

FRONTLINE NEWS

DC Department of Corrections Newsletter

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Official logo of the National Honor Society,
via the website

Recognition Ceremony Held for DOC Juveniles

DOC honored its juvenile students in a graduation ceremony held Wednesday, June 18 in the facility chapel. The ceremony featured Stephen Jackson, principal of Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School, as the guest speaker and recognized a graduating senior reaching the very important milestone.

"Anytime we have the opportunity to recognize

juveniles in our custody for their efforts to excel and rise above, our DOC team is excited and encouraged," said Director Faust.

In addition to the graduation, two students were inducted into the National Honor Society during the ceremony. Others were also recognized for their academic achievements and received certificates for accomplishments including Citizenship, Academic Excellence, Most Improved and Principal's Awards in various academic areas.

"The administration and staff of the Incarcerated Youth Program (IYP) are [always] elated to have the opportunity to provide an optimal learning environment where students experience success academically and personally through hard work and perseverance," said Soncyree L. Lee, District of Columbia Public School Principal (DCPS) for DOC.

DCPS provides academic services to students, ages 16-22 years in the custody of DCDOC. Through the IYP, education remains in the forefront with instructors assisting students in achieving their goals to include working toward a high school diploma or GED.

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*-Tom
Faust,
Director*



By Darby Baham

Flickr Account Allows Agency to Share Photos with Public

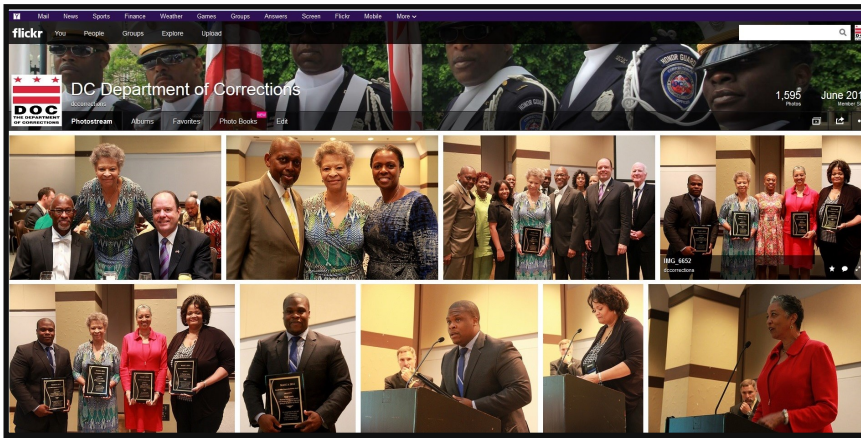


Image via the photostream of the DC DOC Flickr Account

This July, the Department of Corrections established its first Flickr account, making it easier to share many of the photos taken by its various photographers at ceremonies and events.

The Flickr account will be used as a central repository for all agency photographs, and currently holds over 1,500 photographs. “The expectation, is that the number will increase as DOC continues to capture all the great things going on within the agency,” said Sylvia Lane, Government and Public Affairs Coordinator.

While the account is not public, agency staff and partner organizations now have the ability to request individual or group photos to be sent through a secure and direct sharing method. Through this method, a link to an album of photos or one particular photo can be emailed to interested employees or agency stakeholders.

Ms. Lane believes the Flickr account is a great opportunity, especially for agency staff and officers who may want copies of photos taken during various agency events. “For example, many of our new officers may wish to have copies of photographs taken during their graduation ceremonies; those who have been promoted may want their pinning photographs; or staff participating in the annual wreath laying ceremony may wish to have photographs of that event (to name a few)—all these can all be easily be shared through our Flickr account,” she said.

Anyone interested in requesting specific photos should contact Darby Baham, Public Affairs Specialist at (202) 671-2816.

By Darby Baham

DOC’s Midnight Walkers Kicked-off Their Summer Walks in June

The official start to the summer also marked the start of the Midnight Walkers second kick-off, which began a few days before on Wednesday, June 18.

The group, which is open to all DOC employees (with no cost) and meets at Anacostia Park to walk for at least two (2) hours every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:30am, will end their program on October 31.

Captain Sharon Cain-Smith, who initially began the Midnight Walkers in March 2013, says she is looking forward to seeing the continued progress of participants, especially from those who returned. The walking program “has gone very well,” she said. “I have noticed that the younger officers are taking this very serious now [too], because [they recognize that] fitness is also important for them.”



The Midnight Walkers take their first walking journey together.
Photo: Regina Gilmore

In addition to the walking, participants will also compete in a Biggest Loser Contest as part of the Midnight Walkers initiative. The contest will include an initial weigh-in and subsequent ones every three (3) weeks after that. The end prize will include fruit and water, and of course, bragging rights.

For more information about the Midnight Walkers, contact Captain Cain-Smith at (202) 698-3501.

By Darby Baham

Getting to know Ms. Oliveria

Marie Oliveria brings more than 11 years of local government experience and has held many positions in varying capacities. A California native, Ms. Oliveria started her government career with the City of Los Angeles while attending college. She was a Criminal History Specialist with the Los Angeles Police Department and then Contracts Administrator for the General Services Department, Construction Forces Division. After working in Los Angeles for five (5) years, she decided to move back home to the San Francisco Bay Area. She was working for the City and County of San Francisco's Central Human Resources Department as a Management Assistant when she quickly realized that she had a passion for Human Resources.

