

*2025*

# Employee Awards Ceremony



Pennsylvania

**Department of Corrections**

Elizabethtown Training Academy

**May 14, 2025**





Welcome to the

# Awards Program

Welcoming Remarks/Emcee .....	<b>Ronald L. Morrison</b>
Presentation of the Colors.....	<b>SCI Smithfield Honor Guard</b>
Pledge of Allegiance .....	<b>Christopher H. Oppman</b> <i>Deputy Secretary for Administration</i>
National Anthem.....	<b>Lower Dauphin Chamber Singers</b>
Invocation.....	<b>Reverend Ulli Klemm</b> <i>Religious Services Administrator</i>
Keynote Address.....	<b>Dr. Laurel R. Harry</b> <i>Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections</i>
Award Presentations .....	<b>DOC Leadership</b>

Outstanding Achievement-  
Eastern Region

**Morris Houser**

*Regional Deputy Secretary*

Outstanding Achievement-  
Central Region

**Dr. Robert Marsh**

*Regional Deputy Secretary*

Outstanding Achievement-  
Western Region

**Dr. Michael Zaken**

*Regional Deputy Secretary*

Outstanding Achievement-  
Bureau of Reentry

**Dr. Lucas Malishchak**

*Deputy Secretary of Reentry*

Outstanding Achievement-  
Field Services

**Deborah Carpenter**

*Deputy Secretary of Field Services*

Outstanding Achievement-  
Central Office

**Christopher Oppman**

*Deputy Secretary for Administration*

Thomas Fulcomer Award

**Christopher Oppman**

*Deputy Secretary for Administration*

Medal of Valor

**Michael Wenerowicz**

*Executive Deputy Secretary for  
Institutional Operations*

Lloyd White Excellence in Reentry

**Kelly Evans**

*Executive Deputy Secretary  
for Community Corrections,  
Reentry & Field Services*

Innovations Award

**Kelly Evans**

*Executive Deputy Secretary  
for Community Corrections,  
Reentry & Field Services*

Excellence in Leadership

**Dr. Laurel R. Harry**

*Secretary, Department of Corrections*

Mentor of the Year

**Mark Wahl**

*Superintendent, SCI Waymart*

Group Achievement Award

Special Project

**Christopher Oppman**

*Deputy Secretary for Administration*

Group Achievement Award

Public/Employee Safety

**Christopher Oppman**

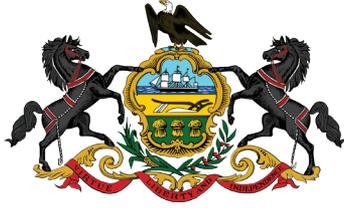
*Deputy Secretary for Administration*

Training and Professional

Development Award

**Christopher Oppman**

*Deputy Secretary for Administration*



Musical Selection ..... **Lower Dauphin Chamber Singers**

Taps ..... **Damon Morris**  
*Retired Corrections Officer 1*

Benediction ..... **Rev. Aaron Reitz**  
*Assistant Religious Services Administrator*

Retiring of the Colors ..... **SCI Smithfield Honor Guard**

God Bless America ..... **Lower Dauphin Chamber Singers**

Closing Remarks ..... **Kelly Evans**  
*Executive Deputy Secretary for Community Corrections,  
Reentry & Field Services*

## Luncheon



## OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARDS - EASTERN REGION

### OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARD

The Outstanding Performance Award is intended to honor employees who display consistent, exceptional performance of work, reflect an exceptionally high productivity level or demonstrate initiative and creativity in performing work-related duties.

#### **Marky James, Corrections Officer, SCI Camp Hill**

In 2024, Corrections Officer Marky James played a vital role in intercepting illegal drugs at SCI Camp Hill. Through extensive monitoring of phone calls, video visits, and GTL messages, as well as sharp attention during cell searches, she uncovered multiple smuggling attempts. Her efforts led to the seizure of over \$176,000 worth of K2 and Suboxone. Remarkably, she achieved this while fulfilling her duties on the Cell Search Team, showcasing her vigilance and commitment to institutional safety.

#### **Andrew Vose, Lieutenant, SCI Chester**

Lieutenant Andrew Vose began his DOC career in 2017 and quickly proved himself as a dedicated and effective team member. Promoted to sergeant in 2021, his leadership and vigilance led to multiple Suboxone finds, earning him a letter of commendation. Since becoming a lieutenant in 2022, he has continued to excel in the Security Office, conducting thorough investigations and building rapport with inmates to disrupt contraband flow. Known for his strong work ethic and consistent results, Vose is a trusted and valuable asset to SCI Chester and the Department of Corrections.

#### **Michael Swartzlander, Sergeant, SCI Coal Township**

On September 24, 2024, Sgt. Swartzlander and Unit Manager Santelli acted quickly when an inmate became unresponsive during a meeting. Sgt. Swartzlander initiated CPR, regaining a pulse before medical staff arrived. CPR and AED shocks were administered multiple times as the inmate's condition fluctuated. EMS assumed care, and the inmate was airlifted to the hospital for further treatment. Sgt. Swartzlander's quick thinking and decisive actions, along with the coordinated response by staff and emergency services, proved to be life-saving efforts.

