He is respected amongst his peers for his compassion and professionalism. His fair, consistent and logical approach, as well as his leadership style, significantly contribute to the safety and security of the institution. Josey just moved into the position of administrative captain, assisting in ensuring the effective and safe functioning of daily operations. He is passionate about staff and his new role allows him the ability to focus on staff and support their growth. Correctional Captain Brandon Josey is deserving of the 2023 Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Adult Institutions



Robin McCalister
Kentucky State Penitentiary

Unit Administrator I Robin McCalister began her Corrections career as an administrative assistant at Western Kentucky Correctional Complex in 2011. In February 2021, McCalister transferred to the Kentucky State Penitentiary as an administrative specialist II, working for the deputy warden of programs. She has earned two letters of commendation for finding dangerous contraband in the mailroom at WKCC. In addition, she has been named employee of the month three times during her career. She was promoted to her current position as grievance coordinator at KSP in February 2023. In addition to her duties as grievance coordinator, she has maintained her duties as backup transfer coordinator, visitation coordinator and KOMS coordinator. She regularly assists security staff at the front gate and works overtime every weekend scheduling and supervising inmate visits. She is a valuable member of the KSP team and is always willing to help whenever needed. For all these reasons, Unit Administrator I Robin McCalister is worthy of the 2023 Kentucky State Penitentiary Achievement Award.

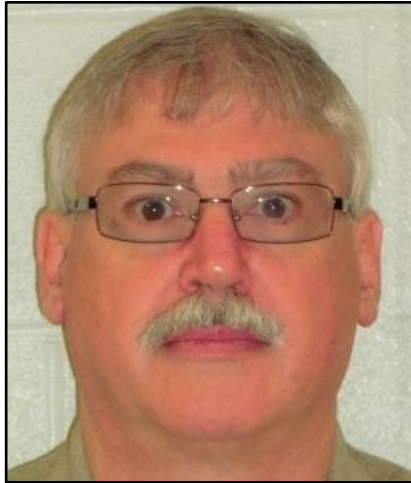
2023 Achievement Award Adult Institutions



Christopher Swank
Kentucky State Penitentiary

Christopher Swank is a boiler operator supervisor at Kentucky State Penitentiary. He began employment as a correctional officer at KSP in October 2010, where he worked a variety of posts. In 2017, Swank joined the KSP maintenance department as a mechanical maintenance operator technician III where he assisted in the repair, upkeep and preventative maintenance of KSP, which is a 137-year-old facility. In 2022, Swank promoted to boiler operator supervisor and oversees the boiler systems that power the institution. Without the supervision of Swank and the minimum-custody inmates he trains to assist with overseeing the boiler system, the institution would not be able to operate. Swank is a leader and mentor for newer staff and is a professional inside or away from the institution. He has a positive attitude, completes any task he is assigned to the best of his abilities, and his work is always thorough. For these reasons, Boiler Operator Supervisor Christopher Swank is a deserving recipient of the 2023 Kentucky State Penitentiary Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Adult Institutions



William Fischer

Kentucky State Reformatory

Locksmith William Fischer does a tremendous job for Kentucky State Reformatory every day. He is a dedicated employee who goes above and beyond in showing his commitment to accomplishing the goals of KSR and DOC. Every morning he helps security at gate 1 and often gives breaks for officers during the day. At times, Fischer has been asked to help other institutions with locksmithing issues and he does so eagerly and without complaint. Fischer is on call 24 hours a day and keeps up with the ordering and inventories within his department. He is quick to recognize any security concerns and communicates these concerns effectively with his supervisors. Locksmith William Fischer is a valued employee, and we are very proud to recognize him for his hard work with the 2023 Kentucky State Reformatory Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Adult Institutions



Troy Klaber

Kentucky State Reformatory

After a 20-year career in the community, Social Service Clinician I Troy Klaber began his service to the Department of Corrections in 2016 at the Kentucky State Reformatory. Klaber works in the correctional psychiatric treatment unit (CPTU) C Wing, where the department's most mentally ill inmates are housed, assessed, stabilized and treated. He also oversees the inmate observers program, an innovative initiative where inmates assist staff in watching other inmates placed on watch status. Klaber is KSR's Crisis Negotiation Team commander and has a great passion for it. He is always willing to help and routinely works overtime to assist KSR's security staff. His dedication earned him the 2023 KSR Programs Staff Member of the Year. For all these reasons, Social Service Clinician I Troy Klaber is more than deserving of the 2023 Kentucky State Reformatory Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Adult Institutions



Scottie Smiddy
Lee Adjustment Center

Correctional Captain Scottie Smiddy deserves this recognition based on his outstanding job performance as a supervisor at Lee Adjustment Center. He takes responsibility for his actions and is always professional in his interactions with staff and the inmate population. He has also demonstrated a willingness to work any shift to expand his job knowledge and personal development. Smiddy continues to develop his leadership and administrative abilities by requesting additional training opportunities. He is an excellent role model to his staff, and he takes time to mentor his subordinates to ensure they perform at a high level of competence and professionalism. For these reasons and more, it is our pleasure to honor Correctional Captain Scottie Smiddy with the 2023 Lee Adjustment Center Achievement Award.

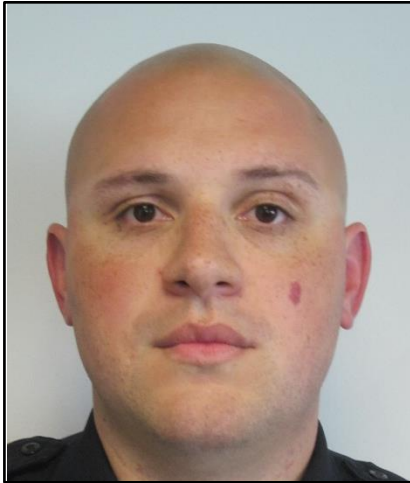
2023 Achievement Award Adult Institutions



Linda Campbell
Lee Adjustment Center

Security Administrative Clerk Linda Campbell deserves this recognition for her outstanding job performance, not just in her own job, but for assisting whenever and wherever needed within the facility. Campbell is a true asset to Lee Adjustment Center. She is actively involved with staff fundraising activities, children's Christmas charities, and back-to-school drives. She is frequently the first person to volunteer her time. Campbell has been involved with Red River Gorge Chapter of KCCD since its establishment and is now the president-elect. Campbell is a very positive person, and she exudes confidence and professionalism in all she does. For these reasons and more, Security Administrative Clerk Linda Campbell is worthy of the 2023 Lee Adjustment Center Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Adult Institutions



Christopher Barker
Little Sandy Correctional Complex

Unit Administrator I Christopher Barker is a true team player and is always willing to assist his coworkers and staff in other departments. He is the institutional grievance coordinator, transfer coordinator, and supervisor of the inmate library. Barker recently took on the duties as acting chaplain when the former chaplain left for another position in another state. He has ensured that religious services remained on the normal schedule, counseled inmates as needed, completed wellness checks on inmate family members, completed inmate death notifications, and scheduled virtual funerals. He is highly organized and has an exemplary work ethic. Due to his actions, religious services were not impacted by the departure of the former chaplain, and Barker was able to continue to complete his regular job duties with no issue. LSCC appreciates Barker's hard work and dedication to our staff and inmates. It's for these reasons that Unit Administrator I Christopher Barker is a worthy recipient of the 2023 Little Sandy Correctional Complex Achievement Award.

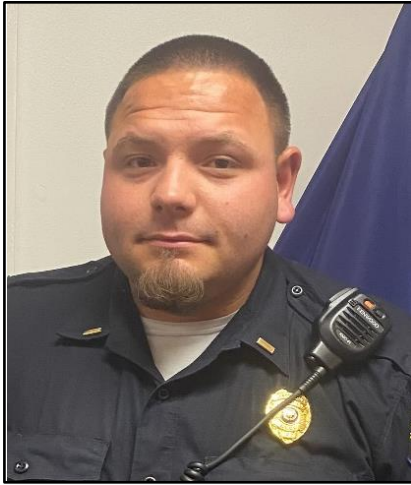
2023 Achievement Award Adult Institutions



Joshua Montgomery
Little Sandy Correctional Complex

Correctional Major Joshua Montgomery has proven to be a true leader and team player in his time at Little Sandy Correctional Complex. During the 2022-2023 COVID-19 lockdowns, he showed selflessness by putting in long hours, helping pack property, and working after hours to help ensure posts were filled. He continuously leads by example, working together as a team player and by supporting co-workers. He recently assisted multiple staff in the apprehension of an inmate who walked off from the LSCC minimum security unit. His decisiveness and his ability to handle uncertainty, process information quickly, weigh evidence with intuition and act in a timely manner make him an invaluable asset to LSCC. He is respected by staff and strives to complete all trainings available. He works well with other departments and does so with a positive attitude to ensure a good working relationship. For these reasons, we are proud to present Major Joshua Montgomery the 2023 Little Sandy Correctional Complex Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Adult Institutions



David Tindle

Luther Luckett Correctional Complex

Correctional Lieutenant David Tindle began his career at Luther Luckett Correctional Complex as a correctional officer in 2017. In 2022, Tindle was promoted to correctional lieutenant and was assigned to the special management unit (SMU). Tindle has been an excellent mentor to the security supervisors assigned to SMU and has been an excellent liaison between the unit staff and security staff. He is always calm under pressure, even when there are multiple occurrences happening at one time within the unit. His calm demeanor in these emergency situations gives the newer, less experienced security staff assigned to the unit the reassurance to confidently deal with the situations while knowing all situations will be handled properly and according to policy. Tindle's ability to de-escalate crises with offenders has decreased the use of force incidents in SMU. He has been an outstanding addition to the unit and an invaluable asset to the institution. It is for these reasons and more that Lieutenant David Tindle is deserving of the 2023 Luther Luckett Correctional Complex Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Adult Institutions



Mike Reese

Luther Luckett Correctional Complex

Luther Luckett Correctional Complex Maintenance Manager Mike Reese has 16 years of experience in the LLCC maintenance department. Reese, a master electrician by trade and in this position, oversees the maintenance department, ensuring LLCC's buildings and mechanical equipment are kept in good repair. He also ensures preventive maintenance and work orders are completed accurately and in a timely manner. He has proven himself to be a great leader. Reese is self-motivated, organized, trustworthy, empathic, and optimistic. He has a clear vision of departmental goals, and he sets a high standard that he encourages others to follow. Reese is a critical thinker and problem-solver who manages the maintenance budget, supervises a team of technicians, and prioritizes work based on institutional needs. He is on call all day, every day and is always willing to respond to any institutional issue. His knowledge and expertise ensure that LLCC is maintained as a safe, clean and mechanically sound institution. It is for these reasons that Mike Reese is worthy of the 2023 Luther Luckett Correctional Complex Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Adult Institutions



Kevin Wren

Northpoint Training Center

Safety Administrator Kevin Wren began his career at Northpoint Training Center as a correctional officer in 2008, leaving briefly to work in the private sector before returning in 2015. He has worked every security post and has supervised many different sections throughout NTC. Wren is also a certified instructor in firearms, CPR, fit testing, fire prevention, basic life safety, forklift operations, and OSHA. In addition, Wren oversees the inmate safety specialist program and trains both staff and inmates in fire and safety. He assists with job fairs, issues inmate hygiene items, serves on the K9 team, and is a certified drone operator and active KCCD member. Wren possesses many qualities desired in a leader and is always willing to use his experience to help solve problems while cultivating a spirit of teamwork and positivity. These traits are vital for staff in this stressful profession. Safety Administrator Kevin Wren is a true professional and passionate about his work, making him a deserving recipient of the 2023 Northpoint Training Center Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Adult Institutions



Kristi Glover

Northpoint Training Center

Correctional Officer Kristi Glover started her career with Northpoint Training Center in 2018. Most recently, Glover received an award for being named the NTC uniformed Employee of the Month for May 2023. Glover strives to do her very best at whatever post she is assigned. She frequently assists Internal Affairs with monitoring phone calls and reviewing camera footage. When reviewing cameras, Glover has discovered numerous physical altercations. In March 2023, an inmate attempted to have dangerous contraband thrown over the fence, but Glover understood the coded language they were speaking and notified Internal Affairs. Glover's attention to detail prevented dangerous contraband from entering the institution. Throughout her career, she has been recognized on numerous occasions for having perfect attendance and frequently goes above and beyond what is asked of her. Glover's professionalism and ability to handle any task given to her makes her an asset to NTC. For these reasons Correctional Officer Kristi Glover is deserving of the 2023 Northpoint Training Center Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Adult Institutions



Lawrence Gunter
Roederer Correctional Complex

Correctional Officer Lawrence Gunter began his career with DOC in 2007. He has been a valued member of the Roederer Correctional Complex team since 2017. Gunter possesses a high standard of professionalism as he maintains the safety and security of the facility. He is dedicated and thorough in his duties while working at the Gate 393 post, greeting all staff and visitors coming into RCC. His knowledge of procedures allows him to work efficiently and with confidence. Gunter demonstrates humor, considerateness, and helpfulness as he guides and directs traffic flow in and out of the prison. In addition to appreciating the remarkable work ethic he brings to the job as a corrections officer, Gunter's coworkers also enjoy his great sense of humor. For his experience, wisdom, and all he does for the institution and staff, Officer Lawrence Gunter is a deserving recipient of the 2023 Roederer Correctional Complex Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Adult Institutions



