DOCCS is a large and diverse agency with approximately 29,000 employees statewide. In addition, the Department is responsible for running 54 prisons with over 48,000 incarcerated individuals confined therein, and supervising, in the community, 36,000 parolees — all from different walks of life and ethnicities.

That’s why I established the Commissioner’s Diversity Management Advisory Council (CDMAC) in January, 2017. The CDMAC will help us promote fairness and equity in determining how staff, incarcerated individuals, parolees, visitors, and volunteers, interact and are treated. It establishes benchmarks regarding DOCCS strengths, as well as challenges and opportunities for improvement.

The CDMAC also provides recommendations to address policies and procedures that may create barriers to diversity and inclusion, and also foster cultural competencies.

It is made up of a Steering Committee comprised of my Executive Team, representatives of the Office of Diversity Management, the Division of Program Planning, and Research and Evaluation. There are also six subcommittees.

Key staff and stakeholders serve on the CDMAC subcommittees. Some subcommittees focus on trends in DOCCS hiring, promotion, and retention practices, or identifying disproportionalities and determining whether trends negatively impact staff, visitors and volunteers, as well as incarcerated individuals and parolees. Other subcommittees work to carry out the goals of the CDMAC, which include, but are not limited to establishing or revising appropriate curriculum to address implicit bias within the Department, reinforcing DOCCS policies on diversity and inclusion, and getting the word out about the CDMAC and its accomplishments.

CDMAC Chair Osbourne McKay, Deputy Commissioner for Correctional Industries, Compliance Standards & Diversity, and Vice Chair Tina Stanford, Esq., Chairwoman of the New York State Board of Parole, will ably and effectively manage this Council to ensure inclusion and full participation of DOCCS staff across recruitment, hiring, promotion, transfer, training, and development, as well as all other aspects of employment.
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SPOTLIGHT

This issue of DOCCS TODAY spotlights the Otisville Correctional Facility in the town of Mt. Hope

Congratulations to all of our Session 2018 Correction Officer graduates!

Background picture from Session 2018-08 Correction Officer Graduation at the Albany Training Academy
DOCCS Today [Fall 2018]

CDMAC Mentoring Program
Moves to Full Implementation

By Osbourne A. McKay, CDMAC Chair

DOCCS is very excited about the potential of the CDMAC and the implementation of our world class Mentoring Program.

In August 2016, Commissioner Annucci made changes to the Department’s Mission Statement that would provide a renewed focus on staff — our most valuable resource. And these changes go beyond career development opportunities for staff.

Recognizing that talented and experienced staff are retiring, the Department’s Mission Statement now specifically states a need to ensure workforce stability through mentoring and succession planning.

As our workforce ages, knowledge transfer is more critical to the future success of the Department. And we want to ensure that every eligible person within DOCCS has an opportunity to be a mentor or mentee.

Job growth and development should not be determined by who we know. And since coaching and mentoring often occur in an informal manner or social setting, the CDMAC’s Mentoring Program will level the playing field to ensure knowledge transfer happens at every level so that staff have the tools they need to be successful.

Fundamentally, mentoring is about being of service to others. And the Department’s Mentoring Program positions us to be of service to each other in a formal way, to transition knowledge and experience that will make us more innovative, stronger, healthier and safer.

Applications for mentors/mentees were made available to facilities and area offices in the Wende Hub. Mentors and mentees began pairing the week of October 8; the goal is to fully implement the Mentoring Program statewide in early 2019.

CDMAC’s Mentoring Subcommittee has done an outstanding job readying DOCCS for its world-class Mentoring Program.

I believe it will be the envy of other agencies and correctional systems and am extremely proud of their commitment, passion and scholarly work.

There are three tracks to the Department’s Mentoring Program:

Peer-To-Peer: Supports recruits, trainees, and new staff members in understanding DOCCS’ values, vision, mission, and goals. Highly competent, successful and experienced mentors share the skills and knowledge they’ve acquired with mentees who need to acquire the specified skills.

Career Enhancement: Helps employees plan, develop, grow, and manage their careers. Career enhancement mentoring helps employees become resilient in times of change, more self-reliant in their careers and more responsible as self-directed learners.

Leadership and Management Development: Encourages development of leadership competencies through application and guided practice.