### **Kelly Marrone Clerical Assistant 3, SCI Dallas**

Clerical Assistant Kelly Marrone has significantly improved the Inmate Visitation System at SCI Dallas, enhancing both facility efficiency and public service. As a statewide resource, she corrected over 700 duplicate records and resolved system migration issues, streamlining visitor scheduling. Her calm, professional demeanor ensures smooth problem-solving under pressure. Kelly's dedication to innovation, collaboration, and exceptional public support exemplifies outstanding performance and has positively impacted operations across the Department.

### **Joshua Kline, Corrections Activities Manager, SCI Frackville**

Joshua Kline exemplifies leadership, integrity, and innovation as activities manager and co-chair of the Mentoring Committee at SCI-Frackville. His initiative to make mentors more visible has strengthened support for new staff while reinforcing mentor pride. He holds his team to high standards rooted in accountability and values, and he has made a meaningful impact by mentoring new leadership. Known for his empathy and professionalism with the inmate population, Joshua also brings creative approaches to leisure programming. His actions inspire peers and positively influence institutional culture.

### **Justin DeBalko, Facilities Maintenance Manager 3, SCI Mahanoy**

Justin's technical expertise and positive attitude have significantly enhanced the Maintenance Department at SCI Mahanoy. In his short time as facility maintenance manager, he has successfully overseen a major control panel upgrade, coordinated an electrical shutdown for preventive maintenance, and managed critical heat and water issues. His ability to lead with calm determination while promoting teamwork and safety boosts both morale and efficiency. Justin's forward-thinking approach and adaptability to new technologies have made him an asset to the facility and the Department.

### **Kevin Cook-Hudson, Corrections Food Service Manager, SCI Phoenix**

Kevin Cook-Hudson's dedication and innovation as kitchen manager at SCI Phoenix have greatly improved food service operations. He streamlined workflows, reduced waste, and implemented an effective inventory management system, enhancing both efficiency and cost control. Kevin consistently demonstrates reliability and exceptional problem-solving, particularly during staffing and supply challenges. He mentors new staff and fosters a high-performing team environment. His commitment extends beyond daily duties, including volunteer efforts in community initiatives.

### **Joseph DeAngelis, Unit Manager, SCI Waymart**

Joseph DeAngelis has served at SCI Waymart since 2008, progressing from corrections officer to unit manager. He is known for his strong work ethic and attention to detail. He currently oversees the Intermediate Care and Residential Treatment Units, where he supports individuals with mental illness. Joseph consistently demonstrates a positive attitude, adaptability, and a commitment to team success, making him an integral part of the SCI Waymart staff.

## OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARDS - CENTRAL REGION

### **Elizabeth Eckenrode, Corrections Employment Vocational Coordinator (CEVC), SCI Benner Township**

CEVC Elizabeth Eckenrode exemplifies professionalism, dedication, and positivity in every aspect of her work. Managing job assignments, payroll, and daily bed management with efficiency and accuracy, she upholds policy while remaining approachable and fair. Her commitment to excellence, combined with an upbeat attitude and reliability, makes her an asset to staff and inmates alike. Elizabeth's drive stems from genuine pride in her work and support of the DOC mission.

### **Daniel Mowrey, Veterans Service Unit Manager, SCI Houtzdale**

Unit Manager Dan Mowrey has transformed SCI Houtzdale's Veterans Service Unit (VSU) into a premier model within the Department of Corrections. Since assuming the role in 2021, he has expanded the scope of services for the nearly 200 veterans in his unit—offering an impressive array of programming focused on career readiness, mental health, recovery, and personal development. In addition to cultivating partnerships with outside agencies and leading impactful events such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day services, Dan also supports other facilities, demonstrating his commitment to both reentrants and his colleagues. His efforts have not only elevated his unit but have also set a department-wide standard for what veteran-focused programming can be.

### **Jason Helsel, Psychological Services Specialist, SCI Huntingdon**

Psychological Services Specialist Jason Helsel has demonstrated exceptional dedication throughout his career, excelling in both institutional and community roles. He has led key programs such as RSO, Vivitrol, PRAT assessments, and the Certified Peer Specialist Program, and consistently volunteers to support colleagues. His mentorship, reliability, and commitment to reentry efforts have had lasting impact. Outside of work, he coaches youth sports, serves in the local booster and league leadership, and supports SECA initiatives. His professionalism and service reflect well on the DOC and his community.

### **Shelia Cooper, Corrections Employment Vocational Coordinator (CEVC), SCI Muncy**

CEVC Shelia Cooper has revitalized SCI Muncy's employment office through strategic inmate job placements, enhanced performance tracking, and strong leadership. Drawing from her civilian background and Army National Guard service, she improved communication, reduced job turnover by 20%, and developed a training guide for supervisors. She earned perfect DTS audit scores three years in a row and actively leads the COVER Team, organizing community events and staff wellness initiatives. Her commitment to reentry, staff collaboration, and inmate rehabilitation underscores her impact and makes her a vital member of the DOC.

### **Leslie Bradley, Corrections Superintendent's Assistant (CSA), SCI Pine Grove**

Leslie Bradley exemplifies leadership through her work ethic, policy knowledge, and team-first mindset. She consistently goes above and beyond—arriving early, staying

late, and ensuring staff across departments understand any changes or updates to DOC procedures. Currently leading Pine Grove's ACA Accreditation efforts, she not only handles the task but also mentors others through the process, strengthening the team for future success. Her commitment and leadership exemplify the values of the DOC.

