

WHY DOC?

#WICORRECTIONSWEEK



We asked staff to tell us their reason for choosing a career in the Department of Corrections. Staff from every division and department shared the variety of reasons why DOC is a great place to work. From great benefits and amazing co-workers to wanting to make a difference in the lives of others, see what some of our amazing staff had to say. What is your WHY DOC?

I am an only girl child with five older brothers. I learned early in life how to deal with challenging men and boys. As a teacher, I realized my personality is well suited to these incarcerated men. I also am a champion of the underdog, and since this is likely the last education most of them will get, I want to make sure it is also a good one. I know I can offer that.

NANCY K. ALDERTON

Teacher, Division of Adult Institutions

Benefits, stability and retirement.

WESLEY BEBO

Sergeant, Division of Adult Institutions

I know I can retire from here. The benefits are worth working for.

SAMUEL BEVERS

Correctional Officer, Division of Adult Institutions

The DOC gave me an extra 10 points on the entry exam as a veteran; the main reason was for the health insurance--there was no cost when I started.

DIANE BRUENING

Corrections Food Service Leader 4, Division of Adult Institutions

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My mother was in DOC for 26 years so after serving 20 years in the Navy I thought that might be a viable second career.

DENNIS BUECHEL

Teacher, Division of Adult Institutions

I chose to work in the DOC because I am able to give back to our community. As a bilingual agent in Waukesha/Region 7, I am able to serve the Latinx population and help them with community resources provided by the Department. Being a bilingual agent is very challenging, but it is the most rewarding experience when you are able to aid people in changing their lives. I am sincerely humbled and thankful the DOC offered me this position!

RAMÓN COLÓN

Bilingual Probation and Parole Agent, Division of Community Corrections

I choose Department of Correction because I want a career that I could retire from and also the benefits are awesome. I drove school buses for the last 15 years and wanted to do something that would challenge my full potential and what better job than working in Corrections to do that. Since becoming a CO, I honestly don't know what took me so long to convert over to this profession but I'm glad that I'm here now and I love what I do.

CARRIE COVINGTON

Correctional Officer, Division of Adult Institutions

For regular hours/regular schedule for a stable life for myself and my family.

WENDY CURTIN

Probation and Parole Agent, Division of Community Corrections

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I choose the Department of Corrections because of the core values and mission that the department strives to achieve each day while working with co-workers, people in our care as well as outside resources, to achieve the best possible outcome and care for all involved. The Department of Corrections has been nothing short of outstanding when it comes to starting a lifetime career.

KYLIE DOHLBY

Treatment Specialist, Division of Adult Institutions

The question should be "Why Not the DOC?" I have had many opportunities here with great support. The DOC has grown on me. I tried another state agency, but I had to come back. This "family" has been there for me through a lot.

BETTY ERTZ

Financial Program Supervisor, Division of Adult Institutions

Rehabilitation does exist. As a part of any person's journey, rehabilitation has a huge effect on recovery, in where someone actively makes a choice to be better than what they were yesterday. Most people do not know that both of my parents suffer from drug abuse, and spent a long time of their life stumbling, however I knew if they had resources readily available to them, I knew they would not have given up. My role is essential - correction officers lead by example. Every day when I come to work, I have the opportunity to make a positive change, to influence, inspire, educate and truly help someone when they are at their lowest point in life. I am actively serving as a solution/resource to the community as a whole. I think the smallest thing that we all can do is to lead with positive intent and reach back and pull the person behind you.

JESSICA GAMES

Correctional Officer, Division of Adult Institutions

You have the opportunity to work as much as you want or as little as you want. The benefits are awesome and the ability to build up a big pension for retirement is a huge perk. You also learn skills that are valuable in everyday life, communication, problem solving, just to name a couple.

DAMON GOHLKE

Correctional Officer, Division of Adult Institutions

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First and foremost; I believe in public service. To contribute my conversant manufacturing knowledge to BCE workers, ensuring the refinement of marketable skills for all PIOC workers.

MATTHEW GOLEMGESKI

Correctional Enterprise Supervisor, Division of Adult Institutions

For a chance to serve the state and persons in our care.

MATHEW GRABOWSKI

Correctional Officer, Division of Adult Institutions

I was looking for a new career within Human Resources and also a company/business where I had growth potential.

TERRY GROSSEN

Payroll and Benefits Specialist Advanced, Department of Administration Human Resources

The sense of belonging to an organization that prides itself in the belief that we are a family is what drove me to continue in my career in the DOC. Corrections has given me something I was missing since my time in the military. To be able to have those opportunities to advance or branch out of corrections.