Ms. Oliveria worked her way up and became the youngest Senior Manager in the department's Executive Team. For six (6) wonderful years, she successfully managed both the Client Services Operations and Certification Divisions with a total of 22 diversely skilled employees. She also moonlighted as the department's Emergency Preparedness Manager and managed the City-wide Disaster Service Worker Program. Ms. Oliveria received a Certificate of Honor from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for creating a successful impromptu process for managing over 1,500 convergent volunteers during a massive oil spill in the San Francisco Bay.

Although bittersweet, Ms. Oliveria, her husband, and son were extremely excited to move to the Washington DC Metro Area in late 2012. In the past year, she's been trying very hard to adapt to the extreme weather conditions! Professionally, she spent some time leading the City of Alexandria's effort in expanding their Career Ladder Program, streamlining their reclassification processes, and fixing long standing compensation issues. Ms. Oliveria holds a Senior Professional Human Resources (SPHR) certification from the Human Resources Certification Institute (HRCI) and the International Personnel Management Association Certified Professional (IPMA-CP) certification.

Profile: Marie de Vera Oliveria

Ms. Oliveria joined the DOC on March 10 after successfully managing both the Client Services Operations and Certification Divisions for the city of San Francisco, CA for six (6) years.

Please read below to learn more about Ms. Oliveria.



Q: When did you realize you had a passion for Human Resources?

A: I've always had the passion for government, helping people, and finding ways to improve resource and systems management. A career in government human resources provided an avenue for me to do all the things I'm passionate about! I fell into the Human Resources field by chance when I graduated from college and quickly realized that I found my calling. The rest is history!

Q: What have you most enjoyed about working for DC Corrections thus far?

A: I enjoy the mind-bending challenges that are brought on by the uniqueness of our agency. There's never a dull day in the office! In addition, I always enjoy getting to know the diverse group of people that work here. I'm always learning something new and interesting from everyone I meet. There is a great sense of community in DOC which I find very uplifting.

Q: What are some of your short term/long term priorities as the Chief of HR Management?

A: Honestly, there are too many to mention (I've written a 20-page departmental report on this!); but rest assured, the Office of Human Resource Management is fully committed in supporting the overarching DOC goal, which is to be a benchmark correctional agency. We will do this by striving for HR operational and service excellence. As a team, we're putting a lot of effort in reevaluating our HR practices to better meet the needs of our internal and external customers while maintaining compliance with all laws, rules, and regulations. Rome wasn't built in one day, but we are steadily laying down the bricks one day at a time.

Q: Tell us a bit about yourself—some of your hobbies and interests.

A: I enjoy volunteering and giving back to the community. Most recently, I volunteered through the Taproot Foundation in providing guidance to the Academy of Hope Adult Public Charter School here in DC in meeting their short-term strategic goals. Also, I love listening to music, singing, playing the piano and the violin.

DOC Welcomes New Graduating Class

With their class theme as “Together we move forward,” the twenty-six members of Class 14-01 marched with pride and professionalism into their graduation ceremony.

The ceremony, held on May 14 at the Training Academy, was the second officer graduation ceremony held this fiscal year and the first with recently appointed Warden William Smith in attendance.

Following remarks from Director Faust, Deputy Director Cross, and members of the Training Academy staff, the Class Speaker — Recruit Terencyia Hawkins, presented a plaque from the class to the Training Academy for their “hard work and dedication.” Each new officer was then presented with their certificates of completion of the Basic Correctional Training Program. Certificates of Marksmanship, Academic Achievement, and Physical Fitness were also awarded.

During the Oath of Office, Warden Smith led the class in their pledge. “On my honor,” each officer said. “I... swear to uphold the mission, vision, and duties of my department. I will provide for the welfare and safety of the public, fellow workers, and inmates.”

With the Oath of Office administered, the recruits took turns pinning each other with their badges before being dismissed by Mr. Kent Dixon, Training Academy Specialist.

By Darby Baham

Masthead

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Zumba Class Offers a Dance Alternative to Working Out


After speaking with Kent Dixon of the Training Academy about suggestions for fitness classes, Case Manager, Capucine Carrington began coordinating efforts to begin a Zumba dance class for DOC employees. Since it began at the end of May, the class has continued every Tuesday and Thursday from 4:45pm to 5:45pm in the large classroom of the Training Academy.


Ms. Carrington believes that the success and interest in the class indicates that DC DOC staff understand the importance of incorporating fitness in their regular routines. “Your health is very important,” she said when speaking about how fitness impacts overall productivity, both personally and professionally.

The class, which costs \$5 per session, has averaged about 11 individuals per class so far — including officers and civilians. All employees are eligible to come to the class at any time, but they must sign a waiver before participating.

“We have fun in this class,” said Ms. Carrington. “You’re doing yourself a favor because you’re exercising and getting yourself healthy, but it’s also fun!”

In addition to the class, the group has also signed up for Thrive Across America — a DC Government health initiative. They currently rank #55 out of over 120 groups participating. For more information about the Zumba class, contact Ms. Carrington at (202) 673-8535.



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ZUMBA FITNESS CLASSES
Dance your way to a fitter you.
For more information and to sign up you can
reach Capucine Carrington at
202-673-8535 or
Capucine.Carrington@dc.gov

The D.C. Department of Corrections Training
Academy
“DOC EMPLOYEES ONLY”
During non-duty hours **Note New Time**
May 27, 2014 from 4:45pm-5:45pm
Come out and join us!

Classes will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:45pm-5:45pm.
Cost \$5 per class
Make sure you bring towel and water.

DOC Zumba flyer announces the start of the dance class for DOC employees.

By Darby Baham