Don Smith
Roederer Correctional Complex

Maintenance Manager Don Smith joined the Department of Corrections at Luther Luckett Correctional Complex in the maintenance department in 2005. In 2017 he became the maintenance manager for Roederer Correctional Complex. Smith is tireless and dedicated in the work that he does for RCC. He has several major projects he has been charged with balancing in 2023 alone. He has managed the installation of a temporary food service operation while overseeing the total renovation of the existing kitchen, a full-scale roof project, and an extensive HVAC project. These large projects are being managed in addition to the daily needs taking place in the facility every day for the staff and population. With so many things needing Smith's attention seemingly at once, he still maintains a can-do attitude and good sense of humor. With the knowledge and positive attitude he brings to the facility, Don Smith is a deserving recipient of the 2023 Roederer Correctional Complex Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Adult Institutions

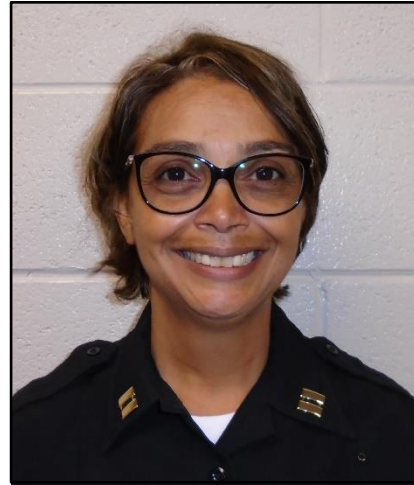


Mathew Crittendon

Southeast State Correctional Complex

Unit Administrator Matthew Crittendon began his career in Corrections in 2005 as a correctional officer for CoreCivic. He later transitioned to the Federal Bureau of Prisons and eventually the Virginia Department of Corrections. When Southeast State Correctional Complex opened in 2020, Crittendon returned to the facility as a correctional officer. He climbed the ranks to sergeant, lieutenant, and now unit administrator. He oversees the special management unit at SSCC as well as a general population dormitory. He is the grievance coordinator, transfer coordinator, KCCD president and the Crisis Negotiation Team leader. Crittendon led the SSCC Crisis Negotiation Team to the CNT Challenge championship in 2023. Crittendon leads by example. He is always the first to step up and help in any way possible and doesn't mind assisting security when needed. He works hard to train new staff and even comes in on all three shifts to be accessible. For all these reasons, Unit Administrator Matthew Crittendon is deserving of the 2023 Southeast State Correctional Complex Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Adult Institutions



Lona Taylor

Southeast State Correctional Complex

Correctional Captain Lona Taylor began her career as a correctional officer at the Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women in 2004. She promoted her way through the security ranks at KCIW. Taylor was also the co-commander for KCIW's Corrections Emergency Response Team during her employment at the institution. In 2020, Taylor transferred to Southeast State Correctional Complex at their correctional captain. During her time at SSCC, Taylor has worked in Internal Affairs, become the security threat group coordinator, and volunteered her time to work at the Kentucky State Reformatory on her off days. Taylor has proven that she can be trusted to complete any task given to her, efficiently, effectively and within policy. Taylor demonstrates her dedication, commitment, and professionalism daily. For these reasons and more, Correctional Captain Lona Taylor is deserving of the 2023 Southeast State Correctional Complex Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Adult Institutions



Jayne Walker

Western Kentucky Correctional Complex

Jayne Walker is an adult educator at the Western Kentucky Correctional Complex. She has taught adult basic education and GED classes to students for the past 22 years for DOC. Walker has consistently provided superior quality instruction to her students and her level of output throughout her career has been unparalleled. During her career she has been responsible for seeing well over 500 offenders earn their GED. Despite the challenge of being the only instructor at WKCC during this school year, her program ranked as a top performer in Corrections education for all adult institutions. The Corrections state average for the GED pass rate for 2022-23 was 51.4% on all tests. Walker's pass rate for this time was 75.7%. This includes a math pass rate of 100% for the same period. Her numbers are the result of her knowledge, expertise, and determination for seeing her students achieve and excel. Jayne Walker is a dedicated professional and is a deserving recipient of the 2023 Western Kentucky Correctional Complex Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Adult Institutions



Aaron Revelett

Western Kentucky Correctional Complex

Correctional Lieutenant Aaron Revelett has proven to be a dedicated Correctional professional during his time at Western Kentucky Correctional Complex. Revelett always demonstrates a positive attitude when dealing with inmates and staff and is always willing to assist others. Revelett also goes above and beyond his own assigned duties for the institution. Revelett is the WKCC CERT commander, where he volunteers his time to lead the team in preparation for critical incidents that may affect the normal operation of the institution. Revelett always shows a positive mindset and exceptional leadership skills in this critical role. He also fulfills other critical positions at the institution such as firearms instructor, taser instructor, less lethal instructor, and former honor guard member. He exemplifies the best qualities of Corrections and is an asset to WKCC. He is an outstanding leader who always puts the needs of the institution and DOC above his own. For these reasons, Lieutenant Aaron Revelett is a deserving recipient of the 2023 Western Kentucky Correctional Complex Achievement Award.

2023 Deputy Commissioner's Award Support Services

Dean Foster

Program Administrator

Parole Board Support

Dean Foster began his career with the DOC in 2013 as an offender information specialist I in the Division of Information Services. He was promoted to offender information supervisor in 2015, and then transferred to the Division of Parole Board Support as a parole board specialist II in 2018. In December 2018, Foster was promoted to justice program administrator.

Foster oversees the revocation section of the division. He is well respected by his colleagues and has a reputation for always being available and approachable. Parole Board members, jail staff, and DOC staff constantly seek his advice and his wisdom. He also views his professional obligation to the parolee, their family, and their associates as no less important.

Foster's job performance is exceptional. Not only is he highly knowledgeable of the revocation process, but he is also inquisitive about the functionality of all of Corrections, which has broadened his knowledge. He is a positive, calming influence, as well as a superb instructor who excels in inspiring others. Foster is also continually looking at how processes can be improved and streamlined.

His most significant contribution to the Division of Parole Board Support is how he assisted in implementing the revised parole revocation process. At one point, there was a six-month backlog with approximately 1,000 unscheduled revocations. Presently, there are approximately 260 offenders on revocation status with no backlog. While he may not be a one man show, he was instrumental in stabilizing this process.

It is for these reasons and more that Dean Foster is a worthy recipient of the 2023 Deputy Commissioner's Award for Support Services.



2023 Support Services Division Award

Vanda Adamson *Purchasing Agent II* Administrative Services



Vanda Adamson is a crucial member of the Division of Administrative Services team. The experience she gained as a fiscal manager at Kentucky State Penitentiary has proven extremely beneficial in her current role as a procurement agent for the department.

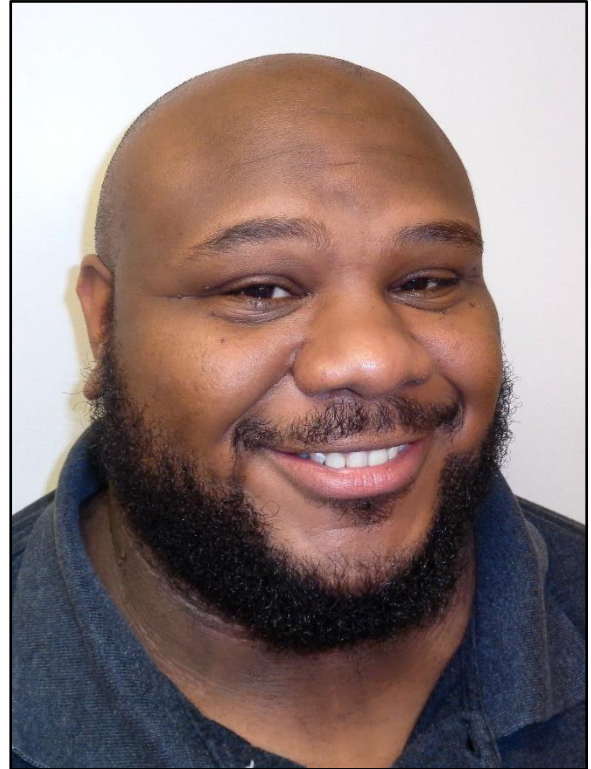
Adamson reviews all agency procurements entered in the eMARS system and ensures every purchase meets both DOC's and the Finance and Administration Cabinet's policies and procedures. She works continually with fiscal staff throughout the agency to ensure all requirements are met. She diligently collaborates with staff to expedite the complicated procurement processes to alleviate timeliness issues associated with following procedures appropriately.

Adamson has also been very involved in the creation and implementation of the division's fiscal leadership program that was started in 2023. This was established to improve the agency's knowledge and experience with field staff. Adamson's experience and leadership skills are reflected in the program's comprehensive curriculum and positive feedback from participants.

A role model for fiscal staff in our agency, Adamson is extremely valuable to the operations of Administrative Services as well as the entire DOC. For these reasons, Vanda Adamson is a worthy recipient of the 2023 Support Services Division Award.

2023 Deputy Commissioner's Award Community Services & Local Facilities

Melvin Jones *Reentry Coordinator* Division of Reentry Services



Melvin Jones is one of the reentry coordinators at Blackburn Correctional Complex. He goes the extra mile to assist inmates being released from custody to set them up for success post-release.

Jones schedules and hosts events at the institution for the population to ensure they have the resources and connections needed for when they return to their communities. After hosting job and resource fairs, Jones has received nothing but glowing reviews and comments from local community providers. Among other things, Jones was praised for his great communication skills and the passion he demonstrates when helping justice-involved individuals.

Jones always wants to make sure when individuals are released from BCC that they have the skills and information needed to be successful. Thinking innovatively, Jones has worked with the local area Chamber of Commerce to form the first-ever employment pipeline in the equine industry for inmates leaving prison. This has resulted in several inmates having a job immediately after release. He collaborates closely with local equine employers to ensure the skills inmates obtain while incarcerated will pay off and works to make the transition to full-time employment as smooth as possible. This employment pipeline model is now being replicated statewide as it proved to be a success.

Blackburn Correctional Complex Warden Abby Caudill said this about him: “Melvin always has a positive attitude and is willing to go above and beyond. He is a great example of an employee that demonstrates hard work and dedication. He is a team player, and I am so grateful to have him as part of our BCC team.”

An exemplary employee, Jones is a team player and has an excellent rapport with his coworkers. It is for these reasons and more that Melvin Jones is deserving of the Deputy Commissioner's Award for Community Services and Local Facilities.

2023 Division Award

Community Services and Local Facilities

Deanna Balentine *Administrative Specialist III* Division of Addiction Services



Every agency needs a go-to person, one who can jump in, navigate varying ideas, and then somehow turn those thoughts into clear and concise action. We all need a person who understands the big picture. Deanna Balentine is that person for the Division of Addiction Services.

As an administrative specialist, Balentine goes far beyond simply making computer entries and completing bed moves. A part of Addiction Services since February 2022, Balentine works with the administrative staff at the substance abuse programs (SAP) at Western Kentucky Correctional Complex (WKCC), Ross-Cash and Green River Correctional Complex (GRCC).

Since joining the division, Balentine has been willing to assist other programs and accept new tasks whenever asked. She has pursued furthering her education to make sure she is not only more prepared for her current position but also so she can be considered for future promotions within the division and department.

Balentine started her career with the DOC as a correctional officer at GRCC in 2014. After a brief departure, she returned to the department in 2016 at WKCC. One of her specific duties was acting as operations clerk, where she proved herself to be very efficient in time management and multitasking. In 2019, Balentine was promoted to administrative specialist I in the procedures office where she maintained institutional policies and all ACA documentation.

A 2017 WKCC LEAD program graduate, Balentine is also the western regional Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) commander and has been an active member of CNT since 2017. She is currently working towards earning a degree in social work and wants to pursue a position as a social service clinician in the substance abuse program in the future.

Balentine is someone you can always count on to help with a project, often making it look and flow much better. When observing her interactions with clients in SAP, it is evident that they respect and appreciate her. Balentine is a positive person and her hard work demonstrates that she is always committed to the department's mission. For all of these reasons, Deanna Balentine deserves to be recognized with the 2023 Community Services and Local Facilities Division Award.

2023 Chief of Staff Award

Jason Washington

Postal Technician III
Division of Administrative
Services

Jason Washington began his career with the DOC in 2001 as a postal technician in the Division of Administrative Services. Washington has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the mailroom. Despite working in a position that may not always receive the spotlight it deserves, his dedication to his duties has been nothing short of remarkable. His role in handling the mailroom operations is a vital aspect of the department's overall functioning, ensuring that critical communications reach the intended recipients in a timely and secure manner.



Washington's consistent hard work, attention to detail and positive attitude have not gone unnoticed. Colleagues have expressed their utmost respect for him, highlighting his reliability, willingness to assist others, and ability to foster a harmonious and cooperative environment within the workplace.

Washington's exemplary work ethic serves as an inspiration to others in the department and it is evident his contributions extend far beyond the mailroom. His professional demeanor and willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty significantly contributes to the overall success of the DOC's mission.

It is employees like Washington who make DOC a great place to work and his long-standing commitment to our organization is commendable. This award is but a small token of appreciation compared to the invaluable impact he has had on the department and its staff. For these reasons, Postal Technician Jason Washington is a worthy recipient of the 2023 Chief of Staff Award.

2023 Chief of Staff Division Award

Jessica Payton

Justice Program Supervisor
Division of Compliance

In October 2021, Jessica Payton was promoted to the position of justice program supervisor with the department's Compliance Division. She was tasked with supervising the Contract Management Branch, a recently reformed branch in the DOC. This branch provides oversight of contract compliance for the Recovery Kentucky Centers (RKC) and Reentry Service Centers (RSC) across the state.

