



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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May 7, 2020

TO: All DOC Staff

FROM: Stephen Sinclair, Secretary

SUBJECT: Honoring Correctional Educators during National Teacher Appreciation Week

The first week of May is a busy week for recognition. We've recognized [Public Service Recognition Week](#), [National Corrections Officer and Employee Week](#) and [National Nurses Week](#), but I didn't want this week to pass without joining in one more opportunity for recognition: [National Teacher Appreciation Week](#).

As many of our employees recognize those who teach their children this week, there's another group of educators who deserve recognition as well and that's our correctional educators and training staff.

The Department of Corrections training and development unit produces a wealth of educational and professional development training to support our 8,900 employees across the state. This team is working hard to update our training to reflect the new mission, vision and values while at the same time, adapting our in-person trainings to adjust to new social distancing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for your innovation, flexibility and hard work.

The Department of Corrections also works with 200 contracted faculty and staff and another 100 volunteers and Corrections staff to educate approximately 9,000 incarcerated individuals each year. These instructors provide credentialed, behavioral and enrichment instruction through a variety of programs, organizations and educational institutions, including many of our state's community and technical colleges.

While Corrections had to suspend a vast majority of its education programs at the start of spring quarter due to the COVID-19 pandemic, educators and staff responded quickly to continue to serve students in prison.

I appreciate everyone's added creativity and extra efforts required to engage incarcerated students and train our staff during this unprecedented time—and encourage you all to join me in recognizing and celebrating this work during National Teacher Appreciation Week.

"Working Together for SAFER Communities"