



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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May 6, 2020

TO: All DOC Staff

FROM: Stephen Sinclair, Secretary

SUBJECT: National Correctional Officers and Employees Week

As the nation observes National Correctional Officers and Employees Week, I'd like to thank you all for your ongoing commitment, compassion and dedication to the work we do every day.

Now more than ever, I see you living our mission, vision and values—despite the challenges and changes we are facing during these unprecedented times.

While we are postponing our official Corrections Pride Month celebrations until later this year, it's important to take time now to celebrate in different ways how you work together to overcome challenges and adapt to changes to help us fulfill our mission of improving public safety by positively changing lives.

No matter where you are working or what your role in our agency, I hope you'll all take a minute to thank your colleagues and recognize the great work we all do together as part of the Corrections team.

Leading up to the pandemic, you were working together to help the Department of Corrections shift its culture to incorporate our new mission, vision and values into everything you do. In the last several months, I've seen you continue this work despite operating in new and different ways to keep our workplace and those in our care healthy and safe.

The 8,900 individuals working at the Washington State Department of Corrections in a variety of important roles make a difference every day to:

- The roughly 16,500 individuals incarcerated within our facilities and in work release;

"Working Together for SAFER Communities"

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- The more than 21,000 individuals on community supervision;
- The roughly 42,500 victims enrolled with our victims services program;
- The families, policy makers and stakeholders with an interest in our work; and
- Your fellow employees.

You put your health and safety on the line to help us honor our commitment to operate a safe and humane corrections system and partner with others to transform lives for a better Washington.

When President Ronald Reagan established the first National Corrections Officer Week in 1984, he called upon the nation to honor the many contributions and accomplishments of those in our field, recognizing the “professionalism, dedication and courage” we exhibit in “demanding and often conflicting roles.”

I’m proud this recognition has been expanded to all Corrections employees and I’m proud to lead such an incredible team. Thank you for all you do each and every day!