For more information on the Mentoring Program or how to get involved, contact: Melissa Miles, Albany Training Academy Director | 518.489.8072 | Ext. 2000
DOCCS’ Leadership Attend Annual Minorities in Criminal Justice Training Symposium

The New York State Minorities in Criminal Justice (NYSMICJ), Inc. hosted its 32nd annual training symposium in Syracuse from September 19-21. NYSMICJ’s Region 6 Planning Committee led by Vice President Marcus Babb and emceed by ADS PREA Marcus Butler kicked off the three-day training with a welcome address by City of Syracuse Mayor Ben Walsh.

Former Lincoln Correctional Facility Superintendent Joe Williams taught participants about the history of NYSMICJ from one of its founders, and Deputy Commissioner for Correctional Industries, Compliance Standards & Diversity Osbourne McKay highlighted DOCCS Commissioner’s Diversity Management Advisory Council (CDMAC) provided an overview of its Mentoring Program.

Dr. Darrin Porcher, Criminal Justice Professor at Pace University, presented the keynote address, and DOCCS CIU Director Scott Kelly led a workshop on Street Gangs and the Crisis Intervention Unit (CIU). Other workshops included topics on Micro-Aggressions and Creative Solutions, Wills/Trusts/Estate Planning, and Active Shooter.

The symposium culminated with the Commissioners’ Forum, including Daniel F. Martuscello III, Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner; Donna Hall, OMH Associate Commissioner, Division of Forensic Science; Tina M. Stanford, Esq., Chairwoman, Board of Parole; Frank Fowler, Chief of Police, City of Syracuse; Captain Jeffrey Raub, New York State Police; and Mark White, DCJS Deputy Commissioner, Office of Youth Justice. They tied in their experiences, viewpoints and successes with the symposium’s overall theme: Criminal Justice in a Changing World.

NYSMICJ thanks Acting Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci for his support of its mission on equality and fairness. Thanks also to DC Jeff McKoy, DOCCS Program Services; Director Michael Washington, Office of Diversity Management; Superintendent Gerard Jones, DOCCS Elmira Hub and Cayuga Correctional Facility; Superintendent Lynn Lolley, Woodbourne Correctional Facility; Statewide President Doug Wilburn; and other leadership staff who attended the symposium and are integral to its overall success.

For more information about NYSMICJ, visit www.nysmicj.org.

Left to Right: Jeff McKoy, Marcus Butler, Jeffrey Raub, Tina M. Stanford, Donna Hall, Daniel F. Martuscello III, Frank Fowler, Mark White, Osbourne A. McKay, and Michael Washington
On Wednesday, September 12, Groveland Correctional Facility hosted the Justice Involved Veterans Network Meeting — a consortium of agencies with a common goal: offering services, such as housing, employment, transportation, and health benefits to inmate veterans to ensure their success in the community.

Representatives were present from the National Institute of Corrections, National Sheriffs Association, Veterans Affairs, Georgia DOC, Texas DOC, Oregon DOC, Pinal County Arizona Sheriff, Rochester Vets Court, NYS Division of Veterans Affairs, NYS Department of Labor, We Soldier On, and NYS DOCCS Attica, Auburn, Midstate, and Gouverneur facilities.

Guests had an opportunity to visit the Veterans’ Dorm, meet inmate veterans in the program, and observe three service dogs in the Veterans’ Canine Program.

Incarcerated individuals in the Veterans’ Canine Program said the work is therapeutic and provides them an opportunity to give back something positive to the community.

Agency representatives also shared information about the opportunities they provide veterans that assist them successfully transition back into the community. For instance, Judge DeMarco discussed his Rochester Court and how his program works to help veterans.

Ms. Walsh, Senior Librarian at Auburn Correctional Facility, brought items knitted and crocheted by incarcerated veterans, which were donated to Fort Drum for children.

Sgt. Schiefer from Attica Correctional Facility brought kites painted by incarcerated veterans, which were donated to raise funds for community organizations.

DOCCS received the 2018 Lucy Webb Hayes Award, representing the dedication of an agency to enhance the public safety and well-being of those in their custody.

