

APRIL 30, 2010

## DIRECTOR'S NEWS UPDATE



### **2009 OFFICERS OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED**

I take great pleasure in announcing the 2009 Officers of the Year. Each of these individuals represent all the dedication, hard work and commitment that it takes to be the best in our profession. They serve not only as examples of excellence within their community but also as role models. Please join me in extending appreciation and congratulations to them.

#### **Correctional Officer of the Year**

Theresa Tipton, Correctional Security Officer IV at Eddie Warrior Correctional Center, Female Offender Operations, Field Operations Division is the 2009 Agency Correctional Officer of the Year. Sergeant Tipton began her career in 1994. She is a valued member of the Hostage Negotiation Team. In January 2009 her team participated in the Hostage Negotiation Competition in San Marcos, Texas where they received first place. Since Sergeant Tipton is bilingual, she also assists as interpreter for parole hearings and other areas when needed. She sets an example for others by always being willing to assist with duties outside the scope of those assigned to her. Sergeant Tipton is a respected leader known for her high level of calm demeanor and professionalism.

#### **Correctional Officer Supervisor of the Year**

Virgil W. Young, Correctional Security Manager I, Oklahoma State Penitentiary, Field Operations Division, is the 2009 Agency Correctional Officer Supervisor of the Year.

Captain Young began his career with the agency in 1995. Captain Young has attended the Center for Correctional Officer Studies, Law Enforcement Driver Training, C.L.E.E.T. Certification, Gang Information Training and Leadership Training. Captain Young has coordinated several fund raising events for the facility. During his 14 years with the agency, Captain Young has earned the respect of the officers he supervises by being a strong leader who is always willing to work alongside his officers on any task.

He has assisted Pittsburg County Jail during the two riots that occurred in their facility. In his off hours, Captain Young serves as a youth minister at his church in Krebs, Oklahoma.

#### **Probation and Parole Officer of the Year**

Larry J. Bryant, Probation and Parole Officer III, Southeast District Community Corrections, is the 2009 Agency Probation and Parole Officer of the Year.

Officer Bryant began his career with the Department of Corrections in 1991 as a Correctional Security Officer at Howard McLeod Correctional Center. After graduating from college in 2000 he was hired as a Probation and Parole Officer for Southeast District Community Corrections. His current work station is in Pushmataha County; however when necessary he also works in Choctaw and

Atoka counties assisting with caseloads left vacant by recent officer retirements. Officer Bryant is a CLEET certified firearms instructor and Armorer for the district. He is a dedicated family man and active in his local community. He serves as a deacon in his church and as a volunteer with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes where he works with young people in the community.