



ADVISORY

AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION

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NATION'S CORRECTIONS PROFESSIONALS CONVENE IN DC, VA SECRETARY SHINSEKI TO SPEAK AT 143RD CONGRESS OF CORRECTIONS

National Harbor, MD – The American Correctional Association (ACA), a non-profit professional association of more than 20,000 members, will hold its *143rd Congress of Correction* at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in the Washington, DC area beginning Friday, August 9 and concluding on Wednesday, August 14.

More than 5,000 criminal justice professionals, healthcare professionals and vendors from across the country will convene in Washington to take part in the six-day conference addressing the latest issues in corrections. According to ACA's Executive Director, James A. Gondles, Jr., "Our goal is to provide corrections professionals with an opportunity for professional development, to enhance the level of public confidence in our profession, to foster alliances within the corrections and criminal justice field, and to promote professionalism at all levels of corrections."

The conference will offer more than 150 different workshops and seminars on topics such as healthcare, reentry of offenders, emergency planning, and more. The ACA will also administer certification examinations for those attendees seeking to be recognized as certified corrections executives, managers, supervisors, officers, professionals, nurses, or nurse managers. ACA President, Chris Epps, said, "Attaining ACA Certification distinguishes recipients from their peers and recognizes individuals as the best in the field just as ACA accreditation distinguishes correctional facilities as being among the best in the country."

Correctional facilities seeking recognition for having met the ACA's minimum standards will have their accreditation hearings during the conference as well. The Commission on Accreditation for Corrections (CAC), a private, non-profit body comprised of corrections professionals from across the country, is responsible for conducting the hearings and for verifying that the agencies applying for accreditation do comply with the applicable standards.

On Monday, the attendees will hear from Retired Army General and current United States Secretary for Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki, who will speak about justice-involved veterans, reentry and other topics.

Founded in 1870, ACA is the oldest and largest professional correctional organization in the world. ACA represents all disciplines within the corrections profession, and its more than 20,000 members include practitioners working in juvenile and adult prisons and jails, halfway houses, treatment facilities, probation, parole and community corrections agencies as well as academics in the field and other concerned citizens. ACA promotes excellence in corrections by offering professional development and certification, online training, standards and accreditation, and research and publications.

The ACA conference credentials are complimentary to members of the press and can be obtained by signing in at the Morial Convention Center at the registration desk. Members of the media must display both their media-outlet-issued credentials and the ACA credentials to enter any conference event. No one will be admitted to ACA events without proper credentials. Members of the media wishing to attend the either general session must be set up at least 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the event. Those members wishing to tour the exhibit hall may do so on their own, however, permission must be obtained from the vendor if any photographs or video is going to be taken.

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