HECTOR J. GUTIERREZ

Lieutenant, Division of Adult Institutions

I pursued a career in corrections because I care about the safety in our communities. I have a passion and interest for helping others to become successful. I have worked in the Department of Corrections for over 20 years and believe the DOC consistently strives to have a positive impact on those in our care which increases the safety in our communities.

ANGELA HANSEN

Bureau of Offender Classification and Movement Director, Division of Adult Institutions

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I want to help people succeed through education. Help people see the big picture of state of society and social affairs in the US. I want to help people succeed, and hopefully join the society as a productive member.

DIANA HEISER

Teacher, Division of Adult Institutions

To help clients learn from their choices and how to make better decisions in the future. Inform clients of resources available and teach them life skills which in the end should make our community a little safer.

SANDRA HIEBING

Probation and Parole Agent, Division of Community Corrections

I happened upon a career in DOC when I was given an opportunity to work as an LTE. Once I learned I could be part of the mission, by contributing to programming that fosters rehabilitation, I found a career I chose to stay in.

REBECCA HOEFS

Purchasing Management Supervisor, Division of Management Services

My career has revolved around Security. From the United States Air Force to a Maximum Security Hospital in Texas ultimately leading to the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. I joined the DAI as a Correctional Officer than moved to the Recreation Leader Senior position. My service through Security to the Public, Staff and those in our care continues today. Every Employee of the WI DOC plays a role in our combined Security. Security is physical and more. Each Person in our Care who does not come back makes our community more secure. Our DOC family changes lives and gives second chances, all while keeping the Public safe and secure. I joined the WI DOC to serve and make a difference.

TROY J. HEUVELMANS

Recreation Leader Senior, Division of Adult Institutions

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After working in different sectors of criminal justice and social services, DOC provided me the perfect mix of the two. In my role as a Probation Agent, I am able to provide support and assistance to individuals on supervision, while also holding them accountable and protecting the community. My clients know there are certainly expectations for their behavior, but also that I am always here to troubleshoot problems, provide resources or simply be there to listen. My supervisor and unit are also fantastic and I am very lucky to work with such hardworking and compassionate people. I am proud to work for the Wisconsin DOC and look forward to all the things we can do moving forward!

NICOLE JANZEN

Probation and Parole Agent, Division of Community Corrections

Benefits, retirement, steady income, and promotional opportunities.

CASEY JENSEN

Security Director, Division of Adult Institutions

I thought that this job would be rewarding.

SABRINA KEMPEN

Sergeant, Division of Adult Institutions

As an Agent, I wanted to make a difference in the community and help people make changes to lead to their successes. Now as a CFS, I can help Agents improve and maintain their skills to help clients make positive changes.

KAREN KEWLEY

Corrections Field Supervisor, Division of Community Corrections

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My job/career at DOC took focus when after a few short years, my position was put in an At Risk status. What I came to appreciate was the part that I play in helping keep the Citizens of Wisconsin safe, but also part of the system that works to help the individuals in our system to work to become a productive member of our community.

DUANE KONKEL

Technical Services Specialist, Division of Management Services

As a social worker and substance use disorder counselor, I am interested in working directly with persons in the care of the DOC in the form of therapy and case management in attempt to help these persons create a healthier lifestyle, physically and mentally, for themselves as well as for their loved ones and the general public.

AMANDA KRAGNESS

Corrections Program Supervisor, Division of Adult Institutions

It is a career where a person can make a difference in the lives of others. Also allows for advancement opportunities within the Department from a CO to a Warden or anywhere in between. Much like most public service, we do sacrifice somethings but we are also allotted a substantial amount of time off. At the end of your service, you will have a good pension and a career that you can be proud of with the Department of Corrections and you will be able to retire

DAN KUGLIN

Sergeant, Division of Adult Institutions

After college, I knew I wanted to help people. My father worked in corrections for 30 years and felt it was rewarding.

CHRISTINE KULINSKI

Probation and Parole Agent, Division of Community Corrections

Good benefits, and I've always been interested in the DOC.

MELANIE KUSLITS

Operations Program Associate, Division of Adult Institutions

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To try and make a difference in someone's life.

NANCY LATO

Food Service Leader, Division of Adult Institutions

I have worked for the DOC for 22+ years in a variety of capacities. I currently work as a Nurse Practitioner at TCI. I love the challenge that each day brings. New intakes present daily with complex medical and psychiatric conditions that may have had limited access to treatment. The staff at TCI consistently work together to provide a safe and secure environment for the PIOC.