### **Jaime Rauch, Drug and Alcohol Treatment Specialist Supervisor, Quehanna Boot Camp**

Drug and Alcohol Treatment Specialist Supervisor Jaime Rauch is known at the Boot Camp for always supporting her team and the Department. She plays a key role in developing policies, leads impactful statewide trainings, and uplifts standards across the organization. Jaime is known for her professionalism, empathy, and leadership, both in the workplace and in her community, where she coaches multiple girls' volleyball teams. Her influence, commitment, and ability to inspire others make her an asset to the DOC.

### **Amber Strachan, Social Worker 2, SCI Rockview**

Social Worker Amber Strachan has demonstrated dedication since starting her DOC career in 2016. She excels in placing hard-to-place inmates and actively supports MAT initiatives. Highly self-motivated, she works with minimal supervision and is a go-to resource for social workers statewide. Amber also gives back through her volunteer work with the Rockview Employee Welfare Association. Her commitment to reentry efforts and team wellness makes her a deserving recipient of the Outstanding Performance Award.

### **Luke Rhone, Administrative Captain, SCI Smithfield**

Captain Luke Rhone has served the DOC with distinction since 2007, rising to his current role as Administrative Captain at SCI Smithfield. Known for his leadership in high-intensity units and deep institutional knowledge, he has improved operations in one of the busiest reception and departure centers in the state. His work has led to a low property reimbursement rate, successful inspections, and labor relations expertise. He also supports other institutions by conducting SVA Inspections.

## **OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARDS - WESTERN REGION**

### **Dennis Martin, Drug and Alcohol Treatment Supervisor, SCI Albion**

Dennis Martin is a dedicated professional whose 20+ years of service at SCI Albion reflect his strong work ethic and commitment to rehabilitation. He consistently volunteers for new initiatives, ensures audit success, and supports inmates through program continuity—even while short-staffed. Dennis played a key role in reintroducing volunteers post-COVID and honors their contributions through events like the Volunteer Banquet. Known for his teamwork, ethical standards, and leadership, he is often sought out for advice and is quick to respond in emergencies. His consistent performance and quiet leadership make him a standout member of the institution.

### **Jessica Hotchkiss, Psychology Services Specialist, SCI Cambridge Springs**

Jessica Hotchkiss has dedicated 14 years to the Psychology Department at SCI Cambridge Springs. She has advanced through several roles while fostering efficiency and collaboration. She brings extensive experience in forensic social work, dual diagnosis counseling, and training. Jessica has led system improvements, facilitated trauma programs, co-authored research, and teaches in the community as an adjunct professor. She is also active in staff support and wellness initiatives. Outside of work, is known for her homemade pies and baked treats.

### **Toshia Smith, Lieutenant, SCI Fayette**

Lieutenant Toshia Smith plays a vital role at SCI Fayette as the as the shift scheduling lieutenant on the 0600–1400 shift. Known for her professionalism, organization, and upbeat attitude, she ensures daily staffing aligns with DOC policy and union agreements—no matter the challenges. Her streamlined processes and attention to detail help guarantee safe, effective operations and program delivery. A steady presence during staffing shortages, Lieutenant Smith brings positivity and efficiency to every shift, making her an essential part of the facility's success.

### **Michaela Mohrey, Corrections Records Specialist 1, SCI Forest**

Since her promotion to Records Specialist in January 2025, Michaela Mohrey has gone above and beyond to support SCI Forest, seamlessly managing both her new responsibilities and her former clerk duties. She played a key role in training her replacement and ensuring a smooth transition, all while maintaining exceptional performance. Her dedication, flexibility, and work ethic have significantly contributed to the success of her team.

### **Daniel Coulehan Unit Manager, SCI Greene**

Unit Manager Daniel Coulehan leads the Intensive Management Unit (IMU) and Management Control Unit (MCU) at SCI Greene, where his leadership has driven significant operational and policy improvements. He has been instrumental in statewide IMU program development, offering valuable insights and solutions to streamline procedures. As PACT Coordinator, he has also supported Strong-R implementation, guiding staff through the transition. Known for challenging the status quo in pursuit of better outcomes, Daniel continues to elevate local practices and align them with audit standards through proactive, thoughtful leadership.

### **Michael Maga, Corrections Food Service Manager 2, SCI Laurel Highlands**

Michael Maga has served the Department of Corrections since 1999, rising through the ranks to become the corrections food service manager at SCI Laurel Highlands in 2021. Known for his humility, integrity, and work ethic, he leads by example—supporting his team with unmatched dedication and creating a positive environment. Michael is a trusted source of knowledge and guidance, consistently going above and beyond his official duties to ensure operations run smoothly. His leadership style is marked by compassion, thoughtful decision-making, and a commitment to both staff and institutional success.

### **Amanda Hauser, Corrections Counselor 2, SCI Mercer**

Amanda Hauser exemplifies dedication and resilience in her role, consistently going above and beyond to serve the inmate population and support her department. A reliable go-to for supervisors, she willingly stepped up to cover counselor duties during vacancies, all while maintaining her regular caseload. Her strong work ethic, positive attitude, and deep sense of responsibility have made a lasting impact, even as she navigated personal hardship. Amanda's commitment and professionalism are an asset to the Department and an inspiration to those around her.