As supervisor of the Contract Management Branch, Payton oversees five staff members. She leads her area by example and doesn't ask her staff to do anything that she wouldn't do herself. If you see contract management staff assisting with an early morning search or joint operation at a center, odds are that you'll see Payton there too.

Payton works with her team to coordinate announced and unannounced inspections of all RKC and RSCs. She also assists with training center staff, providing support during emergencies, and ensuring that offenders receive the appropriate level of care and services while housed at these facilities.

While it is Payton's primary job duty to ensure contractual compliance, she has worked extremely hard to build partnerships with the RKC and RSC leadership. She works closely with other areas of the department, including staff in Adult Institutions, Probation and Parole, Addiction Services, and Reentry, and often acts as a liaison between these areas and the centers. Her efforts have vastly improved the communication between DOC staff and the RKC and RSCs, leading to more consistent and improved care and services for our offenders.

Payton's leadership, attention to detail, and dedication have been instrumental in advancing the mission of the Compliance Division and the department. For these reasons, we are proud to honor Jessica Payton with a 2023 Chief of Staff Division Award.



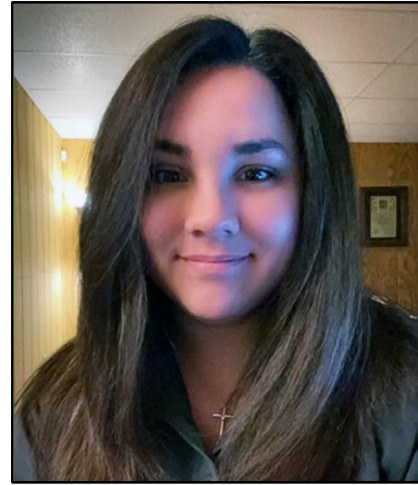
2023 Achievement Award Probation & Parole



James Barnes
District 1

Probation and Parole Officer James Barnes currently serves as the class D and HIP coordinator for District 1. Barnes is an integral part of the District 1 team and can be relied on to handle releases and the home incarceration program without need of direct supervision. Barnes is meticulous in ensuring all aspects of his job duties are completed properly. He is well respected by his peers and his supervisors and is always willing to assist with whatever is needed. He exemplifies what a probation and parole officer should be and does the right thing, for the right reason, every time. It is for these reasons and more that Probation and Parole Officer James Barnes is a deserving recipient of the 2023 Achievement Award for District 1.

2023 Achievement Award Probation & Parole



Kristen Strong
District 2

Probation and Parole Officer Kristen Strong began her career in 2014 and is currently the presentence investigation report writer for the Hopkins County Fourth Judicial District. She works tirelessly and resourcefully to complete a high volume of PSIs by investigating and paying close attention to detail. Strong communicates well with the courts, law enforcement, and officers statewide. She routinely receives praise from the court and community on the quality of her work. She helps fellow officers with daily tasks, arrests, and paperwork. She always tries her best to help the clients who come into her office and genuinely cares about their success. She is truly invested in carrying out the division's mission through her hard work, dependability, and knowledge. She has set the bar high for her fellow officers. For these reasons and countless more, Probation and Parole Officer Kristen Strong is deserving of the 2023 District 2 Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Probation & Parole



Deanna Grider
District 3

Deanna Grider began her DOC career in 2005 as an office support assistant in the Columbia office. During her time in this role, she showed a dedication and drive that proved contagious to her coworkers. She always ensured she met the daily needs of the district and its staff. She has been the District 3 office coordinator since 2019 and her enthusiasm, strong organizational skills, and leadership have only flourished since she began in the position. She is always willing to be where she is needed across District 3 and is a valued member of the supervisory staff. During the past year, Grider has covered three vacant administrative specialist positions while training new administrative staff throughout the district. Her dedication and commitment to the Division of Probation and Parole is exemplified daily in her performance. These reasons, among many others, are why Deanna Grider is a deserving recipient of the 2023 District 3 Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Probation & Parole



Gregory Gatewood
District 4

Gregory Gatewood began his DOC career in 2017 as an officer in District 4. Since then, he has served as a class D officer, CPR instructor, firearms instructor, and PREA investigator. Additionally, he has acted as a field training officer and member of the statewide presentence investigation interview packet committee. In February 2022, Gatewood was promoted to assistant supervisor in District 4 due to his professionalism, integrity, personal character, and experience. Gatewood is an innovative assistant supervisor who can envision, anticipate, and initiate changes that promote consistency and improve performance within the district. In addition, Gatewood manages the DNA tracking information for the Northern Region and is the 2023 lead for the Northern Region ACA compliance team. For these reasons and more, Probation and Parole Supervisor Gregory Gatewood is a deserving recipient of the 2023 Achievement Award for District 4.

2023 Achievement Award Probation & Parole



Taylor Henning
District 5

Probation and Parole Officer Taylor Henning began her Corrections career in 2017 and has earned a reputation as a dependable, resourceful, and compassionate probation and parole officer. She is conscientious of her duties and executes her responsibilities with the highest level of professionalism. She works her caseload well and takes the time to help her clients when they need some extra guidance. In addition to her supervision duties, she has assisted with completing presentence investigation reports during high-volume times. Henning has also inquired about training programs or additional duties where she can utilize her skills while seeking new opportunities to excel. She is a DNA trainer and fentanyl responder and will soon be trained as a field training officer. Henning has proved herself to be a true asset to the district and her actions are worthy of recognition. District 5 is proud to announce Probation and Parole Officer Taylor Henning as its 2023 Achievement Award recipient.

2023 Achievement Award Probation & Parole



Chris Wilkinson
District 6

Probation and Parole Officer Chris Wilkinson began his career with DOC in 2017 as a recreation leader at Kentucky State Reformatory. He was promoted to an officer position with the Division of Probation and Parole in January 2019, where he continues to produce stellar work. Wilkinson has supervised caseloads in Green, Marion and Taylor counties. Additionally, he has taken on extra roles, including field training officer, district safety officer, crisis negotiation team member, and CPR instructor. Wilkinson exceeds expectations in all areas. He always steps up, without hesitation, whether to assist his fellow officers, supervisors, or the district. He is motivated, reliable, and aspires to move up in his career. Wilkinson has so much passion for the job, and it shows in his work. District 6 is thrilled to announce Probation and Parole Officer Chris Wilkinson as its 2023 Achievement Award Recipient.

2023 Achievement Award Probation & Parole



Mary Cheek
District 7

Probation and Parole Officer Mary Cheek began her career with the DOC in 2019 as an office support assistant. While employed full-time, Cheek attended Thomas More College, working towards her bachelor's degree. In February 2022, she was promoted to a probation and parole officer. She has established herself as a knowledgeable and hard-working officer. Cheek is well respected by her peers and supervisory staff. She is always willing to help anyone and has become a great asset to the district. In the past year she has volunteered for additional duties, including training new office support assistants. Additionally, Cheek can always be counted on to assist with arrests and transports. Her willingness to go above and beyond makes it quite evident that she truly cares about her district and her co-workers. Probation and Parole Officer Mary Cheek is a dedicated Corrections professional and is a worthy recipient of the 2023 District 7 Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Probation & Parole



Collin Garrison
District 8

Probation and Parole Officer Collin Garrison began his career with the Department of Corrections in February 2020 as an officer in the Richmond office. During his time with Probation and Parole, Garrison has exhibited an outstanding work ethic and a willingness to complete any task assigned without hesitation. He routinely demonstrates a commitment to his position by going above and beyond to assist his co-workers and community partners to provide the highest quality services to the citizens of the commonwealth. Garrison has excelled in a wide range of duties. In addition to supervising a regular caseload, Garrison serves as a field training officer (FTO), fire and safety officer, and CPR trainer. Additionally, Officer Garrison serves on the FTO and fire and safety committees where he helps craft the curriculum and duties used throughout the division. For all these reasons we are proud to name Collin Garrison as the recipient of the 2023 District 8 Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Probation & Parole



Brandon Summers
District 9

Probation and Parole Officer Brandon Summers is the rare person who, despite limited experience, performs their job to a high degree of excellence. His work is so impressive that staff of all seniority levels take note in appreciation. From volunteering for last minute transports to assisting fellow officers with drug tests, home visits, and arrests, Summers constantly proves himself to be a go-to Corrections professional in any situation and is an inspiration to his fellow officers. Probation and Parole Officer Brandon Summers' willingness to help others and his ability to be an asset no matter what the situation entails make him a deserving recipient of the 2023 Achievement Award for District 9.

2023 Achievement Award Probation & Parole



Salena Painter
District 10

Probation and Parole Officer Salena Painter began her career with Probation and Parole in 2018 as an office support assistant II in the Harlan office. Later in 2018 she was promoted to a probation and parole officer, and since then has proven to be one of the district's hardest workers. She has maintained a caseload covering the Cumberland Hope Center and displayed a sincere desire to help all the women at the facility with their sobriety. She is well respected by all the Cumberland Hope Center staff for her willingness to help in any way she can. In 2023, Painter became a field training officer in the Harlan office. During an officer vacancy in the Harlan office, Painter volunteered to cover that caseload in addition to her own. She now supervises a regular caseload and is training an officer on how to supervise the Hope Center. She recently was chosen to be a member of the Harlan Circuit Court Drug Court committee. Probation and Parole Officer Salena Painter is a deserving recipient of the 2023 District 10 Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Probation & Parole



Sam Stamper
District 11

Probation and Parole Officer Sam Stamper began his career with the Division of Probation and Parole in 2007 as an officer in the Prestonsburg office. Stamper's impact was immediately felt due his tremendous work ethic and positive attitude. He is currently a District 11 firearms instructor and works parole and mandatory reentry supervision cases for both Floyd and Knott counties. Stamper can be counted on as both a leader in the office and in the community. From late night transports to training new staff, he is always willing to jump in and tackle anything that is needed. For these reasons and many more, Sam Stamper a deserving recipient of the 2023 Achievement Award for District 11.

2023 Achievement Award Probation & Parole



Sandra Dibble
District 12

Office Coordinator Sandra Dibble has had to wear many hats after her promotion last year. During this time, there has been a lot of turnover in District 12's administrative staff. This has resulted in Dibble assuming a much larger workload. She has not only had to handle all of her job duties, but other critical tasks throughout the district. These included covering administrative specialist duties, absconder caseloads, and the training of new administrative staff. Dibble has handled all of these extra assignments without hesitation or complaint and has maintained a high level of efficiency. These are just a few reasons why Sandra Dibble is a deserving recipient of the 2023 Achievement Award for District 12.

2023 Achievement Award Probation & Parole



Lisa Boone
District 13

Lisa Boone began her career with Probation and Parole in 2016 as an officer in the Owensboro office. During her time with the division, she has supervised a regular caseload as well the caseload for the Daviess County Mental Health Court. Boone has earned the respect of the presiding judge in that court and has been one of the reasons it serves as a model for other judicial districts adopting this program. Boone truly cares about the well-being of the offenders on her caseload and goes out of her way to assist them with getting the care they need. In her current role as a field training officer, she has provided excellent training for new staff in District 13. She can always be counted on to assist other staff when needed and is a true team player. Probation and Parole Officer Lisa Boone is a major asset to DOC and is a deserving recipient of the 2023 District 13 Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Probation & Parole



Desi Brooks
District 14

Few people personify professionalism like Probation and Parole Officer Desi Brooks. After retiring as a jail inspector in 2018, Brooks returned as an officer in 2020 in the Cynthiana office. After his first month of covering circuit court, local officials reached out to District 14 supervisors to praise Brooks for his professional demeanor and actions while dealing with the court's business. This professionalism also extends to his treatment of clients and peers. He has also taken on safety officer duties and maintains the district's vehicles. Additionally, Brooks has proven to be a role model for new staff. He consistently allows his peers to receive credit for completed tasks. When told he would be receiving the district award, he said it should have gone to one of the new officers so they can begin building their resume. For these reasons, Officer Desi Brooks is a deserving recipient of the 2023 District 14 Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Probation & Parole



Lori Walden
District 15

Probation and Parole Officer Lori Walden joined District 15's Maysville office in January 2022. Walden brought a wealth of information with her from previous jobs at the Kentucky State Police and Child and Family Services. She was assigned a sex offender caseload and presentence investigations. Walden assumed the responsibilities of this challenging assignment with nothing but positive results. She has taken the initiative to attend additional training and to seek out resources needed to perform her duties in managing a sex offender caseload. This included learning requirements regarding sex offender registration and other laws that pertain to this specialized caseload. Walden assists those who she works through providing education and training. She is professional, well prepared, an excellent communicator, and proactive in her work. It is for these reasons that Probation and Parole Officer Lori Walden is deserving of the 2023 District 15 Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Probation & Parole



Daniel Goodlett
District 16

Probation and Parole Officer Daniel Goodlett began his career as a probation and parole officer in 2017 and continually proves himself to be a dedicated professional. Goodlett started his career by supervising a regular felony caseload in Louisville. He quickly learned the ins and outs of the job and within a year transitioned to a parole caseload. Goodlett serves as the senior field training officer in District 16. During this year alone, he has trained three new officers. Goodlett also serves as the office security threat group coordinator and provides vital intelligence to the District 16 office. He never hesitates to take on the difficult issues in the office, whether it's volunteering for a late arrest, serving paperwork at the jail, or taking new officers to the field. He recently volunteered to help the district by covering a Reentry Service Center while continuing to handle his parole caseload. Daniel Goodlett is a deserving recipient of the 2023 District 16 Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Probation & Parole



Tara Jackson
District 17

Probation and Parole Officer Tara Jackson has been with District 17 since 2018. Since then, she has proven herself to be a valuable member of the District 17 team. She has consistently volunteered to assist with many tasks that have helped the district function smoothly, including covering a vacant caseload while managing her own caseload. She took on the responsibility of becoming a field training officer and has become an excellent instructor of new employees. She is also the health and wellness officer for the district and ensures to include all staff in wellness initiatives. Recently, Jackson volunteered to become a certified PREA investigator for the DOC. We are very pleased to honor Probation and Parole Officer Tara Jackson as the 2023 District 17 Achievement Award recipient.