The award, presented to DOCCS at the American Correctional Association’s (ACA) 148th Congress of Correction in Minneapolis, Minnesota in August, is given to agencies that have achieved both ACA full accreditation and Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) compliance for every component within its area of responsibility.
Rehabilitation Through the Arts (RTA) uses the creative arts, including theater, writing, and visual arts, to develop and expand critical life skills of the incarcerated men and women it serves.

As a result, more than 60 works by RTA prisoner members from five maximum and medium security prisons were on display at Ossining Public Library Art Gallery through July 31.

The works in Images Behind Prison Walls ranged from painting and charcoal to pen and makeup, and tackled such topics as prison life, freedom and mental well-being. Artist Ivie DeMolina painted a pair of red stilettos because, in her words: “It’s the closest [she gets] to wearing them,” while Hector Rodriguez’s painting is inspired by nature since, as he explains: “Nature’s magic reminds [him] of [his] mother.”

At a public reception, guests met two formerly incarcerated individuals who also had works in the show: Jeffrey Clemente and Amaury Bonilla.

Bonilla, who served 10 years at Sing Sing Correctional Facility explained: “Through this exhibit, views will gain awareness that [prisoners are] not just a number. We’re human beings able to express ourselves in numerous ways.”

RTA, which partnered with Ossining Public Library, Ossining Arts Council, and Sing Sing Prison Museum for this exhibit has been effective in decreasing its members’ “return to prison rate.” While the national recidivism rate is more than 50 percent, the rate of members who have participated in RTA’s program is less than 7 percent. To learn more about RTA, visit www.rta-arts.org.

“Art can permeate the very deepest part of us, where no words exist.”
PO Samuel Salters was presented with the Commissioner’s Leadership and Performance Coin at the Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony in Albany in June for his outstanding service to the Department.

In 2010, Salters was shot during an office visit by one of his parolees. After extensive surgery and a long road to recuperation, Salter returned to work where he helped create a platform to discuss workplace violence. His activism resulted in magnetometers being placed in all community supervision field offices, as well as additional security measures.

Did You Know...

... in 1999, there were 72,649 individuals incarcerated in DOCCS’ 54 facilities?

... since 2010, DOCCS has closed 22 facilities and (as of November 16, the printing of this newsletter) DOCCS houses nearly 25,000 fewer individuals than it did in 1999 — 47,752 to be exact.

2018 Medal of Honor and Medal of Merit recipients. Each year in June, the Department holds an event to honor selfless and courageous DOCCS employees who put their lives on the line outside the confines of their offices to protect others from danger, and to pay homage to those who have lost their lives in the line of duty. This year at the Annual Memorial Ceremony, Commissioner Annucci (pictured in front row behind wreath) along with the Department honored eight individuals: [Front Row, Left to Right]: COs Andrew Norris and Dennis Donaldson (Cape Vincent), CO Eric Brewer (Five Points), Jason Grasso (Green Haven), Senior PO Alfonso Camacho (Manhattan Region), CO Owen Lunt (Great Meadow), CO Richard Rahuba (Fishkill) and Jose Candelario (Sing Sing).

[Back Row, Left to Right]: Former AC William Hogan, former Five Points Superintendent John Calvin, Cape Vincent Superintendent Nunzio Doldo, DSS Gerard Caron, Green Haven Superintendent Jamie LaManna and Sing Sing Superintendent Michael Capra.
What I Learned from DOCCS Helped Me Save A Life

By D. Zweck, Retired CO

While removing a tree with my business partner and his son, my partner’s son — a 36-year-old veteran I’ll call Joe — was in a safety harness in a tree about 30-plus feet in the air sawing a section above him. When Joe finished, the portion of the tree to which he was secured broke. He fell, slamming against multiple structures, and became unconscious.

I yelled for someone to call 9-1-1 and went straight to the young man. With his father’s help, we cut the safety rope and released Joe from the section of tree that was on top of him. Without hesitation, I then secured his neck and reached under his arms to move him to a flat surface.

Joe was still unconscious and had blood and foam coming from his mouth, and I could hear rattling in his labored breathing. I looked around and saw two pillows on a nearby patio set, which I placed on each side of his neck as I rolled him onto his side.

As a result, I could see fluid draining onto the ground and his breathing was becoming a little less labored.

