



2015 National Women's History Month Celebration

March 31, 2015

Women's History Month was celebrated at DOCCS with a brief presentation on March 25th followed by an award ceremony. Four female employees from across the state were honored for representing the very best of the Department. The event began with a reading of the [proclamation](#) issued by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo.

This year's national theme is "Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives" which affords us an opportunity to showcase the individual and collective journeys of women and how their contributions, perspectives and stories are woven into the fabric of our Department's history.

Acting DOCCS Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci said, "This event is always special to me because it is an uplifting time."

The ceremony's keynote speaker Supervising Administrative Law Judge and Parole Adjudications Bureau member, Rhonda Tomlinson said, "Our history as women calls on us to continue the success and raise the bar for our daughters and granddaughters."



From l. to r.: Keynote speaker Rhonda Tomlinson, Acting Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci, Emcee and Superintendent Patty Nelson and Deputy Commissioner Osbourne A. McKay.



The 2015 honorees with Acting Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci and Deputy Commissioner Osbourne A. McKay.

This year marks the 35th annual nationwide observance of Women's History Month, providing us an opportunity to honor extraordinary women of New York State who have achieved success in all areas of endeavor.

All four honorees were presented a plaque by Acting Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci and Deputy Commissioner Osbourne A. McKay.

The **Community Award** is awarded to women who have made a significant contribution to their community during their employment with the Department. Parole Officer **Lorrie Richardson** from the Bronx Region was this year's recipient.

Women who have advanced from entry-level positions and/or transitioned from clerical/secretarial positions to professional/paraprofessional positions are nominated for the **Career Advancement Award**. Superintendent **Elizabeth O'Meara** of Gouverneur Correctional Facility was this year's honoree.

Robin Dynsiuk, Offender Rehabilitation Coordinator at Hudson Correctional Facility, was this year's honoree for the **Education Award** which is given to women who have furthered their education by entering or returning to school and have obtained a degree while, at the same time, continuing their commitment to their jobs.

The **Organizational Award** is awarded to women who have made substantial contributions to the Department or work unit, at any level or position, such as the development of programs, initiatives or changes resulting in improvement of work production, cost savings or the betterment of employee relations. The 2015 Organizational Award honoree was **Lynn Cortella**, Health Services Classification Analyst in Central Office.