2023 Achievement Award Probation & Parole



Natalie Popham
District 18

Probation and Parole Officer Natalie Popham is an exceptional representative of the Division of Probation and Parole. She manages the District 18 sex offender caseload and is quick to embrace new skills and resources to better supervise this complex caseload. She has worked directly with the U.S. Marshals Service to conduct compliance operations across Jefferson County, which has facilitated a much closer relationship between agencies. In addition to her duties as a sex offender officer, she is the lead firearms instructor for District 18. She works diligently to ensure that all ACA required firearms documentation is completed and retained as required. Popham also serves as a field training officer at District 18, responsible for not only training new staff, but also helping to shape the culture of the district. She expanded this role by developing short refresher trainings on records checks and the sex offender registry. For these reasons, Officer Natalie Popham is deserving of the 2023 District 18 Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Probation & Parole



Ben Fine
District 19

Probation and Parole Officer Ben Fine began his career with the Department of Corrections in 2019 working as a classification and treatment officer at Luther Luckett Correctional Complex. In January 2021, Fine transferred to Probation and Parole and supervised a felony caseload. Fine then transitioned to supervising a low-risk caseload comprised of a variety of clients, including parolees. He made this transition seamlessly and also embraced the use of the new remote reporting supervision portal, becoming an expert on its use. Fine's background as an EMT made him the perfect fit to be the district safety officer and a member of the truth in sentencing team. He is also a mentor to many of our new staff. His teamwork, positive attitude, and outlook are excellent and much appreciated. For these reasons, Officer Ben Fine is a worthy recipient of the 2023 District 19 Achievement Award.

2023 Achievement Award Probation & Parole



Ashley White
District 20

Probation and Parole Officer Ashley White began her career with DOC in 2021 and has supervised a varied caseload since, including sex offenders, probationers, parolees, and Interstate Compact clients. Additionally, she serves as a field training officer and the Correctional Peace Officer Foundation liaison for District 20. She goes above and beyond by taking on additional tasks and volunteering to assist others. She exhibits excellent character through her interactions with offenders and coworkers. Her previous work experience in drug court, along with the experience obtained as an officer, has enabled her to communicate with offenders and relay the expectations of successful supervision more effectively. White has demonstrated the willingness to learn by researching topics related to sex offenders and asking questions to clarify what she is learning. Although White is early in her career with the department, she sets the standard for every officer. For these reasons, Ashley White is deserving of the 2023 Achievement Award for District 20.

2023 Probation & Parole Supervisor of the Year

Heather Foster *District 4*

District 4 Supervisor Heather Foster has distinguished herself as someone who thinks above the needs of her own district, often assisting many other districts within the Division of Probation and Parole.

This is evidenced by her willingness to complete presentence investigation reports (PSIs) for other districts, maintain all CJIS (Criminal Justice Information Services) certifications for the Jefferson County districts, and her work on uploading the new employee packet onto the division's shared computer drive for everyone to use. She is a consummate professional who understands the importance of accuracy, details and thoroughness in preparing reports for the court.



Foster and District 4 staff have provided critical assistance in the completion of PSIs for the past three years. District Supervisors Taliyah Jefferson and Don Keene have both expressed how staff in Foster's district took on a large number of PSIs for them while their respective districts were dealing with critical staff shortages. Completing these reports affects every portion of the criminal justice process: sentencing, classification and proper caseload supervision.

Foster also maintains all CJIS certifications for the Jefferson County districts, as well as running an NCIC terminal from her office. This is not an insignificant extra duty. Maintaining an NCIC terminal requires periodic audits by federal authorities. If policies are not followed, an agency can lose access to this valuable resource. Foster has also allowed another district's trained NCIC staff access to the District 4 NCIC terminal for them to provide completed PSIs for the courts.

Foster has helped all district supervisors by lending her assistance in the creation of a folder for the new employee packet on the division's shared computer drive. The packet is uploaded both as one large PDF file, as well as in individual form.

It is for these many reasons that District Supervisor Heather Foster deserves to be named the 2023 Probation and Parole Supervisor of the Year.

2023 Warden of the Year

Vanessa Kennedy

*Kentucky Correctional
Institution for Women*

Vanessa Kennedy began her career with the Department of Corrections in 1999. As warden, Kennedy has displayed outstanding leadership despite dealing with recurring bouts of COVID-19 outbreaks within the prison, managing with severe staffing shortages aggravated further by shortfalls in female staff, and being challenged by several significant physical plant repair and improvement projects. In the past year, Kennedy could often be found taking on additional tasks such as transporting inmates outside the facility due to staff vacancies. Her steady, experienced and direct leadership style has resulted in highly effective and efficient prison operations in the face of so many challenges.



After beginning her career as a correctional officer at KCIW, Kennedy immediately began moving up the ranks. She was promoted to several positions in security and programs that included managing the prison's assessment center. She has served as a certified crisis negotiator and member of the KCIW Corrections Emergency Response Team (CERT) during her career.

In 2010, Kennedy was promoted to deputy warden at Western Kentucky Correctional Complex. She assisted that prison during its conversion from a men's medium-security prison to a female institution, which was an enormous undertaking. In 2015, she returned to KCIW to serve as deputy warden until being appointed as the KCIW warden in 2019.

Kennedy has a distinguished career with the DOC and serves as an excellent role model for those working their way up through the department. For these reasons and more, Vanessa Kennedy is being named DOC's 2023 Warden of the Year.

2023 Director of the Year

Kristin Porter

Reentry Services

Kristin Porter consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty. As director of the department's Reentry Services division, she has worked tirelessly to support the justice-involved population and improve the services offered to them while they are incarcerated and upon release to the community.

Her division is responsible for most of the programming underway at prisons and in the community, and for providing resources such as state IDs. Her staff also hold events to benefit the justice-involved population such as reentry simulations, job and resource fairs and expungement events.

Porter is an innovative leader who does not cower when given a challenge and she is passionate about her

division's mission. These traits have been vital as Reentry has been thrust into the spotlight and given new projects aimed at providing more workforce opportunities for those released from prison.

She is dedicated to her staff and very supportive of them. She also believes in holding them accountable - for the department as a whole and for the individual's personal growth. She is their biggest cheerleader and has faith in their abilities and their drive to tackle the new projects assigned to them. One of her staff described it like this "I have worked for many people throughout my career, but never have I felt so valued, supported, appreciated and fought for like I do under Kristin's leadership."

Porter's passion for her work and positive attitude are valued by her supervisors. Her positivity can be contagious! She exemplifies a true love for the profession and her desire to help the justice-involved population is genuine. Her team displays those same qualities thus leading to the overall success of the division.

Her work ethic and enthusiasm extend beyond her reentry staff. She serves as a mentor for the Commissioner's Executive Leadership program and her mentees rave about the experience. She is also well respected by DOC's directors and executive leadership.

Director Porter inspires others to devote the best of themselves to their work, to explore new ideas, and be open to change. She values the experience of those around her as she makes decisions and leads this very important area for the department. We are proud to name Kristin Porter as our 2023 Director of the Year.



2023 Rookie of the Year

Dustin Dagdagan

Correctional Sergeant

Kentucky State Penitentiary

Correctional Sergeant Dustin Dagdagan began his employment with the Kentucky State Penitentiary as a correctional officer in September 2022. Dagdagan immediately showed he was dependable and was willing to learn. He easily picked up new information, and frequently volunteered to work new posts and to work on his days off. Dagdagan quickly showed himself to be a role model for other officers despite his short tenure. He was primarily assigned to the restrictive housing unit, where he was recognized as the go-to officer to manage tasks and get things done.



He frequently volunteered to assist with cell entries, escorts, and inmate recreation. He has been involved in more than 20 successful cell entries during his short time with KSP. Dagdagan joined the KSP Corrections Emergency Response Team in March 2023, and was promoted to correctional sergeant in June 2023.

A member of the United States Army, Dagdagan served for 14 years prior to coming to KSP. He continues to serve today with the Army National Guard. His military service has been invaluable in KSP's recruitment efforts. He attends career fairs and represents the penitentiary at events hosted by Fort Campbell, as well as other venues. Dagdagan's approachability and professionalism help KSP shine at these events. As a service member, Dagdagan connects easily with soldiers who are transitioning from military to civilian life and has a perspective and experiences unique to military life that assist with recruiting veterans to work for KSP.

It is for these reasons that Sergeant Dustin Dagdagan is a deserving recipient of a 2023 Rookie of the Year award.

2023 Rookie of the Year

Austin Hacker

Probation and Parole Officer

Probation and Parole

District 14



Probation and Parole Officer Austin Hacker began his career with the Division of Probation and Parole on August 16, 2022. In his short time with District 14, Hacker has established himself as eager to learn and ready to help. As he has grown comfortable in the role of officer, he has continued to ask for new challenges. He recently took over as the class D and home incarceration officer for Scott and Woodford counties in addition to his regular caseload duties.

Hacker drew praise from the commonwealth attorney for the 14th Judicial District following his testimony during the sentencing phase of a recent high-profile case. Hacker's previous experience working briefly in Offender Information Services enabled him to quickly pick up on truth-in-sentencing, a skill which many veteran staff still struggle with.

Hacker always displays professionalism and has demonstrated he's willing to go the extra mile to get the job done. This is especially true regarding his willingness to help his peers. It's usually not hard to find someone who wants to help supervisors, but a true measure of someone's professional character is when they are willing to assist someone from whom they have nothing to gain. During the last month, he has taken two presentence investigations from the Versailles office PSI writer, who is still learning his duties. Hacker's supervisor only found out about this because the officer assigned the reports wanted to express his gratitude. Hacker also routinely volunteers to see clients for his co-workers in the event of their absence.

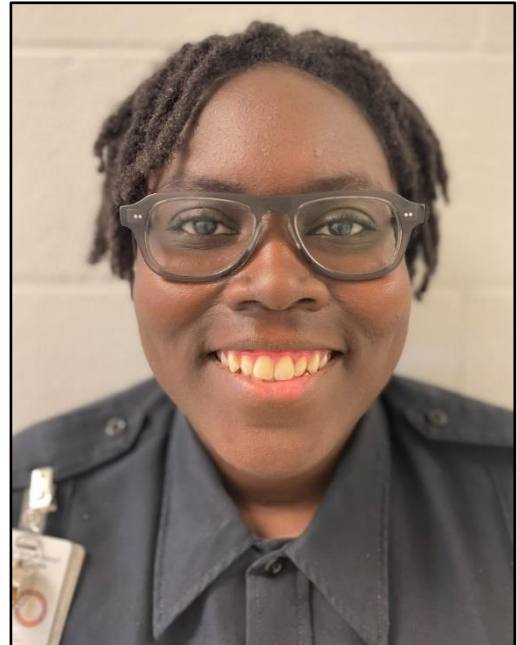
Hacker has also displayed an excellent demeanor while performing field work. He recently responded to a barricaded subject with the Versailles Police Department. The client was on Hacker's caseload and had threatened to harm himself. While the subject did not voluntarily surrender, Hacker stayed on scene and attempted to communicate with the client. The incident was ultimately resolved with no serious injuries.

It is for these reasons Probation and Parole Officer Austin Hacker is a deserving recipient for a 2023 Rookie of the Year award.

2023 Rookie of the Year

Kiara Jones- McCracken

Correctional Officer
Kentucky Correctional
Institution for Women



Correctional Officer Kiara Jones-McCracken began her career at the Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women on August 17, 2022. From the start she came in with a positive and innovative attitude, continually excelling at her work duties and always proving eager to learn. Jones-McCracken goes above and beyond in ensuring the safety and security of all inmates and staff.

She also displays a strong sense of duty and work ethic. In the short time she has been with the department she has established herself as a knowledgeable and reliable officer. The quickness and ease with which she has learned the job is remarkable.

On May 19, 2023, Jones-McCracken was escorting an inmate to the special management unit due to a prior disturbance, at which time the inmate spat on her, slipped out of her wrist restraints and assaulted her. Jones-McCracken remained calm and gained back control of the inmate and reapplied the wrist restraints once assistance arrived. She suffered minor injuries from the assault but returned to work immediately without missing a beat while maintaining the highest level of professionalism regarding the incident.

Jones-McCracken's exceptional work ethic and dedication to teamwork make her a highly valued employee. It is for these reasons and more that Correctional Officer Kiara Jones-McCracken is a deserving recipient of a 2023 Rookie of the Year award.

2023 Rookie of the Year

Allison Drake

*Classification and Treatment
Officer*
Luther Luckett Correctional
Complex



Classification and Treatment Officer Allison Drake began her DOC career in June 2022. Although new to prison work, she has excelled at her job and often sought out additional duties.

Drake exceeds expectations regarding classification, assessments, and committee representation. She has taken the initiative to share her knowledge with not only new classification and treatment officers but new security officers as well. She has an impeccable rapport with staff and inmates and is a valued member of the Luther Luckett Correctional Complex team.

