

March 27, 2008

DIRECTOR'S NEWS UPDATE



PROTECTING THE PUBLIC PROTECTING THE EMPLOYEES PROTECTING THE OFFENDERS PROTECTING THE EMPLOYEES PROTECTING THE PUBLIC PROTECTING THE EMPLOYEES PROTECTING THE OFFENDERS

2007 OFFICERS OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED

Recognizing the accomplishments of departmental employees is one of the most satisfying parts of my job as director of the agency. I am honored and privileged to announce the Correctional Officer and Correctional Officer Supervisor of the Year for the Oklahoma Department of Corrections.

Correctional Officer of the Year

Lawrence W. Bell, Jr., Correctional Security Sergeant at James Crabtree Correctional Center, Helena, is the Agency Correctional Officer of the Year for 2007.

Sgt. Bell began his career as a Correctional Officer I in April, 1997, progressing to Correctional Officer II in October, 1997, Correctional Officer III in October, 1998, and Correctional Officer IV in April, 2001.

He is the tool and contraband officer as well as a member of the Correctional Emergency Response Team. He was recently assigned to the K-9 officer position for the facility. He is known for his leadership, professionalism, and dependability.

Correctional Officer Supervisor of the Year

James Herschal McBane, Correctional Security Officer IV, Sayre Community Work Center, Sayre, is the Correctional Officer Supervisor of the Year for 2007.

Sgt. McBane began his career with the agency in March, 1990, progressing to Correctional Officer I in September, 1990 and to Sergeant in March, 1997. He volunteered to take a leadership role in developing and implementing a plan of action to make major infra-structure improvements to the work center to improve the appearance of the facility as well as improving working and living conditions for staff and offenders. He is known for his can-do attitude, as well as his professionalism, dedication, and willingness to respond to the needs of the facility twenty-four hours a day.

Probation and Parole Officer of the Year

Nicole Haws, Probation and Parole Officer III, Southwest District Community Corrections – Duncan, has been selected as Probation and Parole Officer of the Year for 2007.

Officer Haws began her career with the Department of Corrections as a Probation and Parole Officer I in the Duncan office, Southwest District Community Corrections, in January, 2001, progressing to Probation and Parole Officer II in January, 2003, and Probation and Parole Officer III in September, 2006. She is known for her above standards caseload management and supervision, and submitting reports that are extensively detailed and without error. She has become the expert in Motivational Interviewing for the Southwest District and is a Master Trainer in that supervision tool. Her professionalism, dedication, and passion for her work are well documented.