Joe had a gash on his head to which I applied direct pressure as we waited for medical professionals to arrive.

Just before the medics arrived, he became conscious.

I managed to keep him calm. And every step of the way, I just did what I thought I should do.

It wasn’t until later, when I spoke with the medical team at Albany Medical where Joe was airlifted, that I realized it was the first aid training I learned from DOCCS that helped me save him.

Considering this, I want to thank Lt. Harms, St. Marjorie Anderson, and the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision for giving me the tools and training to help my fellow co-workers.

It is times like this that make me proud to have worked for DOCCS as a security professional.

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo with (L-R) Great Meadow DSS Gerard Caron and Superintendent Christopher Miller, Acting Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci, and Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner Daniel F. Martuscello, III holding a press conference at Great Meadow Correctional Facility to discuss facility lockdowns.
The Otisville Correctional Facility is nestled in the Town of Mt. Hope in Orange County, New York just about 80 miles outside New York City. Interestingly, its 1300-acre complex was built in the early 1900s to accommodate individuals with tuberculosis.

In the late 1800s, illnesses from cholera to tuberculosis plagued New York City residents. In response to this problem, the City of New York and Department of Health, developed the theory that the most effective treatment for tuberculosis was “rest, good food and fresh air.”

Accordingly, in 1906, the Municipal Sanitarium of the Department of Hospitals opened and Otisville was then the state-of-the-art facility where treatment was offered to those suffering from tuberculosis until it closed in 1955.

Later, in an agreement with the City of New York, the New York State Division for Youth (DFY) purchased the property. DFY renamed the property the New York State Otisville Training School, which housed juveniles statewide and detainees from New York City until it closed in 1972.

Then the Drug Abuse Control Commission (later named the Narcotic Abuse Control Commission) used the Otisville property to treat those with narcotic addictions and closed in 1976. It was then acquired by the New York State Department of Correctional Services (now the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision).

Today, Otisville is a Medium A correctional facility with the capacity to house 603 male inmates.

While ever mindful of the security mandate to incarcerate, Otisville has remained faithful to the original intent of the facility: treatment. Treatment offered today is much different than the treatment offered in 1906 when medical concerns were paramount.

Today, Otisville is concerned with preparing inmates for their eventual return home to the community. Not only does it deal with medical issues, but every other area of human development is addressed. This includes education, vocational training, alcohol and substance abuse treatment, transitional services, and other training.
Otisville also provides an array of programs, such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Osborne Association (Parenting Skills and Relationship Building), Prisoners for AIDS Counselling and Education, Public Speaking, Religious Educational Program and Services for all major denominations, John Jay College/Tribeca Film Institute Program Network, and Puppies Behind Bars — to name a few.

This year, the John Jay Program at Otisville expanded by transferring inmate-students to Queensboro Correctional Facility, a reentry facility, where they will continue their John Jay academic career. The goal is that inmate-students will continue their education through temporary release or full-time enrollment at the John Jay Campus when they return home.

A former John Jay Program inmate-student is currently employed by the John Jay Prison to College Pipeline. He completed his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees at the John Jay campus and has represented the college abroad in South Africa and Cuba, providing information not only about the John Jay Program, but also on the value of education in the re-entry process.

Also at Otisville, the Puppies Behind Bars trains incarcerated individuals to become skilled in raising service dogs for wounded war veterans, first responders, and explosive detection canines for law enforcement. Puppies arrive at the prison eight weeks old and live with their inmate puppy raiser for about two years.

And at Otisville, inmate organizations, of which there are several, are very important in their lives. For instance, there’s the African American Organization, Hispanics United for Progress, the European-American Organization, the Asian Cultural Organization, the Caribbean-African Unity Organization, the Lifers/Long Timers Organization, and the Veterans Organization. These organizations offer inmates the opportunity to join with others of similar background in the exploration of their culture and heritage.

The facility also maintains a stable of eight horses and is the only correctional facility in New York State to utilize an active perimeter horse patrol. This is necessary due to the rough terrain that surrounds the facility. The 3½ mile outside perimeter is patrolled routinely with horse because vehicles cannot travel the entire area around the fenced-in property. It may be one of only a handful of prisons in the United States still using horses for perimeter patrol.

