

Welcome *to Inside Corrections*

by Robert Patton, Director



It is my pleasure to introduce you to the updated and improved Inside Corrections. The communications staff have been working hard on changes to the agency newsletter by giving it a new look and making it easier for users to view online. It is just one of the positive changes we are making at the Department of Corrections.

The last year was full of changes and I know change is not always easy. Thanks to staff, we have accomplished a lot and are seeing positive returns for the agency. We began this process by addressing our situation in the county jails with offenders awaiting transfer into our custody. We found thousands of offenders we were responsible for and, with your hard work, moved those offenders into our system. We are still waiting to see the positive financial impact of this move and I thank you for making it happen.

We have completed a staffing survey to make sure we have adequate staff during shifts and are wisely managing agency overtime. This will save taxpayer dollars and allow officers to spend more time with their families. Most recently, we have changed the way we are calculating operating capacity to more accurately reflect crowding within our system and make reporting more consistent with other states. For too long, lawmakers did not have a true understanding of the conditions inside our facilities...now they will.

Along with these changes, we have made several updates to operational procedures so the agency can run more efficiently and better utilize the taxpayer dollars we are given. It was not easy, but it needed to be done and you all should be proud of your hard work. I look forward to my next year as your director.