### **Jennifer Brown, Sergeant, SCI Somerset**

Jennifer Brown serves as the B Unit sergeant on the 6-2 shift at SCI Somerset, where she is recognized for her leadership, professionalism, and commitment to safety. Firm, fair, and consistent, she sets the tone for her unit, mentoring newer staff and fostering a culture of accountability and respect. Sgt. Brown remains composed during critical incidents and brings a deep understanding of DOC policy to her role, often offering thoughtful solutions to operational challenges. Her balanced approach and steady leadership make her a standout member of the SCI Somerset team.

## **OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARDS - REENTRY**

### **Christine McCloskey, Reentry Parole Agent, SCI Mercer**

Christine McCloskey exemplifies outstanding performance through her dedication, organization, and genuine care for the reentrant population. She coordinates impactful programming with an average monthly attendance of 200 inmates, while also enhancing services by bringing in community partners and guest presenters. Christine actively pursues professional development and volunteers on key reentry-focused committees and the reentry simulation team. Her efforts ensure meaningful opportunities and support for those preparing to reenter the community. Christine's passion, initiative, and commitment make her an invaluable asset to the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections.

### **Julian Rubeo, Program Manager, Bureau of Reentry Coordination**

Program Manager Julian Rubeo has played a vital role in expanding reentry services. He launched the vendor spotlight initiative, developed a new provider inspection form, and ensured the DOC REACH Grant meets expectations. Despite the absence of a division director, Julian has stepped up to support leadership, streamline operations, and maintain momentum. He has represented the Bureau at multiple conferences and Parole Board presentations, all while producing key materials and driving results. His dedication and proactive approach have been essential to the division's continued success.

### **Tara Marhefka, Center Director, Pittsburgh CCC**

Center Director Tara Marhefka exemplifies outstanding performance through leadership, dedication, and innovation at the Pittsburgh CCC. After stepping up to manage an increased caseload with unwavering positivity, she was promoted in July 2024 and quickly led her team to achieve a perfect ACA Accreditation score. Tara champions both reentrant success and staff wellbeing, launching new gender-specific programming, coordinating with community partners, and fostering a positive workplace culture. Her commitment to staff development, creative problem-solving, and advocacy make her an effective leader and a driving force behind the center's continued success.

## **OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARDS PAROLE FIELD SERVICES**

### **Amanda Randolph, Parole Agent 2, Chester District Office**

Amanda Randolph has demonstrated exceptional dedication and effectiveness as a mental health agent, consistently exceeding expectations in her work with reentrants facing mental health challenges. Through strong partnerships with local providers and proactive planning for individuals returning from incarceration, she has achieved high success rates and low recidivism. Amanda's compassionate approach and strategic foresight have earned the trust of those she supervises and elevated the standard for parole supervision. Her work has made a meaningful impact on both individual lives and the broader community.

### **Nathan Simon, Deputy District Director, Pittsburgh District Office**

Deputy District Director Nathan Simon has shown exceptional leadership, professionalism, and commitment throughout his career. While serving as acting district director during a 12-week medical leave, he continued to fulfill his regular duties and led key initiatives, including the Intensive Supervision Unit Pilot and the Vantage system transition. He also co-led critical trainings for field staff. Nathan earned the trust of his team and superiors alike, fostering a culture of respect and forward-thinking. His ability to lead effectively under pressure and his dedication to staff, reentrants, and the Department highlight his outstanding leadership.

### **Mark Kernick, Parole Supervisor, Erie District Office**

Parole Supervisor Mark Kernick has over 20 years of service with the DOC and is known for his fairness, consistency, and deep belief in second chances. He goes above and beyond to address reentry barriers—most notably, housing. Mark is drafting a proposal to improve reentrant housing in Erie County and serves on the Citizens Advisory Committee, where he advances peer mentorship, employment, and reentry resources. He's also a key member of the Reentry Simulation Team and a certified BTA trainer. A role model in both his office and community, Mark exemplifies dedication to reentry success.

### **David Frederick, Parole Supervisor, Williamsport District Office**

Parole Supervisor David Frederick has exemplified leadership, dedication, and excellence throughout his 27-year career with the Department. Overseeing a specialized unit in the Williamsport District Office, he supports agents managing complex caseloads involving mental health, Alcohol and Other Drugs, and sexually based offenses. Known for his integrity and dependability, he also serves as district evidence custodian and GPS manager. He also regularly fills in as acting director. David always makes himself available to mentor new agents showing exceptional commitment and leadership.

## **OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARD CENTRAL OFFICE**

### **Amanda Wasko, Administrative Officer 5, Central Office**

In 2024, Amanda made significant contributions beyond her regular duties, elevating both procurement training and accountability within the department. She traveled statewide to deliver clear, approachable procurement guidance to non-procurement staff, making complex regulations more accessible. Her expertise has earned her invitations to present at DGS's Small Business Summit and an upcoming national conference. Additionally, Amanda led the development of a new P-Card Checklist that enhances transparency and safeguards against fraud. Her work has strengthened the DOC's business practices and reputation across the Commonwealth and beyond.