Otisville is a thriving participant in Orange County and its horses and staff provide community service by attending local events, such as town, village and county fairs. Staff visit Little League events, parades, and other community events. And the Community Advisory Board, established by Philip Coombe, Jr., Otisville’s first superintendent, still exists today, forming partnerships with several community-based organizations and the community-at-large.

In a world that is continually changing, the role of Otisville Correctional Facility is also changing. But its commitment to excellence remains the same — and that is a testimony to the dedication and professionalism of its civilian and security staff.
Inmates at Clinton Correctional Facility receive Mass in September by Bishop Terry R. LaValley, Diocese of Ogdensburg, Roman Catholic Church in Northern New York, at the historic Church of St. Dismas at the Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora.
Albion Correctional Facility Holds Annual Graduation Ceremony

Albion Correctional Facility held its annual graduation ceremony honoring the accomplishments of 32 students who received a high school equivalency diploma, 24 who obtained a certificate for vocational accomplishments, and nine who earned certificates of merit for completing a 60-hour course in basic legal research and law library management.

Four students were recognized for completing the Associate Degree program at Medaille College, one of whom won an academic award for the highest GPA in the Associates of Science degree/Liberal Studies program at Medaille.

Speakers at the event included DOCCS Program Services Assistant Commissioner Linda Hollmen, Albion Superintendent Susan Squires, Deputy Superintendent for Program Services Patricia Assel, Education Supervisor Stacy Doolan, and Medaille College Vice President John Crawford. Chaplain Tricia Pethic offered words of encouragement.

The keynote speaker, Sarah Lee, Director of Jennifer House for Spiritus Christi Prison Outreach, spoke about her journey from addiction and crime to community leadership, emphasizing the role education played in her journey to sobriety.

Education Supervisor Doolan closed out the ceremony with “turning of the tassels.” Refreshments from the Inmate Liaison Committee were served and inmate graduates had the opportunity to have a special visit with their guests.
Congratulations, Graduates!

Albion CF Legal Research Course and Vocational Certificate graduates

Albion CF Academic graduates

**Bare Hill Correctional Facility Graduation** recognized inmates completing its High School Equivalency Program and those earning an Associate’s degree from North Country Community College. September 7th commencement addresses were presented by Acting Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci, North Country Community College President Steve Tyrell, and Executive Director of Hudson Links for Higher Education in Prison Sean Pica. Approximately 180 individuals attended the ceremony.
Riverview Correctional Facility delivered over 380 pumpkins to elementary schools in the Ogdensburg and Middleton School Districts. Students were more than surprised and thankful for their own pumpkin. Inmates at Riverview planted the pumpkins in late spring and harvested them in the fall. DSS Caldwell encouraged the facility’s maintenance department to install water lines to ensure a large harvest in the fall. This is the first time Riverview participated in the Harvest Now Program, a national program that supplies correctional facilities with seeds. Harvest Now provided $300 in vegetable seeds that Riverview planted. As a result, Riverview’s Horticulture class harvested over 3½ tons of vegetables, which were donated to the local Salvation Army Food Bank and Ogdensburg Neighborhood Program.

Photo 1: Lisbon Central School Kindergarten class with Mrs. Barrett and CO Skinner.
Photo 2: Heuvelton Central School Kindergarten class with CO Bleau.
Photo 3: Morristown Central School Kindergarten with Vocational Instructor Holmes.
Photo 4 (Below): Madill Elementary School Kindergarten class with Principal Scott and COs Skinner and Bleau.
Clinton Correctional Facility completes second LEAN Project. LEAN is making a real difference for Clinton and the Department. Pictured in front of a Value Stream map is (L-R) DSA & Empire Belt Zacharie Trombley, Assistant Industrial Superintendent Geraldine Dessureault, and Sgt. Greg King.

Marcy Correctional Facility’s Lt. Timothy Corey awarded the Senate Liberty Medal. In July, State Senator Joseph Griffo awarded Lt. Corey the Senate Liberty Medal for assisting to free a young boy stuck in an outdoor pool intake pipe and helping to save his life. Pictured with Lt. Corey (at podium) is (L-R) his family: Michelle, wife, and Matthew, son; Senator Joseph Griffo; and Marcy Correctional Facility Superintendent Justin Thomas.