MARY LEMMENES

Nurse Practitioner, Division of Adult Institutions

Job security and good benefits

BRIAN MACH

Sergeant, Division of Adult Institutions

Not once in my life had I ever thought about working in a prison until one night a Lieutenant talked to me and my wife at that time about working in corrections. My ex-wife was bartending and I was there when a fight started. I knew the guys that were fighting and I separated them. The Lieutenant was outside the bar when I was talking to one of the guys then when I came in to talk to the other guy the Lieutenant was in the bar and heard me talking to both of them. I was able to talk both guys down and by the end of the night they were acting like best friends. It was then that the Lieutenant asked if I had ever thought about being a correctional officer? I said "a what?" He said, "a prison guard?" I told him never! He proceeded to tell us about it and we decided why not? That was 14 years ago and I'm still here! 6 more years to go!

KURT MAHER

Correctional Officer 2, Division of Adult Institutions

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I had a desire to work in a rehabilitative environment where you have the opportunity to help people turn their lives around; I was able to put my skills and experience to good use and also work in an environment that is challenging and rewarding and where no two days are ever the same!

KATIE MASKE

Treatment Specialist 1, Division of Adult Institutions

I chose the DOC because I wanted a career and something that would challenge me.

ALICIA MILLER

Lieutenant, Division of Adult Institutions

I chose a career in DOC because I have a passion for helping others reach their goals. My position as an HR specialist affords me the opportunity to assist applicants with the recruitment process. I have an opportunity to assist DOC with staffing the organization with great people who want to serve the people in our care. I love being a piece of the puzzle that connects people with the opportunity to serve others.

LASHANA MILLER

Human Resource Specialist Senior, Division of Management Services

I find working for the state rewarding. I know that I am contributing to my state. And hopefully, in some small way making it a better place to live.

MICHELE MILLER

Financial Specialist Advanced, Division of Community Corrections

I chose the DOC to be able to help a larger demographic of people within the criminal justice system. At my last job, I was limited to what I was able to do and who I was able to help since I was working in a facility that only accepted people based on certain needs.

AUSTEN MONDAY

Probation and Parole Agent, Division of Community Corrections

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I choose a career with DOC because of the unique challenges, diverse workforce, competitive wages, and job security.

NORGIE MONTES DE OCA-METZINGER

Offender Records Associate, Division of Adult Institutions

January 1, 2004, I had the opportunity of becoming a member of the DOC. Prior to this, I farmed and was a cheesemaker. I found this to be a perfect opportunity to be able to help not only persons in our care but the community as well. I have always enjoyed working with other people, trying to be a positive role model in their lives. I have always tried to find the positive in negative situations and find the good in every day along with every person that crosses my path. In this case, during an incarceration, which at times can cause a lot of negative outcomes in their lives. With the resources we have the ability to turn them into functioning, productive members of society. I've always tried to be a positive influence in their lives and be a resource if need be. Whether it be for a family matter, putting a person in our care on the right track to contacting the people needed for a job or continuing to succeed in their future. I joined the DOC to make a difference in persons in our cares lives to be a productive member in society. If I can make a difference in one person's life, I've done my part.

HAROLD NALE

Correctional Officer 2, Division of Adult Institutions

I want to help those that are more vulnerable in society - those who commit criminal offenses are actually some of the most vulnerable in our society, due to the perception the public has of them, as well as a much more limited access to healthcare, jobs, and places to live. My job allows me to give them a second chance and give them more access, and give them a chance to do better.

ISABEL NEMITZ

Probation and Parole Agent, Division of Community Corrections

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I find teaching for the DOC very fulfilling. I have found that it is much safer than teaching in public school. The DOC also has provided me with safety training and supervisory feedback that often did not occur for me in the public school setting. Finally, the students know that this is their second chance, so they are often much more invested in their learning than they were in public school.

GWYN PRESCOTT

Adult Basic Education Teacher, Division of Adult Institutions

I had 20 years of design experience using different computer drawing systems, and I wanted to teach and help others learn the trade that I had been working in. I was at a point in my career that I needed a change to help others learn and grow.

KELLY PRUSS

Vocational Computer Drawing Design Teacher, Division of Adult Institutions

It was a step up from my previous job, I wanted to help the community and I was able to stay close to home.

MARSHALL RAUZMAN

MC Operator, Division of Community Corrections

I went to school to be a Social Studies teacher. When I applied to teach, I honestly had no idea I was applying to work in a locked facility. The first week on the job I learned POSC and was wondering what I had signed up to do! But, what I signed up for has been a rewarding career. I am grateful for the opportunity to try to help others make positive changes and now to train staff so they can help PIOC's make positive changes.

TRACIE RUETHER

Staff Development Program Specialist Senior, Division of Management Services

This is rewarding work with the PIOC. Train them for a career for upon release they can have a chance to make a living.