## **THOMAS FULCOMER AWARD**

### **THOMAS A. FULCOMER AWARD**

This award will be presented to a DOC employee who best embodies the character and dedication of Thomas A. Fulcomer. Thomas was a beloved DOC Deputy Secretary who died in 2002 following a battle with Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

### **William Martin, Adult Basic Education Teacher, SCI Huntingdon**

With nearly 20 years of service as a teacher in the DOC, William Martin has become a cornerstone of the SCI Huntingdon education department. He is especially known for his work with ESL students, who often express appreciation for his compassion, encouragement, and commitment to their success. His impact extends beyond the classroom, with former students crediting him for changing the course of their lives and inspiring newfound confidence. A quiet leader and trusted colleague, Mr. Martin supports his team without seeking recognition. His dedication, empathy, and mentorship make him a model educator.

## **MEDAL OF VALOR**

### **MEDAL OF VALOR**

This award is intended to honor employees who demonstrated courage, or performed life-saving deeds within the past year. This act may or may not be work-related

### **Amanda Rivera, Parole Agent 2, Harrisburg District Office/York Sub-Office**

On February 10, 2025, while headed to her next contact, Agent Amanda Rivera encountered a medical emergency and immediately intervened. Upon discovering an unresponsive individual in a school parking lot, she assessed the situation, ensured 911 was contacted, and began administering CPR. Working alongside a nurse who also happened to pass by and responding police officers, Agent Rivera helped restore a faint pulse before paramedics arrived. Her swift, life-saving actions, professionalism, and composure under pressure gave the individual a chance at survival following what was later determined to have been a severe heart attack. Agent Rivera's actions reflect extraordinary courage and dedication to public service.

## **LLOYD WHITE EXCELLENCE IN REENTRY**

### **THE LLOYD A. WHITE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN REENTRY**

This award is established in memory of former Chairman and Board Member Lloyd A. White, a man of great humility and wisdom who never forgot that those involved in the criminal justice system were human beings. His legacy is a life devoted to helping people change their lives. He firmly believed in second chances, or helping criminally involved individuals on their journey to successfully reenter society, while never forgetting public safety or the victims of crime. This award is for an employee whose actions or achievements exemplify these beliefs.

### **Fallon Farber, Social Worker 2, SCI Waymart**

Fallon Farber, a licensed clinical social worker at SCI Waymart, plays a key role in supporting the facility's most medically and mentally vulnerable populations. Since 2022, she has worked in the Personal Care Units and leads reentry planning for hard-to-place inmates, including those with serious mental illness. She also supervises certified peer support specialists and contributes to senior-focused initiatives and statewide aging policy efforts. A mentor, educator, and advocate both inside and outside of the DOC, she brings compassion and expertise to every facet of her work.

## **INNOVATIONS AWARD**

### **INNOVATIONS AWARD**

This award recognizes the extraordinary efforts of a department staff member who has demonstrated innovation, initiative, and creativity and whose contributions have had a positive impact on furthering the mission of the agency and Commonwealth. In particular, this award honors an individual within the PA DOC who has identified a problem and has proposed, developed or implemented an innovative solution to the problem. This may include improving a process such as reducing paperwork, improving an outcome such as recidivism or assaults in prison, or reducing costs.

### **Kiley Palson, Executive Assistant, Central Office**

Kiley Palson exemplifies innovation and initiative through her self-taught Power BI expertise, which she used to modernize data management for the Bureau of



Population Management. Her dashboard helped streamline operations, improve data accessibility, and empower staff with actionable insights. Kiley goes above and beyond to train her colleagues and collaborate across departments, while also leading key initiatives like the Violence Reduction Committee. Her proactive problem-solving and commitment to continuous improvement has made a lasting impact on the Department of Corrections, advancing its mission and setting a high standard for excellence.

## EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP

### THE EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Secretary of Corrections may recognize one employee for this award as the person who, through his/her performance and accomplishments, has demonstrated excellence in Department leadership.

#### **Latasha Fisher, Deputy District Director, Philadelphia Office**

Deputy Director Latasha Fisher demonstrates leadership through dedication, innovation, and excellence, guiding her team with thoughtful feedback and meaningful recognition. Additionally, her leadership during the U.S. Attorney's Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative was pivotal to its success. As a committed professional, wife, and mother, she balances responsibilities with grace, while modeling confidence, credibility, and care. Deputy Fisher elevates the Department and her community through her commitment to service. She is a powerful example of leadership at its best.

## MENTOR OF THE YEAR

### MENTOR OF THE YEAR

This award is intended to honor employees who served as employee mentors within the past year.

#### **James Masotto, Parole Supervisor, Mercer District Office**

With over 20 years of service in law enforcement and the U.S. Air Force, James Masotto exemplifies the qualities of an exceptional mentor. A retired sergeant and chief master sergeant, he brings unmatched leadership, wisdom, and compassion to his role at the Mercer District Office. Known as a trusted advisor, he offers support and guidance to new and seasoned staff alike. As an active member of the mentorship committee, his dedication has strengthened employee retention and team morale. Mr. Masotto's mentorship has left a lasting impact, making him a standout choice for Mentor of the Year.