Marie-Josee Washington, DOCCS Associate Budgeting Analyst with DOCCS Division of Support Operations/Contract Procurement. Washington was recognized at the Eighth Annual New York State MWBE Forum Champion’s Reception on October 3 for her work on behalf of minority and women business enterprises and for the creation of increased contract opportunities for MWBEs. She is pictured with Counsel to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo Alphonso David as she receives her award.
Dogs give us unconditional love — we all know that. But for wounded vets and those behind prison walls, they provide so much more. The Puppies Behind Bars program at DOCCS not only positively impacts the men and women who have honorably served our country, but also those incarcerated individuals selected to train the puppies. Every life these dogs touch is immeasurably changed. Here’s a testimony:

From the moment he was given to me, from Day 1, I felt a connection. Maybe it was because I had kibble, but I couldn’t believe how attentive he was. He was constantly fixated on me, constantly on guard for me watching my back — even when he didn’t have to be.

Felix is my body guard. He’s my wingman. He’s my best friend. I’ve only known him less than two weeks but, within those two weeks, we have bonded and it feels like he knows everything about me, down to my core. I’ve told Felix everything I’ve done, including trying to kill myself. And you wanna know what his response was? Without giving him the command, he kissed me and wagged his tail as if to say he forgives me, he understands, and we’ll get through this together.
This is a story of success, of vision in a dark place, of courage to overcome, of taking what you have around you and making something better.

This is Dorian Cabrera’s story.

In 1998, Dorian found himself inside the prison system looking out at the world and the family he left behind. Uncertain of his future, he began a sentence that would take him to several New York State prison facilities.

Many inmates simply wait for their final day but, for some, a critical realization occurs. Their thought process changes and they ask themselves: “Is this what I want? Is this all there is? Could this life I’ve been given be more rewarding? Have I survived all I’ve been through for a greater purpose?”

Dorian asked himself these questions.

He grew up the youngest of three in Brownsville, Brooklyn. His parents came to the U.S. from the Dominican Republic and separated when Dorian was eight years old.

At the time, Brownsville had one of the highest concentrations of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals in the country.

Living in poverty and without a father at home, Dorian and his brothers spent a lot of time on the streets.

Dorian noticed drug dealers had money and expensive things and, as a teen, was persuaded to join the ranks as a lookout. He found success in drug dealing and soon rose up in rank.

On February 10, 1994, at the age of 21, Dorian and two of his friends went to retrieve cash owed them, but an argument escalated into a shootout.

One of Dorian’s friends was killed; the other was shot several times. Dorian was wearing a bullet proof vest and was shot in the torso and leg.

What he and his friends didn’t know was the group in the other car were undercover police.
Dorian spent several months in the hospital. He was facing a multitude of criminal charges and began reflecting on his past, his present, and his future.

“The motivational factor that inspired my transformation … was the fact that if I did not change my negative thinking and behavior, I knew, without a doubt, I would have either been murdered in the streets or I would have died in prison,” he said.

Ultimately, Dorian was sentenced to 9½ to 19 years in prison. During his eighth year, he was transferred to Wallkill Correctional Facility in Wallkill, which has an optical program as part of DOCCS Correctional Industries Division — Corcraft. This program provides eyeglasses to Medicaid customers and other inmates within DOCCS. Motivated to make a change, Dorian expressed interest in the program. After passing a basic math test, he began learning the trade of making eyeglasses.

Wallkill’s optical program teaches inmates how to grind and polish lenses and cut them to the specific frame needed by the customer. In addition to manufacturing, inmate workers also learn order entry, shipping, inventory-control and how to work with customers.

“The focus of the vocational aspect of the program is to get the men acclimated to what they need to know to work as an optician in the street,” explained John Raw, Industrial Superintendent at Wallkill.

Dorian was enthusiastic about his new skills and excelled in the program. He and a fellow worker performed at such a high level of volume and quality that their supervisors created a special finishing area called “Section 3” just for them.

“Working at the optical program made me feel purposeful,” Dorian noted. “Despite being in prison, the optical program allowed me to wake up every morning and feel good about myself. It gave me the opportunity to fabricate glasses that would allow individuals to see better.”

