

Hotline

SECRETARY OF STATE VISITS SHAKOPEE GRADUATION

This month, Secretary of State Mark Ritchie spoke at Minnesota Correctional Facility (MCF)-Shakopee for their Educational Award Ceremony. Ritchie emphasized the importance of an education and the opportunities it can bring. The MCF-Shakopee Education Award Ceremony was held to congratulate and honor offenders graduating with their general education development diploma, high school diploma, office support certificate, cosmetology certificate and paralegal certificate.

FIRST CRISIS INTERVENTION CLASS GRADUATES

In early November, the first Department of Corrections (DOC) Crisis Intervention Class graduated from training. This program provides tools, strategies, and techniques that will allow corrections staff, behavioral health providers, and advocates to work together to better deal with mentally ill offenders during their incarceration.



The DOC's first Crisis Intervention Class

RED WING WORK CREW AIDS NATIONAL GUARD

Adult work crews at the MCF-Red Wing corroborated with the Red Wing National Guard Armory to show their support and help for the local military unit in November. The work crews assisted in yard work and lawn care by picking up brush, removing weeds, re-installing a block wall and installing landscape rocks after a major construction project was completed at the Red Wing National Guard Armory.



Shakopee Warden Tracy Beltz and Secretary of State Mark Ritchie congratulated offenders at the graduation ceremony.

DOC RECOGNIZES RESTORATIVE JUSTICE WEEK

Minnesota correctional facilities held numerous events in recognition of International Restorative Justice Week, November 13-19, to educate offenders about restorative justice and the impact of their crimes on communities. Facilities hosted informational booths, fundraisers, apology letter workshops, guest speakers and victim impact training. To learn more about restorative justice go to www.doc.state.mn.us/rj/.

Offender artwork representing the principles of restorative justice.



OFFENDERS BUILD ACCESSIBILITY RAMPS IN NORTHERN MINNESOTA

The DOC Challenge Incarceration Program (CIP) in Willow River and the Sentencing to Service (STS) program, in association with AccessNorth's Center for Independent Living, have been working together on *The Ramp Project*. *The Ramp Project* can make the difference between an individual coming home or living in an institution by providing ramps for individuals with disabilities



based on ability to pay. The CIP and STS offenders have helped build approximately 100 modules, twice a year. For more information about The Ramp Project go to www.accessnorth.net/cilnm/ramp.html.

CHAMBERLAIN RECOGNIZED WITH AWARD FOR WORK WITH INNOVATIVE PROGRAM



From left: Commissioner Tom Roy, Amy Chamberlain and Judge Peter Erickson at the Regional Chief Administrative Law Judge Citation presentation.

Last month, DOC Office Services Supervisor Amy Chamberlain was presented with the Regional Chief Administrative Law Judge Citation from the Social Security Administration (SSA). Chamberlain was presented the award in recognition for her efforts facilitating video conference hearings between the SSA, the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review, and offenders at the DOC.

Minnesota is currently the only state to have this type of cooperation between state and federal government. Video conference hearings allow the SSA to process hearings more quickly and reduce the back log of offenders waiting to have their cases heard. It has increased the number of hearings a judge can hear throughout the state in one day, and has also benefited the DOC by providing eligible offenders with funds upon release to assist in the transition back into the community.

FARIBAULT WARDEN RETIRES



After 33 years with the DOC, Mark Thielen has announced his retirement effective December 2. During his career, Thielen worked at several Minnesota correctional facilities where he held positions including corrections counselor, case manager, corrections supervisor, and assistant to the deputy commissioner. In

1996, Thielen became associate warden of operations at Stillwater before transferring to Oak Park Heights in the same position. In 2008, Thielen was co-project manager of an initiative to increase American Indian culture programs within facilities before returning to Stillwater as associate warden of operations. In November 2009, Thielen was named warden of Faribault.

HAMMER TO HEAD MCF-RUSH CITY

Steve Hammer has been named the new warden of the MCF-Rush City. Hammer began his career with the DOC in 1991 as an information and technology specialist II at Shakopee and has worked his way up to recently serve as associate warden of operations at Stillwater. Hammer holds a bachelor's degree in business administration-management information systems from Metropolitan University. Hammer succeeds Bruce Reiser who transferred to Faribault on December 2.



NEW DISTRICT SUPERVISOR IN LITCHFIELD

Jacob McLellon has been appointed to the Litchfield field services district supervisor position. McLellon began his career with the DOC in 2001 as an Intensive Supervised Release/CIP agent. In addition to his usual job duties, he conducts pre-release classes for offenders at Willow River and Rush City and co-facilitates cognitive-behavioral programming. He has helped develop community resources for offenders such as housing, employment, and programming, and also presents training to community organizations to help communities understand offender issues and community supervision. McLellon started November 23.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Information about the April 30, 2012, Conference on Women Offenders is now available on the Minnesota Community Corrections Association website at www.mnmcca.com/womenoffenders.