EDWARD SAWYER

Industries Specialist Senior, Division of Adult Institutions

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The reason I work for DOC is because I wanted to use my learned abilities to organize and record keep at a high level and to ensure that the records I am entrusted with are accurate. The job of Status Keeper is very essential to the flow of an offender's records as to absolute correctness and an absolute "map" of the offender's journey through the world of corrections. As I train new Status Keeper's, my first words are we are the gate keepers. We open their records and we close their records. Everything goes through us. I like being the one to ensure that every entry is correct to the best of my ability. When an offender finally discharges I know that the help he has received from our staff is the best and that my hope is that the offender realizes this and becomes a contributing member of our society.

SHIRLEY SCHOEMANN

Office Operations Assistant - Status Keeper, Division of Community Corrections

While attending college at UW Whitewater we had two agents from Milwaukee speak in our Criminal Justice class. It was in that moment that I decided I was going to become an agent. I wanted to work with juveniles but was hired in the adult system and was fortunate enough to have a youthful offender caseload to start. I have held other specific caseloads and liaison duties since then. But I still tell clients, families, victims and co-workers that I would not do this job if I did not believe people could change. I still hold that belief/hope for all who cross my door step.

MAUREEN SCHUCK

Probation and Parole Agent, Division of Community Corrections

I started my career in the DOC after being placed at DACC for my senior field placement while studying Social Work at UW Oshkosh. I was really unsure about the placement at first. I had never had any interest in corrections or criminal justice and did not think it would be a fit. I really enjoyed my time at DACC doing ERP and decided to make the DOC and SUD my career. I have now been with the department for over 4 years. One year at MSDF and 3 at TCI.

RACHEL SCHUESSLER

Substance Use Disorder Social Worker Senior, Division of Adult Institutions

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I worked with juvenile delinquents for six years and wanted to expand on my training and knowledge with a new career offering different challenges.

BRETT SCHUMACHER

Correctional Officer 2, Division of Adult Institutions

I did not choose the DOC, it chose me. I did not even realize there these kinds of jobs in corrections. I started in 2004 and have been here ever since and I can honestly say it is probably the best job I have ever held. So, in the right place at the right time and given the opportunity to make this a career. Started as a teacher and now an Education Director for over 10 years now. It is always a different day and helping the Men In Our Care reach educational goals has its own rewards.

RANDY R. SCOTT

Education Director, Division of Adult Institutions

I wanted to work in a position where I could see the community impact of the work that is being done by myself and others.

RACHEL SHOATES

Probation and Parole Agent, Division of Community Corrections

Keeping the community safe while helping people is an amazing feeling. This system helps people learn skills to not involve themselves in criminal activity and has been the most rewarding job I've ever had. I'm thankful to be able to come to work every day!

MICHAEL SHUTTLEWORTH

Probation and Parole Agent Senior, Division of Community Corrections

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I started in the DOC in 1998 as an opportunity to build a resume to become a police officer. As time went on I stayed with the DOC as it has many career choices, locations, and advancement opportunities as well as job security.

MICHAEL SNODGRASS

Sergeant, Division of Adult Institutions

I was semi-retired but working for a private company, when I was asked to apply and come in to straighten out the heating system. That was 14 years ago. I still like coming in, finding problems, and correcting them. I also enjoy teaching PIOC how to make repairs and see their interest grow as they learn how to do all of the different jobs. It fills my time and I gives me away to give back to the community.

DONALD STREEKSTRA

HVACR Advanced, Division of Adult Institutions

I have worked in my community with a variety of non-profit organizations for over 30 years, providing direct services to clients with many different barriers and struggles in their lives. Prior to coming to the DOC 6 years ago at the age of 46, I had worked at the Milwaukee County Jail for 10 years as a Prenatal Case Manager. It was at that time that I recognized the impact that Agents had not only on their clients but, also the lives of the people in their community. I believe in the mission statement of the Department and felt that I could make a greater impact on society in the role I now have with the DOC.

JENNIFER UPPENA

Probation and Parole Agent, Division of Community Corrections

This job offered better hours for family life. No evenings and weekends. Also a generous leave benefit.

JEANNETTE WILLIAMS

Dental Assistant, Division of Adult Institutions

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Corrections is a structured environment somewhat like the military. Being retired from the Navy, I felt this would be an ideal fit for me. I have worked for the DOC for 17 years and have enjoyed my career because of that.

DUANE WELDON

Sergeant, Division of Adult Institutions

I began my career in DOC in 1992. I decided to apply for a job in DOC after an internship in a field office in Madison. The people I worked with enjoyed working with clientele and it was clear to me the work they were doing had an impact on people's lives. I had intended to be an attorney, however, after seeing the comradery and team work in DCC, I changed my career path and have never had any regrets.

LISA YEATES

Regional Chief, Division of Community Corrections