Drake began her career during the COVID-19 pandemic and assisted during the 2022 lockdown by conducting security rounds, assisting in the chow hall, and packing up property for inmates. She continued this after protocols had been lifted. Recently, she took the initiative to learn job and program placements and be more involved in supervising sanitation and special projects in a housing unit.

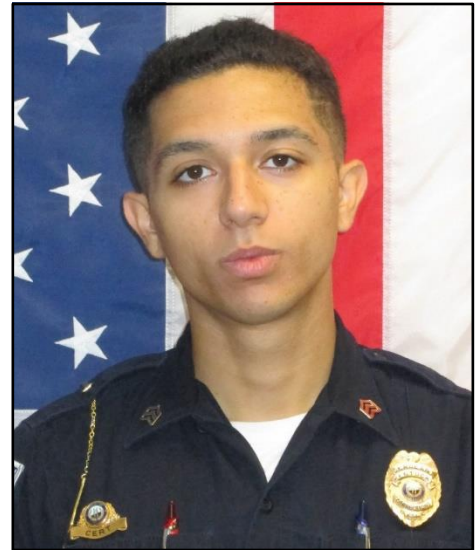
On May 19, 2023, Drake was working in her office when she heard an inmate screaming for help in a restroom. She raced over and saw one inmate stabbing another. Drake deployed pepper spray on the inmates to stop the assault and stayed on scene until backup arrived. The inmate who was assaulted had six puncture wounds. Fortunately, medical staff were able to quickly treat the inmate's injuries and he recovered. Drake was the only program staff member in the dorm at the time but that did not stop her from running to assist an inmate in danger.

Although she has not been with DOC long, Allison Drake is an excellent role model for all staff and a deserving recipient of a 2023 Rookie of the Year award.

2023 Hero Award



Carly Alverio
Correctional Officer



Ian Timpe
Correctional Sergeant

Kentucky State Penitentiary

At 8:14 a.m. on Christmas Day 2022, during pill call at the Kentucky State Penitentiary, six inmates attacked Officer Joshua Dillon in the 6-Cellhouse bullpen, stabbing him 13 times. Immediately, Control Officer Carly Alverio announced the assault over the radio. She then responded, deploying OC spray onto the assailants from the control center above them. The inmates fled the area, but Alverio was able to identify them. Correctional Officer Ian Timpe, now sergeant, then responded and moved Dillon to the medical unit next door for treatment until EMS arrived.

The actions of these two staff members not only saved the life of a fellow officer but also ensured KSP retained control of the cellblock.

Alverio could not vacate her post to respond as the security of the cellhouse would have been put in great jeopardy. Instead, she deployed pepper spray from the control center, communicated clearly over the radio, identified each attacker, and secured the other cells in the unit. These actions ensured Dillon received the assistance he needed and prevented responders from also getting attacked.

Timpe ran directly into danger with the only goal of getting Dillon out of the area, as over a hundred open cells were facing them. His quick thinking to remove Dillon from the scene allowed subsequent responders to regain total control of the cellhouse without fear of further injury. Also, removing Dillon allowed him to receive medical care without inmates witnessing it.

As examples of the family-oriented silent professionals who make up the Department of Corrections and who represent the Kentucky State Penitentiary with great pride, Correctional Officer Carly Alverio and Sergeant Ian Timpe are very deserving of 2023 Hero Awards.

2023 Hero Award

Derrick Isaac

*Classification and Treatment
Officer*
Southeast State
Correctional Complex



Derrick Isaac is a classification and treatment officer at Southeast State Correctional Complex. He has been working in Corrections for over a year and has always demonstrated a commitment to providing quality care to inmates and a willingness to lend a hand whenever needed.

On July 11, 2023, Isaac was walking in the Fishpond area of Letcher County with his fiancé. During the walk, he observed a woman driving erratically and speeding.

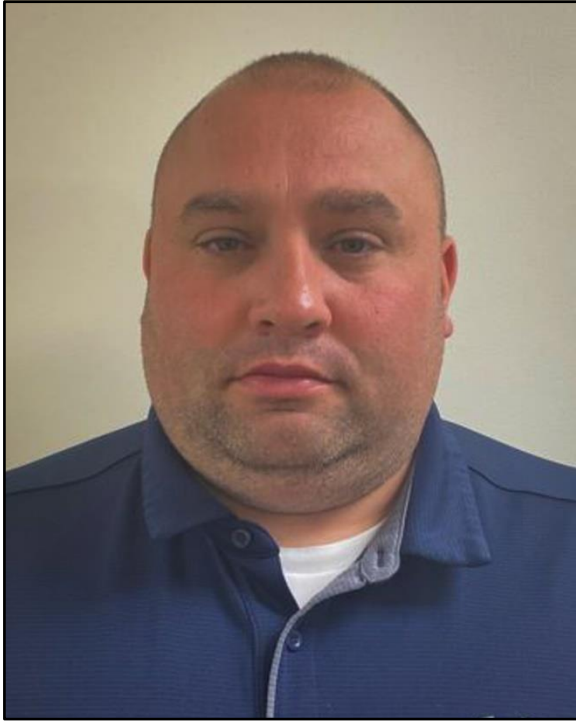
The driver proceeded to run over an eight-year-old child on a dirt bike, dragging him approximately 100 feet under her vehicle. Isaac and other bystanders quickly approached the scene and were able to lift the vehicle off the child and called EMS.

While waiting for EMS to arrive, Isaac made a tourniquet with his belt to slow the bleeding from the child's leg. He continued to render aid until paramedics arrived. Isaac later identified the drunk driver, who was subsequently arrested. The child was airlifted to a hospital in Tennessee and is expected to make a full recovery.

Isaac is a dedicated and compassionate employee, committed to providing quality care to inmates and making a difference in their lives. He is a strong advocate for inmates' rights, and he has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for inmates at Southeast State Correctional Complex. He is an asset to Corrections and is a role model for all officers.

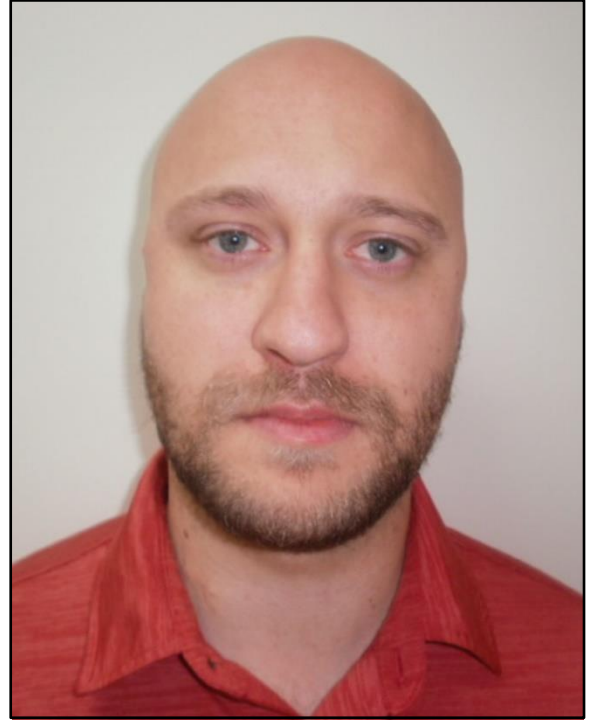
For his swift actions in providing much needed aid in an emergency, Classification and Treatment Officer Derrick Isaac is a worthy recipient of a 2023 Hero Award.

2023 Hero Award



Daniel Lewis

Probation and Parole Officer



Clayton Shelton

Probation and Parole Officer

District 10 Probation and Parole

On May 9, 2023, Probation and Parole Officers Daniel Lewis and Clayton Shelton were at the Central Region Training Center in LaGrange attending pre-service academy. Lewis and Shelton left the training center and went to Subway in nearby Buckner for lunch. While they were ordering their lunch, a man walked from the restroom area and asked the Subway employee for a key to the bathroom, saying the door was locked and the water was running. About two minutes later, the man returned and advised he got the bathroom door open and found a man lying unconscious on the floor.

Lewis and Shelton immediately instructed the Subway employee to call 911. Shelton then quickly proceeded to the bathroom where he observed the man lying unconscious on the floor and barely breathing. Lewis and Shelton placed the man on his side and attempted to keep his airway open. They continued to monitor the individual's breathing until EMS arrived and took over care.

Lewis and Shelton did not sit idly by waiting for others to help. They got involved and possibly saved the life of someone they didn't know. For these reasons, Probation and Parole Officers Daniel Lewis and Clayton Shelton are deserving recipients of 2023 Hero Awards.

2023 Hero Award



Jason Joseph
Branch Manager
Policy and
Accreditation Branch



Jeremy Stevens
Training Instructor I
Division of Corrections
Training



William Sparks
Training Instructor II
Division of Corrections
Training

On September 13, 2022, at the Eastern Region Training Center, Training Division Branch Manager Jeremy Stevens and Training Instructor Jason Joseph were conducting live firearms training. At about 1 p.m., one of the students accidentally discharged his service weapon into his upper right leg. Stevens immediately called for a cease-fire and alerted Joseph of what had occurred. Joseph notified the institution of the emergency and directed a student to get Training Instructor Will Sparks, who was conducting classes elsewhere in the facility.

Stevens grabbed the stricken officer by his shoulders and reassured him that he would be okay as they eased him down onto the ground. They applied a tourniquet and compression bandages so well that when institutional medical staff arrived, they found the officer's vitals good and that he had suffered minimal blood loss.

ACA auditors said the staff at ERTC responded to the incident perfectly, stating: "The way this was handled is a perfect example of how these events should be addressed." Their quick, calm action, and deliberate care of the wound minimized the damage caused by the injury. It is for these reasons that Jason Joseph, Jeremy Stevens, and William Sparks are deserving recipients of 2023 Hero Awards.

2023 Hero Award



Aaron LaFollette

Probation and Parole Officer



Jason Warriar

Assistant P&P Supervisor



Gregory Gatewood

Assistant P&P Supervisor



Heather Foster

P&P Supervisor

District 4 Probation and Parole

On January 3, 2023, at 12:22 p.m., Probation and Parole Officer Aaron LaFollette informed District Supervisor Heather Foster that he had been told someone might be unresponsive in the office restroom. Foster retrieved her keys and directed LaFollette to ask Assistant Supervisors Jason Warriar and Gregory Gatewood to meet her there.

Upon unlocking the restroom door, Foster found an unresponsive male on the floor. She shook the client, trying to get his attention. The client gasped for air every few seconds and his eyes were glazed over. Foster immediately called 911 on her cell phone.

While Warriar and Gatewood headed to the restroom, LaFollette grabbed the first aid AED equipment. Warriar immediately started compressions while Gatewood administered breaths using a bag. LaFollette went outside to direct EMTs to the scene.

Paramedics took over and administered four AED shocks. Eventually, the client started breathing independently, but with an irregular heartbeat. He was then transported to the hospital for care. The client was in a medically induced coma for a day or so, but by the third day, he was extubated and alert. He was released from the hospital only a few days after the emergency. Medical staff advised that the client had suffered a heart attack and the team's swift response had ensured he survived.

The timely and skilled actions of Aaron LaFollette, Heather Foster, Jason Warriar, and Gregory Gatewood helped save a life, making them very deserving of 2023 Hero Awards.

2023 Hero Award

Justin Cody

Sergeant

**Blackburn Correctional
Complex**

On the afternoon of March 27, 2023, Correctional Sergeant Justin Cody entered the landscape building at Blackburn Correctional Complex while conducting an out count verification. At that time, he found a landscape worker lying back in a chair who appeared to be unconscious.

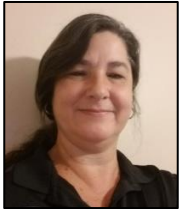
Cody called out to the inmate several times with no response. He then quickly approached the inmate to evaluate the situation, finding that the inmate was not breathing.

Without hesitation, Cody used his institutional radio to alert staff of the medical emergency and directed them to his location. Cody gathered the inmate out of the chair and gently placed him on the floor so that he could administer CPR. Cody continued CPR until he was relieved by medical staff. Every effort was given that day to give lifesaving first aid treatment to the landscape worker.

Due to his calm, levelheaded, and quick action and efforts to save a life, Sergeant Justin Cody is very deserving of a 2023 Hero Award.



2023 Hero Award



Serena Thomas
Administrative Specialist I



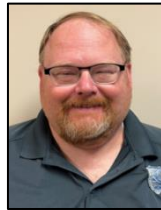
Tina Ellis
Administrative Specialist II



James Davis
Probation and Parole Officer



Matt Cobb
Probation and Parole Officer



Robert Bruch
Probation and Parole Officer



Brittany Jobses
Probation and Parole Officer

District 2 Probation and Parole

On April 12, 2023, Probation and Parole Administrative Assistant Serena Thomas heard a loud thump in the lobby of the Madisonville office. She asked someone sitting in the lobby what the noise was, and he pointed behind him to Ronald Winningham. Thomas immediately went into the room where she found Winningham slumped over against the back wall and noticed his eyeglasses had fallen onto the floor.

Thomas called Winningham's name, but he did not respond. She called his name louder a second time and the offender next to him nudged his shoulder, still with no response. Thomas observed that though Winningham was not responding, his chest was moving and he was breathing.

Thomas then went back into the office and alerted several officers that they needed to come immediately to the waiting room and bring emergency equipment. Administrative Assistant II Tina Ellis called 911 upon hearing that there was an unresponsive offender in the lobby.