#### **Lance Burfield, Corrections Officer, SCI Somerset**

Corrections Officer Lance Burfield exemplifies leadership through integrity, teamwork, and a commitment to the growth and well-being of his colleagues. He consistently supports both new and experienced staff, offering guidance, encouragement, and a trusted space to learn and grow. His calm demeanor, willingness to share knowledge, and genuine compassion create a strong foundation for mentorship. CO Burfield's dedication to fostering professional development and emotional support makes him an invaluable mentor and a deserving candidate for this recognition.

## GROUP ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (PUBLIC/EMPLOYEE SAFETY)

### GROUP ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR PUBLIC OR EMPLOYEE SAFETY

The Group Achievement Award is presented to teams that demonstrated collaboration, problem-solving, and exceptional judgement during special projects or critical safety-related events.

#### **Corey Lindell, Parole Supervisor; Aaron Osborne, Parole Agent; Veronica Hess, Parole Agent; Erie District Office**

Parole Agent Veronica Hess, Parole Agent Aaron Osborne, and Parole Supervisor Corey Lindell are recognized for their exceptional teamwork and swift response during a life-threatening incident in December 2024. When Agent Hess's partner began to exhibit symptoms of an overdose after possibly being exposed to illegal substances during field supervision, Agent Hess immediately administered Naloxone and contacted emergency services. Supervisor Lindell and Agent Osborne arrived quickly to provide critical support, with Lindell accompanying the injured agent to the hospital. Their professionalism, compassion, and rapid coordination exemplify the highest standards of care and collaboration

## GROUP ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (SPECIAL PROJECT)

#### **Kelly Group, Jamie Boyd, Nicole Cupp, and Sabrinna Wilcox; OA HR, Central Office**

Kelly Group, talent acquisition manager for the DOC, leads a dedicated team including supervisors Jaime Boyd, Nicole Cupp, and Sabrinna Wilcox. Together, they have transformed hiring practices by implementing and maintaining the Commonwealth's first hybrid talent acquisition model within the Department of Corrections Human Resources Office. Their leadership has streamlined hiring processes, reduced time-to-fill to well below the statewide average and ensured policy consistency across diverse job titles. Through innovation, collaboration, and exceptional service, they have become indispensable resources and talent acquisition experts.

## TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD

### TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD

The Training and Professional Development Award is intended to honor an employee currently working with the DOC's Training Academy who exudes the qualities we expect our trainees to model after departing the Academy.

#### **Lori Turofski, ABE Teacher, SCI Coal Township**

Lori Turofski is a standout instructor in the Training for Staff Trainers (TST) program, consistently demonstrating exceptional skill, preparation, and professionalism. As a certified TST Instructor since 2019, Lori not only teaches but models the structured, facilitative approach that defines effective training. Her deep understanding of course content, paired with her ability to lead engaging, inclusive classrooms, sets her apart. Lori's reliability, instructional integrity, and thoughtful interactions with learners reflect the highest standards of training excellence.



**OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - CENTRAL OFFICE**

Ian Chorpenning, Lieutenant, Bureau of Investigations and Intelligence  
Jack Kottler, Intelligence Analyst 2, Bureau of Investigations and Intelligence  
Wesley Bankus, Sergeant, Bureau of Investigations and Intelligence  
Maximillian Fada, FAST Agent, BFSSO  
Beth Kuehne, Labor Relations Supervisor, Human Resources

**OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - CENTRAL REGION**

Jamie Maguire, Drug and Alcohol Treatment Specialist 2, Quehanna Boot Camp  
Matthew Schmoke, Corrections Facility Maintenance Manager, Quehanna Boot Camp  
Matthew Kimberly, Lieutenant, SCI Houtzdale  
Sean Bresnahan, Licensed Psychologist Manager, SCI Houtzdale  
Tracy Gibson, Field Human Resource Officer 3, SCI Huntingdon  
John Barr, Corrections Officer, SCI Huntingdon  
Grace Byerlee, Psychological Services Specialist, SCI Rockview  
Christopher Shope, Lieutenant, SCI Smithfield

**OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - EASTERN REGION**

Nichole Dodson, Corrections Counselor 2, SCI Camp Hill  
Carl Scheib, Corrections Paint Trades Instructor, SCI Dallas  
Bernard Ramer, Lieutenant, SCI Frackville  
Carl Hunt, Corrections Counselor 2, SCI Waymart  
Bernadine Santai-McNamara, Psychological Services Specialist, SCI Mahanoy  
Claudia Foster, Corrections Food Service Instructor, SCI Phoenix  
Kara Morrissey, Dental Assistant, SCI Phoenix  
Kristina Owens, Corrections Superintendent's Assistant, SCI Phoenix  
Richard Grier, Corrections Employment Vocational Assistant, SCI Phoenix  
Nicole Trojnacki, HR Analyst 2, SCI Waymart  
Sandra Depoti, Superintendent's Secretary, SCI Waymart  
Timothy Schweinsburg, Corrections Facility Maintenance Manager 3, SCI Waymart

## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - WESTERN REGION

Jacklyn Haemer, Education Guidance Counselor, SCI Albion  
Jill Davis, Corrections Officer, SCI Cambridge Springs  
Robert Beres, Drug and Alcohol Treatment Specialist 2, SCI Cambridge Springs  
Scott Bowen, Therapeutic Activities Worker, SCI Cambridge Springs  
Scott Thompson, Corrections Counselor 2, SCI Cambridge Springs  
Tonya Woods, Administrative Officer, SCI Fayette  
Joseph Marett, Corrections Officer, SCI Forest  
Christopher Sowerbrower, Corrections Officer, SCI Laurel Highlands  
Gary Shingler, Lieutenant, SCI Laurel Highlands  
William Bush, Auto Inspection OCC Teacher, SCI Mercer  
William Porterfield, Sergeant, SCI Mercer  
Warren Whitmyre, Corrections Food Service Manager 2, SCI Somerset  
Chandra James, Institutional Parole Supervisor, SCI Chester

## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - FIELD SERVICES

Mairead Mercedes, Parole Agent 2, Allentown District Office  
Nadeena Delvecchio, Deputy District Director, Allentown District Office  
Vibayon Amos, Clerical Assistant 3, Norristown Sub-Office  
Josef Milunic, Parole Agent 2, East Scranton  
Maria Losapio, Parole Agent 2, East Scranton  
Ashley Natale, Parole Agent 2, Norristown Sub-Office  
Evan Flickinger, Parole Agent 2, Norristown Sub-Office  
Latasha Fisher, Deputy District Director, Philadelphia  
Amina Wilkerson, Parole Supervisor, Philadelphia West District Office  
Arminda Bayly, Parole Agent, Scranton District Office  
Scott Mugavero, Parole Supervisor, Wernersville Parole Office

## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - REENTRY

Amber Skrutsky, Inmate Classification Systems Analyst, Division of Treatment Services  
Richard Purdy, Acting Parole Supervisor, SCI Mercer  
Lisa Bielicki, Parole Agent, Reentry – SCI Phoenix  
Jeremy McCormick, Captain, MOC  
Lakyn Grove, Lieutenant, Progress CCC  
Jonathan Hall, Lieutenant, Bureau of Community Corrections

James Stover, Statewide JRI Coordinator, Bureau of Reentry  
Penny Sines, Parole Manager, Bureau of Reentry Coordination  
Jessica George, Reentry Agent, Reentry Service Office, SCI Waymart  
Connie Leymeister, Maintenance Repair, Wernersville CCC

### **GROUP ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - PUBLIC OR EMPLOYEE SAFETY**

Michael Ward-Evans, Rafequi Rozier, Brandon Williams, Jordan Wise, Gabrielle Perrotta, Jaleel Mccray, Gisannette Rivera; Parole Field Services

Bryan Blaszczyk, Christopher Bachman, Thomas Tarrant, Julius Cauley, Amanda Tarby, Brian Scipione, Chelsea Lewis, Marjorie Tucker, Sharesse Fischer, Justin Parson, Kevin Hinton, Stefon Brown; Parole Field Services

Chris Bellotti, Frank Bondi, Rob Fassinger, Ebony Marcelle-Rudolph, Tim Wolfe; Parole Field Services

### **GROUP ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - SPECIAL PROJECT OR ASSIGNMENT**

The Training Academy Basic Training Team: Heidi Glenn, Chris Madilia, David Maul, Timothy Cooney, Daniel Bickel, Ronald Schellhammer, Christopher Cooper, Matthew Barrett, Richard Heidecker, Austin Brown, James Kline, Jennifer Fernandez-Polanco, John Maul, Bryanna Metz

Heather Taylor, Melissa Straw; Corrections Institutional Business Managers; CBS/MER/ALB and QUE/HOU

The Education Department at Quehanna Boot Camp: Kevin Fortuna, Vincent Tarantella, Michael McCombs, Charles McCracken, Hunter Guenet, Matthew McCullough, Brian Bogstad

Robert Haswell, John Taylor, William Cordts, Kindra Lee; Corrections Officers; SCI Waymart

### **INNOVATIONS AWARD**

Robert Yapple, Corrections Automotive Mechanic Trades Instructor,  
SCI Cambridge Springs  
Daniel Coulehan, Unit Manager, SCI Greene

## MEDAL OF VALOR

Peter Anuszkiewicz, John Steiner, Neisha Neal, Joseph Mayo; Community Corrections Center Monitors; Erie CCC  
Devon Newcomer, Community Corrections Center Monitor, Johnstown CCC  
Dorian Ross, Parole Agent 2, Eastern Region  
Veronica Hess, Parole Agent 2, Erie District Office  
Miria Holeva, Corrections Officer, SCI Cambridge Springs  
William Marceau, Corrections Officer, SCI Cambridge Springs  
Jessica Kline, Corrections Counselor 2, SCI Phoenix  
James Redmond, Corrections Officer, SCI Somerset

