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## State of Wisconsin Department of Corrections

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### DOC Secretary Presents Valor, Lifesaving Awards at SALUTE Awards Ceremony

MADISON – During a ceremony at the Wisconsin State Capitol, Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) Secretary Jon Litscher joined DOC leadership, family, and friends to recognize DOC employees for exemplary performance.

The SALUTE Awards, which are held annually, highlight employee contributions that uphold the highest standards of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. A number of employees received awards, including awards for valor and lifesaving, as well as awards for service, awareness, leadership, uniqueness, team, and excellence.

“I am extremely proud of our employees,” said Secretary Litscher. “The individuals recognized today exemplify the very best of the Department of Corrections – employees who were placed in difficult situations and took action to protect or preserve life. On behalf of the people of Wisconsin, I am pleased to thank these employees for their service to the State of Wisconsin.”

#### Valor Award Recipients

- Bryan Brennan, Correctional Officer, Oakhill Correctional Institution, Oregon, WI: Intervened in an argument between two individuals at UW Hospital in Madison, restraining the aggressor and pulling him away from the victim.
- Henry Davis, Correctional Officer, Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility, Milwaukee, WI: While on vacation, he saw a boy fall into a canal. Officer Davis jumped into the canal and rescued the child, who was unable to swim.

#### Lifesaving Award Recipients

- Frances Anderson, Division of Community Corrections – Region 1, Madison, WI: Received an e-mail from an offender under her supervision indicating he was planning to commit suicide. She notified local law enforcement and due to her quick action, the offender was found and promptly treated.
- Ashley Dickman, Cindy Ellefson, Seth Reynolds, Norm Ellefson, Division of Community Corrections – Region 8, Viroqua, WI: Noticed an individual on the side of the road in cold weather. They pulled over and notified local law enforcement, who identified the individual as a missing person.
- Ronald Benisch, Oakhill Correctional Institution, Oregon, WI: While driving to work, he came across a car accident. Captain Benisch performed first aid, including CPR to the victim until EMTs arrived.
- Thomas Cheney, Oakhill Correctional Institution, Oregon, WI: While working at the Midwest Horse Fair, he noticed a couple had not fed their horses. When he went to their trailer, he found them unconscious due to carbon monoxide poisoning. Officer Cheney pulled them from the trailer and provided assistance until EMTs arrived.

- Michael Crump, Redgranite Correctional Institution, Redgranite, WI: Officer Crump was involved in a multiple-vehicle accident on I-41. He contacted 911, assessed the victims, and directed traffic until emergency responders arrived despite being injured himself.
- Nicholas Klimpke, Jackson Correctional Institution, Jackson, WI: While off duty, he and his wife observed an accident involving a motorcyclist, who received life-threatening injuries. Officer Klimpke called 911, stopped traffic, and provided aid to the motorcyclist until emergency responders arrived.
- Brian Marten, New Lisbon Correctional Institution, New Lisbon, WI: While driving to work, he observed a car lose control and flip over. Officer Marten assisted the victim out of their vehicle and stayed with them until emergency responders arrived.
- Brian O’Heron, Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility, Milwaukee, WI: While on duty, he observed an inmate choking a correctional officer. He responded and restrained the inmate until additional officers could arrive on the scene.
- Denis O’Neill, Green Bay Correctional Institution, Green Bay, WI: While on duty, he responded to an inmate assaulting a DOC employee. While responding, he placed his life in danger and received a serious injury. His actions likely saved the life of the employee.
- Terry Sawall, Redgranite Correctional Institution, Redgranite, WI: While off duty, Captain Sawall saw an individual collapse. He checked for a pulse and began CPR until emergency responders arrived.
- Rebecca Tervonen, New Lisbon Correctional Institution, New Lisbon, WI: While off duty, Sergeant Tervonen observed a vehicle with a trailer roll over multiple times. Sergeant Tervonen and another passerby pushed the vehicle on its side and stayed with the vehicle until emergency responders arrived.
- Jacob Schroeder, Oakhill Correctional Institution, Oregon, WI: While driving to work he observed an elderly individual lying face down in the snow. Officer Schroeder called 911 and stayed with the individual until emergency responders arrived.

### **SALUTE Award Winners**

- Service award winner – Joy Swantz, Division of Juvenile Corrections, Madison, WI: Joy is solely responsible for Interstate Compact operations involving juveniles. In her role, she must work with all 72 counties to ensure compliance with Interstate Compact regulations as well as facilitating Interstate Compact requests.
- Awareness award winner – Tammy McLeod, Division of Community Corrections – Region 3, Milwaukee, WI: Tammy serves on the Victim Impact Committee and raises funds for organizations that serve victims. She is also instrumental in organizing the Crime Victims’ Resource Fair in Milwaukee and volunteers with the Salvation Army.
- Leadership award winner – Denis O’Neill, Green Bay Correctional Institution, Green Bay, WI: While on duty, he responded to an inmate assaulting a DOC employee. While responding, he placed his life in danger and received a serious injury. His actions likely saved the life of the employee.
- Uniqueness award winner – Robert Clough, Redgranite Correctional Institution, Redgranite, WI: Developed a tool to help DOC meet Prison Rape Elimination Act standards.
- Team award winner – Joan Gerl, Ryan Blount, Jon Petersen, Tony Torgrimsen, Sheldon Best, Carol Garceau, Mike Fitzpatrick, David Lipinski, and Dorothy Nagel, Division of Management Services, Madison, WI: Provided training to 484 students in the Correctional Officer Pre-Service Academy (COPSA), modified the COPSA curriculum to train youth counselors and provided training to 130 other DOC employees.
- Excellence award winner – Jay Laufenberg, Luis Bixler, Division of Community Corrections, Madison, WI: They manage the DOC electronic monitoring center. In 2015, the Monitoring Center answered 120,000 phone calls, handled 72,000 warrants, reduced overtime costs, and was comprehensively remodeled without downtime.

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