Thomas retrieved the AED machine and Probation and Parole Officer Brittany Jobses grabbed the emergency backpack and delivered it to the other officers in the lobby. Anyone sitting around Winningham was asked to move to the other side of the room.

Jobses provided gloves to Probation and Parole Officers James Davis, Matt Cobb and Robert Bruch. Davis attempted to wake Winningham by shaking him and performing a sternum rub, but this was not effective. Jobses handed Narcan to Cobb and he administered one dose to Winningham's right nostril with no response. Bruch checked for breathing and a pulse which were still present. Cobb then administered a second dose of Narcan to Winningham's left nostril. Winningham then became responsive and alert. Madisonville Fire and Ambulance arrived on the scene and took over his care.

Serena Thomas, Tina Ellis, James Davis, Matt Cobb, Robert Bruch and Brittany Jobses each played a crucial role in saving a life that day, making them very deserving recipients of 2023 Hero Awards.

2023 Hero Award

James Onkst

Correctional

Lieutenant

**Kentucky State
Reformatory**



On June 30, 2023, at approximately 3:55 p.m., an inmate was discovered experiencing a medical emergency in the correctional psychiatric treatment unit at the Kentucky State Reformatory.

Unit Supervisor Lieutenant James Onkst quickly responded and found the inmate lying on the floor unresponsive. Onkst immediately called for further assistance, and along with responding medical staff, checked the inmate's vital signs and began CPR. Narcan

was administered to the inmate due to the suspicion of an overdose. CPR and treatment were continued until emergency medical services arrived to transport the inmate to an outside hospital.

Due to Onkst's swift and professional response this inmate survived the overdose and was discharged from the hospital and returned to the institution within a matter of hours. For these reasons, Lieutenant James Onkst is very deserving of a 2023 Hero Award.

2023 Hero Award

Shane Rickman

Correctional Officer

Little Sandy

Correctional Complex



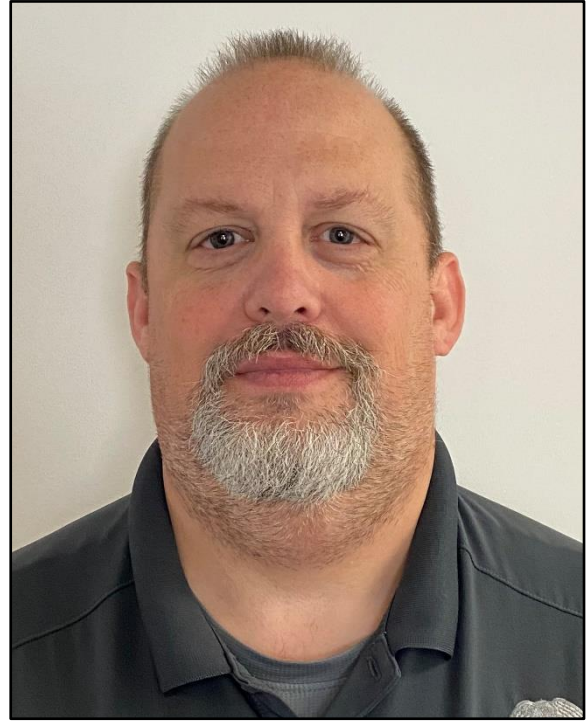
On March 16, 2023, inside the minimum security unit at Little Sandy Correctional Complex, an inmate was observed lying on the floor in C-Walk unresponsive and gasping for air. A medical emergency was called out over the institutional radio and staff quickly responded.

One of the first staff on the scene was Correctional Officer Shane Rickman. Rickman began rendering aid as the inmate was showing signs of choking.

Rickman swiftly administered abdominal thrusts to the inmate. Once the items were dislodged, the inmate was placed on the floor for a medical assessment and was then sent out to the hospital for further evaluation. The inmate recovered from the incident.

Rickman's quick actions to provide aid to the choking inmate ultimately saved his life. For these reasons, Correctional Officer Shane Rickman is most deserving of a 2023 Hero Award.

2023 Hero Award



Jason Turner & Jason Robards

Probation and Parole Officer Probation and Parole Officer
District 12

These two officers are to be commended for their actions on Aug. 5, 2022.

A client had appeared in court for a revocation hearing in Franklin Circuit Court and the court requested a drug test from him before allowing him to leave the courthouse.

The client tested positive for meth and marijuana, and the judge ordered him taken into custody. While on the way to the holding cell, the client removed a large piece of glass and stabbed himself in the neck. Officers Jason Robards and Jason heard the scuffle and rushed to assist.

Without hesitation, Officer Robards kicked the glass away, grabbed paper towels and began applying pressure to the wound. The injured client was trying to kick the court security officer, so Officer Turner placed his knees on the man's legs to assist in holding him.

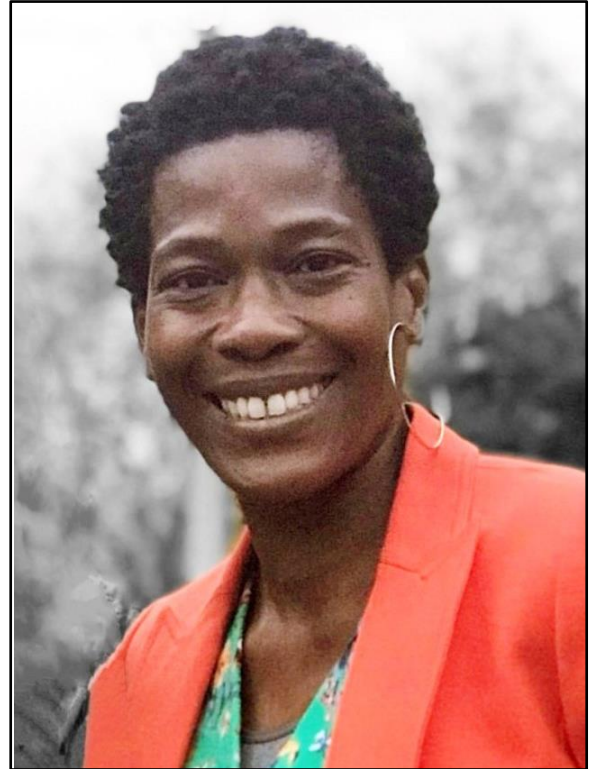
We tell our staff that anything can happen and to be ready. On this day Officer Robards and Turner found that out firsthand and sprang into action. Our officers assisted for several minutes until EMS and police arrived on scene.

We are proud to present District 12 Probation and Parole Officers Jason Robards and Jason Turner with a DOC Hero Award.

2023 Hero Award

Sonja Mays

Administrative Specialist III
Division of Medical
Services



On Nov. 8, 2022, Sonja Mays was leaving the office and heading home for her birthday celebration. As she was crossing the railroad tracks in LaGrange, she noticed a vehicle beside the tracks that was smoking and a disoriented female driver inside the vehicle.

Mays was the first person on the scene and she immediately rendered aid. When another person arrived, Mays instructed them to call 911. She took her jacket and placed it around the injured driver, carefully removing her from the smoking car.

The driver spoke very little English but she kept asking Mays to call her daughter. Mays located the driver's cell phone and the phone number for the daughter. She called the daughter and explained what had happened. When the daughter arrived, Mays was able to keep mother and daughter calm until EMS arrived.

As emergency personnel arrived it was discovered the woman's car had been clipped by a passing train.

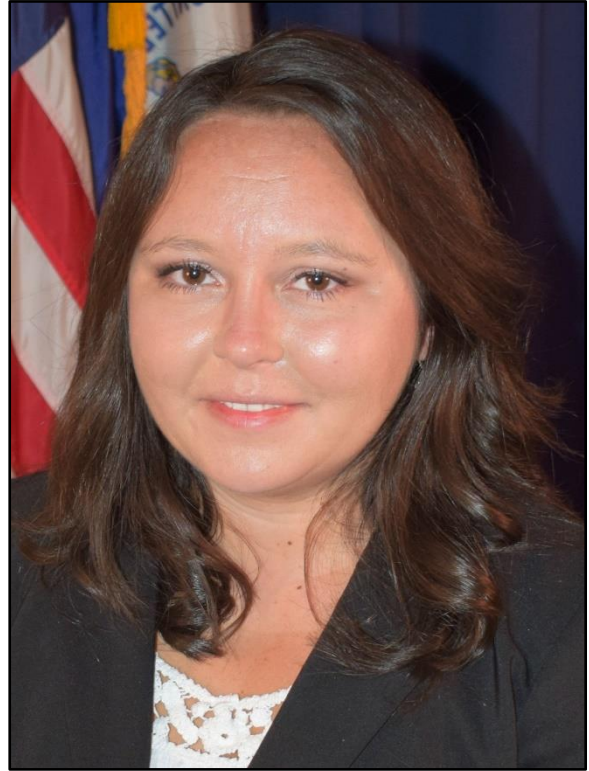
Sonja Mays, a dedicated corrections employee doesn't hesitate to help anyone: family, friend or stranger. Her quick, selfless, decisive, and compassionate actions helped save this stranger's life.

For all of these reasons, Sonja Mays is deserving of a DOC Hero Award.

2023 Hero Award

Lacey Ruble

Offender Information Supervisor
Division of Information
Services



Offender Information Supervisor Lacey Ruble was recently the passenger in a vehicle being driven by Offender Information Supervisor Mandi Smith.

As Smith pulled out of her parking spot and began driving through the parking lot of 275 East Main St. Frankfort, she began to exhibit signs of suffering from a seizure.

Ruble quickly pulled the emergency brake of the vehicle and after the vehicle stopped, she shifted it into park and began checking on Smith.

Upon checking, Ruble realized that Smith was unresponsive. Ruble flagged down assistance from Offender Information Specialist Robert Grove who was passing nearby and had him help with rendering assistance to Smith while she called 911.

A short time later as Smith was coming out of the seizure, she entered a panicked state, and began trying to drive the vehicle without realizing that the car was in park. Ruble remained with Smith, giving her calm support and help as Smith slowly became cognizant of the situation while waiting for EMS to arrive.

Had Ruble not immediately assisted Smith by applying the parking brake, it is certain that an accident would have occurred, threatening them both. For her brave actions that day, Lacey Ruble is being presented with a DOC Hero Award.

2023 Hero Award

Karen Powell *Correctional Captain* Northpoint Training Center

When an offender collapsed and had what appeared to be a seizure, Northpoint Training Center Capt. Karen Powell didn't hesitate. The inmate had collapsed while a social service clinician was teaching a class and a medical emergency was called out over the radio.

Powell was part of the first response team and CPR was immediately initiated. When that didn't revive the inmate, an AED was utilized. When CPR was resumed, Powell began rescue breaths. The inmate regained consciousness and Boyle County EMS arrived on the scene.

The inmate was transferred to the local hospital and a short time later, a decision was made to fly him to the University of Kentucky Medical Center. Captain Karen Powell's actions that day undoubtedly helped save the life of this man and we are proud to present her with a DOC Hero Award.



Commissioner's Award

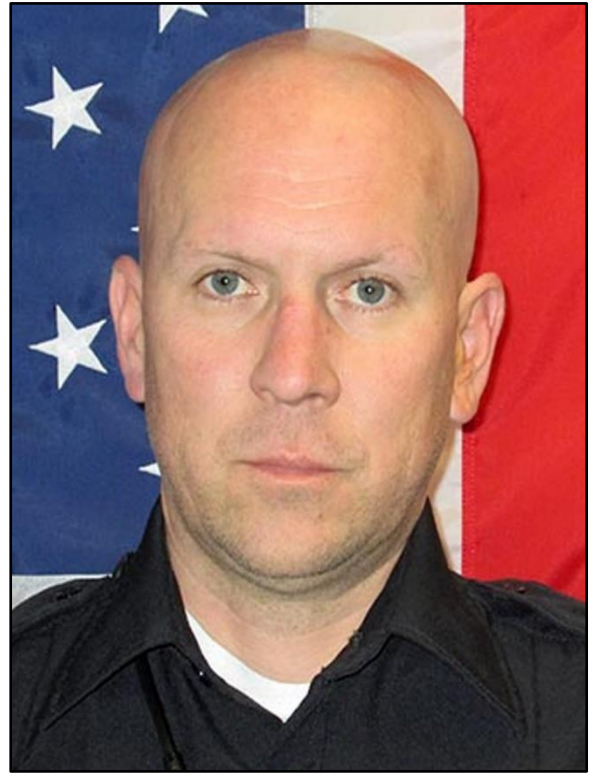
Joshua Dillon *Correctional Officer* Kentucky State Penitentiary

At 8:14 a.m. on Christmas Day 2022, Correctional Officer Joshua Dillon was brutally attacked by six inmates at the Kentucky State Penitentiary. Dillon bravely defended himself until assistance arrived and stopped the attack.

Dillon was stabbed 13 times during the assault and was transported to Mercy Hospital in Paducah, where he spent the holidays recovering from serious wounds. After his release from the hospital, Dillon continued to recover at home, receiving support from both the KSP staff and the Corrections community.

On May 15, 2023, Dillon returned to work at KSP in an administrative role in the captain's office. On July 16, 2023, he returned to a security post. He also decided to become a member of the Corrections Emergency Response Team.

Dillon is an example of the professional toughness required to succeed in the Department of Corrections and at the Kentucky State Penitentiary. His return to work and ability to succeed in the aftermath of this savage attack sends a very clear message that good will defeat evil. It is for these reasons that Correctional Officer Joshua Dillon is a worthy recipient of a 2023 Commissioner's Award.



