

NEWS IN CORRECTIONS

This issue of *Hotline* carries the new **logo** for the Minnesota Department of Corrections. The logo replaces one that was created by hand in the 1970s. The new electronic design will be phased in to replace the old logo on department stationery, business cards, and informational material. ■

The Department of Corrections has released its annual state **prison population projections**. Currently the adult male and female inmate population is at 8,333 (7/1/04). Projections show a rise to over 11,000 by the year 2010. For more information on population projections, visit www.doc.state.mn.us/pdf/2004prisonpopulation.pdf. ■

The **Gothriel (Fred) LaFleur Conference Room** at the Minnesota Department of Corrections Central Office has been so named in recognition of Fred LaFleur, who served as state corrections commissioner from 1996-1999. LaFleur was the first African American corrections commissioner in the state's history. ■

Mary McComb has been appointed Associate Warden of Administration at the Minnesota Correctional Facility (MCF)-Stillwater, effective November 22, 2004. McComb worked for the Wisconsin Department of Corrections as a social worker and treatment director from 1985-1996, when she joined the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC). She worked at Stillwater from 1996-2002 as assistant to the warden, program director, and captain, respectively. In 2002, she was appointed litigation coordinator in the department's Policy & Legal Services Unit. She became a licensed attorney in 1996.

McComb succeeds **Susan Nau** who started her corrections career at the Stillwater facility in 1974 as a clerk typist. She rose through the ranks as typing pool supervisor, office services supervisor, assistant to the warden, cell hall director, and acting associate warden of administration. Nau is retiring effective January 3, 2005.

Brent Wartner succeeds Mary McComb as the department's litigation coordinator. Wartner was a

law clerk in the first and second judicial districts prior to serving as a Special Assistant Dakota County Attorney. For the past four years, he was an Assistant Attorney General in the Trial Division of the State Attorney General's Office. Wartner joined the DOC on December 8, 2004. ■

The **Minnesota Correctional Education Foundation (MCEF)** is a new statewide charity whose purpose is to establish, fund, and coordinate college and vocational opportunities at state correctional facilities. Providing offenders in prison the opportunity to develop personal responsibility and self-sufficiency skills through higher education contributes to safe and healthy communities.

Correctional education advocates are now able to show a direct link between correctional education and lower recidivism rates. A three-state study commissioned by the U.S. Department of Education in 2001 found that participation in correctional educational programs lowered the number of offenders reincarcerated by 29 percent. Translated into fiscal terms, the study found that correctional education programs save more money than they cost – annually for every dollar spent on education, more than two dollars are saved on incarceration costs alone.

A nine-member MCEF board of directors, a twenty-four member advisory council, a foundation director, and a five-member Correctional Higher Education Consortium will lead this new private/public partnership.

MCEF has identified over 120 corporate, institutional, and family foundations that will receive initial funding opportunity information about the foundation. MCEF will reach out to system-change and justice-oriented human service and education groups. Judicial groups and businesses will also be contacted. MCEF will search out new federal or state public grants as well. MCEF will also start an individual/major gifts program that will complement foundation dollars.

For more information about the MCEF or how to get personally involved, contact Foundation Director Curt N. Peterson at cpeterson@co.doc.state.mn.us or 651/642-0285. ■

The Honorable **Esther M. Tomljanovich**, former Minnesota Supreme Court Justice, was recently presented with the *Esther Tomljanovich Lifetime Achievement Award* for her tireless work on behalf of ensuring justice for women offenders. The award was presented at the Second Annual Conference on Women Offenders, held in St. Paul on December 9, 2004.

Conference sponsors, including the Advisory Task Force on Female Offenders and the Minnesota Community Corrections Association (MCCA), established the ongoing award in Tomljanovich's name to be presented in recognition of those who have spent a lifetime advocating for women offenders and social justice.

Justice Tomljanovich has an impressive history of service in Minnesota. At the age of 19 she began law school – the only woman in her class at that time, though a few had preceded her and many would follow. She served as the Reviser of Statutes where she built a solid foundation as a constitutionalist. After being appointed District Court Judge in the Tenth Judicial District, she came to understand that treating men and women identically did not treat them with equity. She was later appointed to the Minnesota Supreme Court where she served until retirement.

Retirement, however, has not ended her service to Minnesota. She continues to lend her expertise to boards, committees, and task forces and is currently chair of the Governor's Commission on Sex Offender Policy. She is relentless in her advocacy for justice for women and children. ■

Lt. Governor Carol Molnau took time from her hectic schedule to visit an Institution/Community Work Crew (ICWC), clearing brush along the roadside by the Mall of America. The crew consisted of 10 minimum-security inmates from the MCF-Stillwater, supervised by crew leader Steve Johnson. The Department of Transportation (DOT) contracts with the DOC for the crew to clean up debris and brush along metro-area freeways, clean and paint snowplows and sanding equipment, and perform other assignments depending on the weather. The crew works four 10-hour days a week, yearlong. There are a total of 10 ICWC crews operating out of state prisons: six crews at Lino Lakes, two at Stillwater, one at Red Wing, and one at Faribault. ■

Otter Tail/Wadena Community Action is a 2004 recipient of the *Excellence in Development of Housing Choices for Workers Award*, presented by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. The award recognizes a developer, development organization, funder, or lender that demonstrates commitment to innovation and quality in the construction, rehabilitation, or financing of affordable multi-family or single-family housing choices for workers. Otter Tail/Wadena Community Action partners with the DOC

Institution/Community Work Crew Affordable Housing Program (ICWC/AHP) that trains and employs minimum-security prison inmates to construct affordable homes under supervision in greater Minnesota. The community partner acts as developer and general contractor, marketing the homes to income-qualified households. ■

Bill Donnay has been appointed Director of the Risk Assessment/Community Notification Unit, a position he has held in an acting capacity since July 2003. Donnay joined the DOC in 1980 and has held a variety of positions at several prisons including therapist, case manager, and supervisor. He joined the central office Sex Offender/Chemical Dependency Unit in 1992. Donnay manages risk assessment of predatory offenders for civil commitment review and assignment of risk levels, and community notification responsibilities of the DOC. ■

The Minnesota Department of Corrections is pleased to announce the following events and achievements by staff, offenders, and programs:

- Staff at the **MCF-Lino Lakes** donated phone cards and personal items to support U.S. Troops.
- Staff departmentwide recognized **Restorative Justice Week** November 14-21 with activities planned by and for staff and offenders.
- Inmates at the MCF-Faribault participated in the **"Tough Guys for Kids" Walkathon**. The event raised money for the Toys for Tots Program in Rice County.
- The **MCF-St. Cloud's TLC Toys Program** was recently featured on KARE 11 News. TLC Toys is a nonprofit organization that has built more than 100,000 toys for needy children. Twenty-four inmates at St. Cloud assemble and finish the hand-crafted wooden toys. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

State Employee Recognition Week is January 10-14, 2005. The week is set aside to celebrate and recognize state employees for their dedication and hard work. Many state agencies will host activities in recognition of staff. ■

Save the date! The **Minnesota Community Corrections Association (MCCA) Winter Institute** is February 17-18, 2005, at Camp Ripley in Little Falls, Minnesota. Institute topics include female sex offenders, the methamphetamine epidemic, cultural sensitivity, civil commitment, effective case management skills, family group conferencing, and much more. Contact Bridget Letnes at bridget@180degrees.org or 612/813-5017 for additional information about registration, lodging, and MCCA membership. ■