



★★★ Government
of the
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**Department of
Corrections**
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**D.C. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS LEADS NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL
WORKFORCES IN ACHIEVING PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION BY THE
AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION**

(Washington, D.C.)--The District of Columbia Department of Corrections Director, Devon Brown, announces that the agency now leads all other correctional systems in the number of staff holding certification by the American Correctional Association (ACA).

One hundred and forty three correctional officers, managers, supervisors, and executive staffs representing the DC Department of Corrections (DOC) have earned this highly renowned credential by the ACA, the nation's premier correctional organization. Developed specifically for practitioners in the correctional profession, the vast number of staff achieving professional certification highlights an ambitious change within the DOC to advance the workforce and improve the overall organizational culture. Conferment of this distinction includes two Certified Corrections Executives, five Certified Corrections Managers, 10 Certified Corrections Supervisors and 126 Certified Correctional Officers.

D.C. Corrections Director Brown particularly lauds the efforts of the front line correctional officer, noting that the overall number within this group to obtain ACA certification now surpasses all other correctional systems in the country. Louisiana correctional staff has proudly held this honor for the past few years. "This is indeed an unprecedented and magnificent achievement for the Department of Corrections," states Director Brown. "As a correctional system with less than 1,000 employees, this accomplishment should be recognized as a milestone in our efforts to effect major change. As a profession, the District of Columbia Department of Corrections is setting the pace for other correctional facilities around the country and we intend to continue this pattern," Director Brown said.

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The ACA Professional Certification Program is designed to advance the overall knowledge of practitioners in the corrections field, promote awareness of the contributions of corrections toward the furtherance of public safety and aid in the recruitment of new, talented staff members in the profession. As a prerequisite to achieving ACA certification, applicants must qualify on the basis of their experience and accomplishments in the field of corrections. These individuals are then required to complete a comprehensive examination that assesses their proficiency in a host of areas related to correctional operations.

The certification program is an indication of demonstrated professional competency encompassing such areas as supervising human resources, applied leadership skills, managing change, maintaining operational oversight and general knowledge relating to the corrections field. ACA developed the certification program in 2000 and the first exam was administered at the ACA 2001 Winter Conference. In 2008, approximately 430 corrections staff across the country sought certification in 16 certification categories. Currently, there are about 1,250 corrections professionals who have achieved ACA certification from across the nation.

“ACA is proud to offer a mechanism by which correctional staff can achieve recognition of their knowledge and skill as a corrections professional,” said Peg O’Brien, manager of the organization’s certification program. “We believe that the Certification Program increases the professional image of staff among one’s peers and the public. By supporting and participating in the program, the District of Columbia Department of Corrections staff is raising the stature of corrections as a profession and as their career choice. We appreciate Director Brown’s leadership in moving his staff forward in this endeavor.”

The Department of Corrections began to actively pursue this heightened standard for staff performance earlier this year. The objective is to have all correctional officers and support staff acquire this credential by their second year of employment with this agency in evidence that they meet or exceed national standards.

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