Commissioner's Award

Jason Lotter

Major

Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex

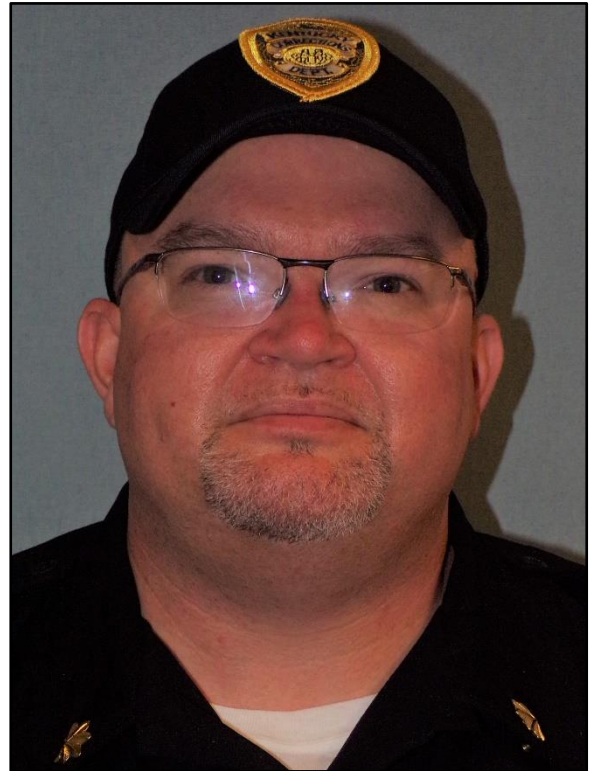
Correctional Major Jason Lotter approaches each day as a new opportunity to grow, teach, and to learn in his current position. Lotter came to Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex in October 2021 from Central Office and hit the ground running.

When Lotter arrived at EKCC, it was experiencing a very high employee vacancy rate. Lotter quickly started making changes to improve staff retention, which has helped cut the vacancy rate in half. He developed a new employee mentor program that has made new employees much more comfortable in their new positions. Lotter has also changed the overall culture of EKCC by setting an example of how to treat staff professionally.

Lotter has a wealth of knowledge and has implemented new and innovative security measures. He introduced new transport procedures, including a transport team and transport supervisor, making movements safer and less staff intensive. He also volunteered to go to an in-person funeral transport when he found out none of the team members had experience with them. He took the team supervisor with him and made it a teaching experience.

Lotter has also taken on the responsibility of overseeing numerous specialty teams at EKCC and is always active in assisting them with getting what they need. He has taken the responsibility of overseeing the Corrections Emergency Response Team, the K-9 tracking team, the K-9 narcotics team, and the honor guard for EKCC. If all of that wasn't enough, he has also taken on the task of designing an institutional challenge coin.

Correctional Major Jason Lotter is an asset to EKCC and to DOC and is a deserving recipient of the 2023 Commissioner's Award.



Commissioner's Award

Crystal Fulks

Assistant Supervisor

District 5

Crystal Fulks began her DOC career as a probation and parole officer in 2006. Her knowledge, work ethic, and no-nonsense approach to her duties led to her promotion to assistant supervisor in 2012 and her selection to the 2017 Commissioner's Executive Leadership Program.

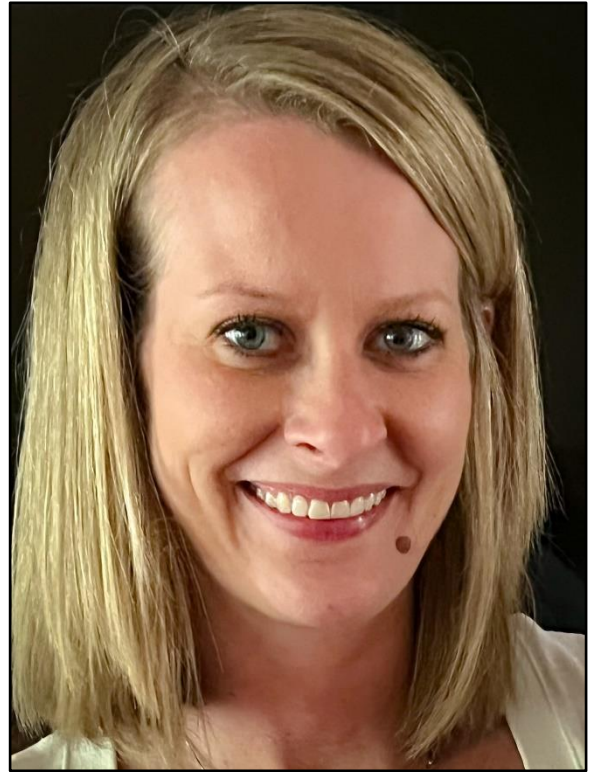
Fulks is conscientious of her duties as an assistant supervisor and executes her responsibilities with the highest level of professionalism. She is always willing to assist officers and supervisory staff in any capacity necessary and encourages employees to perform to their best. Her vast experience gained as an assistant supervisor for more than a decade has enabled her to instruct officers on the best means to supervise their caseloads. She provides feedback which greatly aids them in making solid decisions.

Fulks is responsible for reviewing all Hardin County presentence investigations, risk assessments, case management plans, and officer caseload detail reports. She has participated in numerous interviews and provided valuable insight into the hiring of new employees.

In addition to her supervisory duties, over the past three years Fulks has supervised a full Hardin County caseload due to vacant officer positions, including shortages caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. It should be noted that all the current officers in the Elizabethtown office have less than two years of experience, and she has had a hand in both training and mentoring them while supervising her own caseload.

Most recently, Fulks reviewed not only the Hardin County officers assigned to her, but all Hardin County officer caseloads to determine what actions needed to be taken to improve supervision and reduce caseload numbers. While accomplishing these and many other tasks, her work productivity remained detail-oriented, thorough, and consistent. Equally important, she did not delegate some tasks to accomplish others.

Assistant Supervisor Crystal Fulks is a true asset to District 5, who has proven she is willing to go beyond the norm to execute her duties. It is for these reasons that Crystal Fulks is deserving of a 2023 Commissioner's Award.



Commissioner's Award



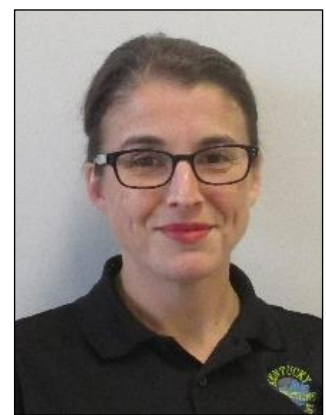
Kevin Lewis



Derek Inman



Jeremy Stevens



Heather Woosley

Division of Corrections Training

In January 2023, Governor Andy Beshear announced steps to address challenges within the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). DOC's Training Division was tasked with assisting DJJ with training on less-lethal defense equipment in four regional juvenile centers. The staff selected to present this instruction were Training Instructors Kevin Lewis, Derek Inman, Jeremy Stevens, and Heather Woosley.

Training staff did a fantastic job delivering content. They kept DJJ staff engaged and were able to answer any questions asked of them. Juvenile Justice staff said the training team was immensely knowledgeable and gave them hope to continue their essential work with Kentucky's juveniles.

Three weeks after the conclusion of instruction, juveniles at facilities in Warren and Adair counties orchestrated violent attacks on staff. At both locations staff were assaulted, but they were able to subdue the assailants and regain control of the facilities by using OC spray. The Justice and Public Safety Cabinet credits the swift resolution of the incidents to the training provided by our DOC instructors.

The instructors performed the task of teaching DJJ employees to the high standard expected of the DOC Training Division. Their innovative approach to take stringent, policy-driven training and to deliver it in a manner relevant to an agency with different security needs has already made a difference and will continue to do so in the future. For these reasons, Kevin Lewis, Derek Inman, Jeremy Stevens, and Heather Woosley are all deserving recipients of 2023 Commissioner's Awards.

Commissioner's Award

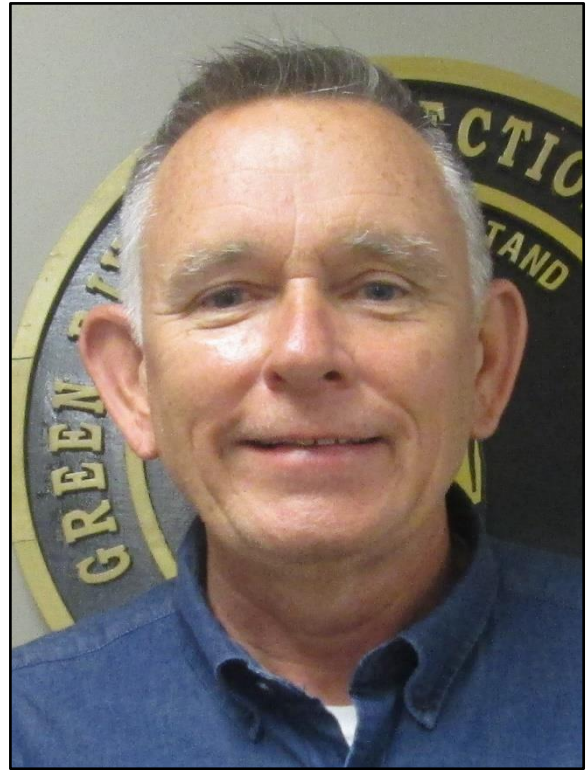
Greg Moore

Maintenance

Branch Manager

Green River

Correctional Complex



Green River Correctional Complex Maintenance Branch Manager Greg Moore displays the kind of leadership that every DOC employee should mimic. Not only does he treat his coworkers with respect, he also reacts to emergencies in a manner that ensures a calm, measured response to a crisis.

Recently, GRCC suffered a building fire which required the facility to run on emergency power for several months. Moore showed the highest standard of leadership during this trying time by making certain the facility was always cared for.

He worked with contractors, inspectors, and insurance adjusters with professionalism, while also handling setbacks with a positive attitude. His steady hand ensured the repairs were made promptly and that the institution was still able to function properly in the interim.

This is just one example of Moore's dedication and sense of duty. He always has multiple projects occurring at the same time and ensures each are completed to the high degree of quality expected by DOC. He does this while also ensuring day-to-day maintenance takes place on time and on schedule. He holds contractors accountable, making sure they perform the work to the terms of the contract while remaining on budget.

Moore also helps other areas of the institution when asked, even if it has nothing to do with his area of expertise. He shows leadership by deeds and not by words. For all these reasons, Maintenance Branch Manager Greg Moore is a deserving recipient of a 2023 Commissioner's Award.

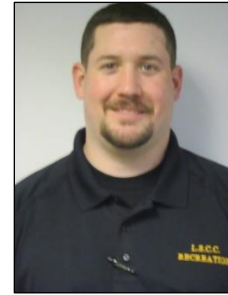
Commissioner's Award



Matt Spencer
Recreation Supervisor



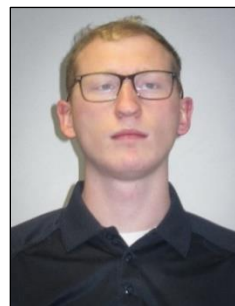
Roy Whitt
Recreation Leader



Branden Adkins
Recreation Leader



Hallie Griffith
Recreation Leader



Jonathon Sloas
Recreation Leader

Little Sandy Correctional Complex

During COVID-19 lockdowns in 2022 and 2023 at Little Sandy Correctional Complex, the recreation staff were essential in supporting the critical operations of the facility. Matt Spencer, Roy Whitt, Branden Adkins, Hallie Griffith, and Jonathon Sloas rose to the challenge and became the security and unit staff of their area as the gymnasium was used as the prison's quarantine unit.

During this difficult time, these staff managed the unit, provided coverage, passed out food trays, provided inmate laundry services, and worked with security, programs, maintenance, and medical staff to ensure the inmates' questions and concerns were addressed in a timely manner.

In addition, recreation staff worked in food service and assisted with making food trays and sack lunches for the entire institution during these extended COVID-19 lockdowns. In times of security staff shortages, recreation staff have worked security posts, performed transportation trips, and completed errands for the institution. They did whatever was necessary to get the job done.

LSCC recreation staff have proven to be true team players for the greater good of their institution. It is for these reasons that LSCC Recreation Supervisor Matt Spencer and Recreation Leaders Roy Whitt, Branden Adkins, Hallie Griffith, and Jonathon Sloas are deserving recipients of 2023 Commissioner's Awards.

Commissioner's Award

Iliannexis Williams-Hall

Branch Manager

Victim Services Branch



Iliannexis (Alexis) Williams-Hall began her career with the DOC Victim Services Branch in February 2009. In addition to working as a victim advocate, Williams-Hall was tasked with acting as the program manager for Kentucky's VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) system in 2017.

While working in Victim Services, Williams-Hall helped obtain a half-million-dollar federal grant to update the Classic VINE system to the Enhanced VINE system.

Launched in September 2021, Enhanced VINE has allowed for more comprehensive services to be provided to victims and survivors throughout the commonwealth.

In January 2023, Alexis was promoted to administrative branch manager over the Victim Services Branch. In this role she continues to ensure the branch provides resources and information for victims and survivors, criminal justice professionals, and those who assist victims and survivors across Kentucky. Her mission is to always find solutions to create an environment where survivors can feel heard.

While working as a victim advocate, Williams-Hall completed a master's degree in child and adolescent psychology in 2014. She is currently working on a second master's degree in clinical mental health counseling to become licensed to provide counseling in Kentucky. Additionally, she is a graduate of the 2014-2015 Commissioner's Executive Leadership Program.