## MENTOR OF THE YEAR

Stephen Fireoved, Attorney, Office of Chief Counsel  
Anthony Howard, Sergeant, SCI Albion  
Abbey Potts, Unit Manager, SCI Benner Township  
Jessica Baumgardner, Sergeant, SCI Benner Township  
Jacob Terry, Corrections Officer, SCI Benner Township  
Deanna Bechtel, Education Guidance Counselor, SCI Cambridge Springs  
Tiffany Wolfe, Corrections Officer, SCI Chester  
Jill Fisher, Unit Manager, SCI Coal Township  
Mark Grohowski, Unit Manager, SCI Dallas  
Logan Fleegle, Lieutenant, SCI Fayette  
Kevin Blank, Corrections Officer, SCI Frackville  
Paul Ferguson, Corrections Officer, SCI Frackville  
Maureen Malanoski, Major, SCI Greene  
Jennifer Jenkins, Lieutenant, SCI Huntingdon  
Erin Kelley, Corrections Officer, SCI Laurel Highlands  
Vernice Phillips, Captain, SCI Mercer  
Michael Beagle, Registered Nurse, SCI Muncy  
Ronald Twiggs, Corrections Officer, SCI Phoenix  
Stacey Rohrer, Clerical Supervisor, SCI Smithfield  
Brian Phillips Sr., Corrections Officer, SCI Mercer

## EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

Amelia Dryden, Contract Facility Coordinator, BCC Region 2  
Michelle Rivera, District Director, Parole Filed Services  
Paul Scott, Eastern Region Director, Parole Field Services



Mark Kernick, Parole Supervisor, Parole Field Services Erie District Office  
Brian Helfrich, District Director, Parole Field Services – West  
Todd Clark, Parole Manager, Central Office  
David Frederick, Parole Supervisor, Parole Field Services Williamsport District Office  
Ashley Schenk, Lieutenant, SCI Cambridge Springs  
Angela Davidson, Unit Manager, SCI Cambridge Springs  
Kathleen Favaloro, Corrections Health Care Administrator, SCI Chester  
Ajibola Fayeshile, Chaplaincy Progra Director, SCI Coal Township  
Rebekah Cristini, Records Supervisor, SCI Greene  
John Rivello, Superintendent, SCI Huntingdon  
Brandi Reiber, Records Supervisor, SCI Camp Hill

### **LLOYD A. WHITE FOR EXCELLENCE IN REENTRY**

Dr. Joan Lamberth, Social Worker, BCC Region 1  
Saundra Russell, Parole Agent 2, Parole Field Services – East  
Latasha Fisher, Deputy District Director, Parole Field Services – Philadelphia  
Nailah Johnson, Community Reentry Parole Agent, Parole Field Services – Philadelphia  
Tim Ross, Community Reentry Parole Agent, Parole Field Services – Pittsburgh  
Christine Stone, Reentry Parole Agent, SCI Huntingdon  
Jennifer Gasbarre, Drug and Alcohol Treatment Specialist Supervisor, SCI Huntingdon

### **THOMAS FULCOMER AWARD**

Amy Landfair, District Director, Parole Field Services – Mercer  
Tony Rentz, Correctional Industries Optical Lab Supervisor, SCI Cambridge Springs  
Jasen Bohinski, Superintendent, SCI Dallas  
Jabulani Sibanda, Chaplaincy Program Director, SCI Greene  
Kristy Santoyo, Correctional Industries Supervisor, SCI Greene  
leslyann Como, Corrections Classification Program Manager, SCI Mercer  
Brian Kline, Restaurant Trades Instructor, SCI Phoenix  
Jamie Ardrey, Corrections Officer, SCI Smithfield  
Billie Heide, Corrections Classification Program Manager, SCI Somerset

### **TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD**

Traci Jacobson, Regional Director, BCC Region 1  
Nicole Pritchard, Sergeant, SCI Pine Grove

## IN MEMORIAM

**Deputy Warden John A. Pieper**  
Western Penitentiary  
*February 11, 1924*

**Sergeant John T. Coax**  
Western Penitentiary  
*February 11, 1924*

**Officer Edwin H. Lichtenberger**  
Eastern Penitentiary  
*July 17, 1944*

**Corrections Officer Charles Robert Elder**  
SCI Huntingdon  
*August 9, 1954*

**Corrections Officer Clifford J. Grogan**  
SCI Pittsburgh  
*November 12, 1965*

**Food Service Instructor Stephen P. Ary Sr.**  
SCI Graterford  
*September 16, 1973*

**Corrections Officer 4 Walter L. Peterson**  
SCI Pittsburgh  
*December 10, 1973*

**Food Service Instructor Edward L. Boyer**  
SCI Graterford  
*June 5, 1977*

**Corrections Officer 4 Felix Mokychic**  
SCI Graterford  
*March 20, 1979*

**Sgt. Mark J. Baserman**  
SCI Somerset  
*February 26, 2018*

**Parole Agent Ronald D. Spangler**  
Harrisburg District Office  
*July 15, 2023*

# Special Thanks

Dr. Jennifer Wallitsch, Shane Hiner and employees from the  
DOC Training Academy

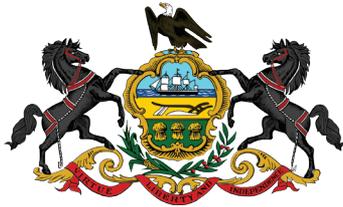
Dr. Elizabeth M. Colpo  
and Members of the Lower Dauphin Chamber Singers.

Mandee Quinn assisting in coordination of employee awards.

Ryan Tarkowski, Maria Bivens, and Kurt Bopp from the  
Press and Communications Office.

Faith Hursh, Tracey LaValley Hill  
and Michelle Nardozzi for assisting with setup.

To all superintendents, directors, facility managers and employees who  
nominated their coworkers for the various awards





Pennsylvania

**Department of Corrections**