Williams-Hall is the epitome of what all victim advocates should aspire to be. She has a great awareness for the needs of victims and survivors and champions their strengths and goals. Every day she provides a safe space for victims and survivors to be heard, believed, and supported. For these reasons, Branch Manager Iliannexis Williams-Hall is deserving of a 2023 Commissioner's Award.

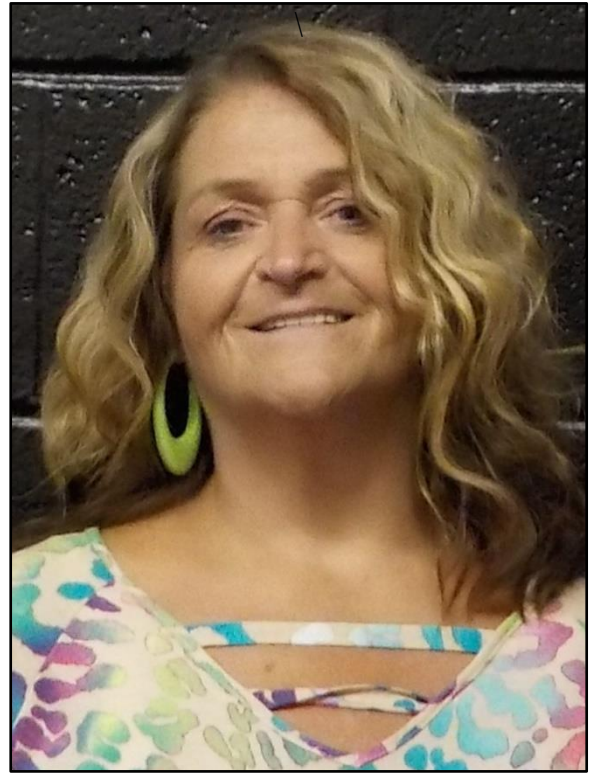
Commissioner's Award

Connie Day

Health Services

Administrator

Southeast State
Correctional Complex



Connie Day is a health services administrator at Southeast State Correctional Complex (SSCC). She has been working in the correctional setting for over 20 years, and she has always demonstrated a commitment to providing quality care.

On July 14, 2023, at approximately 6:30 a.m., Day was on her way to work when she noticed a young teenager lying next to the road with other kids standing over him. When Day pulled over, one of them advised her that his friend was on drugs and wouldn't wake up.

Day immediately jumped into action and began an assessment of the adolescent. She located a faint pulse and administered several sternal rubs. She was able to eventually get him to become responsive. Day instructed the other kids to seek help. However, only a few moments later the adolescent quickly got up and ran away from the scene.

Day began her career as a nurse at Riverview Manor Nursing Home in Prestonsburg, where she worked for 16 years. She then went on to work as a clinical manager of a rehabilitation unit at Highlands Regional Medical Center. In 2006, Day became the health care administrator at Otter Creek Correctional Center. She worked there for six years until the facility's closure in 2012. At that time, she transferred to a Tennessee correctional facility to work as a health care administrator.

Missing her home and family in Kentucky, Day returned to the state in 2019 to work in her current position at SSCC.

Day is a dedicated and compassionate nurse who has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of medical care at SSCC. She is a consummate professional who has devoted her life to helping others. She is an asset to the correctional system and a role model for all nurses. For these reasons, Connie Day is a deserving recipient of a 2023 Commissioner's Award.

Commissioner's Award

Brandon Toles

Systems Analyst III

Division of Information Services

Brandon Toles is a systems analyst III in the Information Technology Branch. Not only does Toles perform his assigned job duties in an exceptional manner, he often volunteers to take on additional tasks.

In 2019, Toles took the lead on improving the reception process at the DOC's assessment center. He met with staff to gather requirements, then worked with software developers to design an application for tablets. This was the first use of tablets for staff within the institutions.



In addition, with the transition of the Personnel Division to the cabinet level, the department needed a solution to acquire identification badges for employees to access the health services building and 127 building locations. Toles immediately offered to take on this task and volunteered to process the identification cards for Probation and Parole office locations.

Toles is continuously involved in enhancing Central Office employee morale endeavors, such as Correctional Employees Week events and weekly popcorn days, and he always has a smile on his face. Due to his dedication to the Department of Corrections and his commitment to improving employee morale, Brandon Toles is the recipient of a 2023 Commissioner's Award.

Commissioner's Award

John Rector

Correctional Lieutenant
Northpoint Training Center

John Rector began his career with the Kentucky Department of Corrections (KY DOC) in 2009 as a Correctional Officer at Northpoint Training Center (NTC). In 2012, Rector promoted to Sergeant and again in 2022 to Lieutenant. In the past 14 years, Rector has worked every security post at the institution, in addition to joining CERT in 2010 and K-9 in 2019. In 2018, NTC took over the Transportation Department for the state in at which time Rector was assigned to upon its relocation from the Kentucky State Reformatory. In 2020, Rector obtained his CDL and in 2021 he was assigned as the Supervisor over the Transportation Department.



Rector currently coordinates the mass movement across the state of all fourteen prisons, which consist of all security levels and includes the daily movement from the assessment center. In addition, Rector coordinates all court and medical trips for five prisons, NTC, RCC, KSR, KCIW and LLCC. Prisoner transport is a very important and dangerous task and there are many vital aspects of the Transportation Department Supervisor's job duties to ensure the safety and security of the community, staff and the inmate(s) they are transporting is always held at the highest standards. In addition, to scheduling, some of Rector's job duties include, but are not limited to the following; vehicle maintenance, staff training, weapons and restraint equipment issued, route planning, special needs of inmates, nature and distance of the transport, number of staff required for the transport, communications required during the transport, selection and preparation of the vehicle, possible vehicle accidents, etc.

Rector not only meets the expectations, standards and polices regarding his position, but he excels at them. The success of the Transportation Department for the state is achieved through the work ethic, professionalism and leadership skills possessed by Rector, the support and guidance he provides to his team, and through his continuous communication and collaboration with multiple agencies. For all of these reasons, John Rector is deserving of a DOC Commissioner's Award.

Commissioner's Award

Beth Frazier

Probation and Parole Officer
District 7



Beth Frazier began her career with Probation and Parole in October 2006. Since that time, she has established herself as a hard-working veteran. She is respected by her District 7 co-workers and supervisors.

Through her 17-year career, Frazier has maintained a regular supervision caseload and currently writes presentence investigations for Campbell and Kenton Counties.

When District 7 is faced with an out of state transport of an offender, or an afterhours hospital duty, Frazier is often the first one to volunteer and does so without hesitation to make sure these duties are covered.

Frazier volunteers to run the district's NCIC reports and has maintained her certification through KSP for the past several years. She values her role as a veteran officer and will guide and assist newer officers, lending her expertise and experience.

Frazier's professionalism is unmatched as evidenced by her great rapport with the District 7 judges and their staff, as well as the local jails. She is efficient, reliable, and the epitome of a team player.

Frazier maintains a positive attitude and strives to improve the morale of the office. She is a career employee who time and time again has proven she is an asset to not only District 7, but to the Probation and Parole division and the Department of Corrections as a whole. Beth Frazier is very deserving of a DOC Commissioner's Award.

Commissioner's Award

Will Knight

*Crisis Negotiation Team
Administrator*

Early in 2022 Will Knight was designated as the Kentucky DOC Crisis Negotiation Team Administrator. Through his leadership and persistence, DOC has managed to maintain facility team integrity during very challenging times, has filled vacant positions promptly, and has consistently provided trained negotiators to Kentucky's 14 prisons.

Knight and his colleagues have been instrumental in scheduling and conducting CNT basic training, in-service training, and have forged close relationships with the FBI, FBOP and Kentucky State Police negotiators. These relationships have been formed by engaging in frequent joint training sessions with these agencies.

Through building relationships and partnering with state, local and federal colleagues, Knight has not only significantly enhanced the training and preparedness of our department's negotiators, but he has gained significant respect from those organizations who have requested training assistance from the Kentucky Department of Corrections.

Currently Kentucky DOC's CNT has trained jailers across Kentucky in negotiation skills, assisted in forming a de-escalation skills curriculum to be included in the 2023-24 staff basic academy, and under Knight's watch, deployed tactical negotiation phones to all 14 state prisons in addition to providing training to use the technology effectively.

Knight works with the CERT state administrator to conduct frequent joint training exercises encouraging the two entities to frequently work together thereby uplifting both teams' tactical effectiveness and overall emergency preparedness.

Will Knight strives to continuously present new ideas, challenges and techniques to ensure that our CNT teams are prepared and effective when and if called. We are proud to present him with a 2023 Commissioner's Award.



Commissioner's Award

Kristopher Adams

Branch Manager

Kentucky Correctional Industries

KCI Administrative Branch Manager Kristopher Adams was tasked with modernizing DOC farming operations to ensure the best yields, most efficient use of acreage and the highest profits in the sale of herd animals.

Adams spent countless hours and days assessing farm locations across the DOC, analyzing and studying current operations and processes.

Through his leadership farming operation changes were implemented which immediately resulted in increased profits on herd animal sales on the open markets, and a significant increase in crop profit yields through repurposing approximately 470 acres of cropland.

Even more savings was achieved through his efforts reducing the unnecessary use of fertilizer. Adams also oversees eight production facilities spanning KCI.

Adams took the initiative to get licensed by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture through the University of Kentucky to spray crops with fertilizer and pesticides in order to gain knowledge of such operations and to ensure compliance standards were met. His leadership has been instrumental in KCI operations being profitable this year.

Adams began his career in 2005 as a correctional officer at Luther Lockett Correctional Complex (LLCC) before being promoted to KCI Production Coordinator the following year. He has gained experience in KCI operations working at LLCC, Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women and Kentucky State Reformatory before being promoted to Branch Manager of Plant and Farm Operations.

He exhibits personal characteristics and qualities that demonstrate his leadership abilities, his innovative mindset, and his overall commitment to a successful outcome for Correctional Industries. Kristopher (KC) Adams is deserving of a 2023 Commissioner's Award.



The Lucille Hurt Robuck Commitment to Corrections Award

The Lucille Hurt Robuck Commitment to Corrections Award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated an outstanding contribution to the field of Corrections during the past year.

Robuck passed away in March 2005 after devoting her entire career to the field of criminal justice. She was an attorney and served as chairperson of the Kentucky Parole Board under five Kentucky governors. Robuck was also a judge for the juvenile court systems in Jefferson County and a retired professor of criminal justice at Eastern Kentucky University where she mentored many Corrections professionals working in Kentucky today. She was a member of the Kentucky Bar Association and the American Academy of Criminal Justice.

Previous recipients of the prestigious award include:

- 2022 – Allison Brown, Assistant General Counsel**
- 2021 – Leanne Kommer & Meagan Hurst, Oldham County Health Department**
- 2020 – Dr. Kevin Spicer & Kristy Bolen,
Kentucky Department for Public Health**
- 2019 – Goodwill Industries of Kentucky**
- 2018 – Kristin Swartz, Ph.D., University of Louisville**
- 2016 – Wade White, Lyon County Judge Executive**
- 2015 – G.L. Ovey, Lyon County Commonwealth Attorney, retired**
- 2014 – Michael Davis, Appriss Co-Founder/CEO**
- 2012 – Sister Dorothy Schuette, OSB**
- 2011 – Senator Tom Jenson/Representative John Tilley**
- 2010 – Rev. Roosevelt Lightsey**
- 2009 – Kentucky Parole Board**
- 2008 – Supreme Court Justice Bill Cunningham**
- 2007 – Jan M. Kempf, Dismas Charities, Inc.**
- 2006 – Dr. Lee T. Todd, University of Kentucky President**
- 2005 – Denise Bentley, Governor’s Office for Local Development**

2023 Lucille Hurt Robuck Commitment to Corrections Award

Rodney Moore *Human Resources Director* Justice and Public Safety Cabinet



Personnel issues can be daunting and overwhelming for any manager in a government agency or the private sector. You obviously need someone who is knowledgeable – but you also need someone you can trust. That combination, knowledge, and trust is difficult to find. The Department of Corrections is blessed to have someone who without a doubt has our agency and its leadership’s best interest at heart.

Rodney Moore began his career 22 years ago as a correctional officer at Northpoint Training Center. He promoted in the security field and worked at Blackburn and the Frankfort Career Development Center (FCDC) and served as a member of the Corrections Emergency Response Team. It was at FCDC where he began his journey in human resources.

In July 2011 when FCDC closed, Moore transferred to DOC’s payroll branch. He quickly demonstrated a keen acumen for personnel and quickly moved up the ranks. In 2016 he was promoted to director of personnel services for the Department of Corrections.

His skills, knowledge, and ability to communicate even the most complex personnel rules clearly and efficiently are well known and respected. These attributes made him the logical choice to lead the entire Justice and Public Safety Cabinet’s human resources. He was appointed to this position in July 2022.

Despite his vastly expanded scope of duties, Rodney Moore maintains his love and devotion to Corrections. No one understands our world better than he does and he continues to work tirelessly to assist our agency.

Nothing demonstrates this better than the several pay raises that have been implemented over the past three years. DOC is one of the largest agencies in state government and size alone makes this task enormous. But when you factor in the numerous locations of our facilities, almost countless job positions, it is formidable to say the least.

Rodney Moore is depended on and valued beyond words by DOC leadership.

We are proud to present him with the 2023 Lucille Hurt Robuck Commitment to Corrections Award.