Outside the optical shop, Dorian and his friend studied accounting, marketing, and other business subjects. The pair wrote mission statements and gathered ideas while planning their future after release.

Wallkill’s program prepares participants to take the American Board of Opticianry (ABO) exam. Held twice a year at the facility, the ABO exam costs $225.00 and is paid for by the inmates themselves. Dorian took the test in 2005, which he passed with a 92.

Two days after his release from prison in 2006, with his newfound skills acquired at Wallkill, he chartered a new course for himself. With an interview for a position at an optical retail store in Flatbush, Brooklyn, Dorian went to his interview dressed in a suit and brought a change of clothes so he could start the position immediately if needed.

He got the job.

He later enrolled at the New York City College of Technology and, in three years, earned an Associate’s Degree in Vision Care Technology.

While working full-time and going to school part-time, Dorian saw a need in his own community for reasonably-priced designer
eyewear. With help from several business connections, he sold prescription eyewear to his church members, family, and friends. Through his hard work and determination, Dorian eventually saved enough money to open his own eyewear shop in Brooklyn. And in 2009, almost three years after his release, Dorian and his friend from Wallkill’s optical program pooled their resources together and opened Exclusive Eye Wear, LLC. They hired an optometrist and two sales associates.

As small business owners, both men wore many hats, assisting in general sales, performing administrative tasks, running marketing campaigns, and aiding in lens manufacturing. The business was successful and operational for almost 10 years.

In 2017, they sold the business, and Dorian took a job for the largest eyeglass manufacturer in the world. He had proven to himself he could own his own business. Now it was time for a change.

Dorian wanted to share his story about his positive transformation. He created a documentary of his experience and went back to Wallkill to talk to inmates about his success. He spoke with the inmates who were currently in the program and left them with the message that one can take the optical skills learned at Wallkill and effectively transition back into society.

“It felt great going back to Wallkill to give hope and motivation to individuals who find themselves incarcerated and will one day have the task of making that transition back into society,” Dorian noted.

Today, Dorian has been married 11 years and has two sons. He recently founded a non-profit organization called S.O.U.P (Scholastic Optical Upliftment Program) designed to teach young adults the optical trade profession. Participants in the program learn the different types of vision conditions, lens types required to correct those conditions, lensometry, and many more skills that will enable them to start their own career in the industry.

Without question, Dorian Cabrera is a living example of how an industry program can change a person’s life when that person is open to it. Like so many incarcerated individuals, the first part of Dorian’s life was defined by the streets. With the help of the optical program, Dorian realized his potential.

“The program gave me the opportunity to know my potential by exposing me to a trade that gave me a real chance of success when I was released from prison,” he explained. “As I reflect on my past, I realized that I allowed the streets to define me. If I can go back in time I would tell the young me that as humans our minds are bigger than our surroundings.”

Despite his past, Dorian transformed his life for the better. With determination, hard work and the right knowledge, he shows us that anyone can become whatever they want to become despite the cards they are dealt.
**Groveland K-9 Program**

On August 14, six inmate handlers and two shelter dogs completed the Shelter Pups and Inmate Rehabilitation and Integration Training Program (S.P.I.R.I.T) at Groveland Correctional Facility.

Led by trainers Constance Dwyer and Sara Hamburger, and partnered with the Hornell Humane Society, handlers and their dogs participated in six weeks of full-time training to make dogs more easily adoptable and to match them with the appropriate environment.

The program had great therapeutic benefits for both handlers and dogs. Briggsy and Jack completed the program and both have been adopted to new families. Jack was adopted by a veteran of the U.S. military.

Five teams signed up to compete assisted by representatives of the Brownsville Community Culinary Center, a school that provides opportunity for underprivileged students to learn and excel in culinary arts.

Competition was intense and outside guest judges were tough. The event raised nearly $3,000 for the Brownsville Community Culinary Center.

**Sing Sing’s Iron Chef Cookoff**

On October 10, Sing Sing Correctional Facility hosted its first “Iron Chef Cookoff” at the Sullivan-Vega Quality of Worklife Building. It was a great success.

COs James Pryear and Calesha Messam, Team 25-to-Life, won the Cookoff trophy.
The Vocational Horse Handling and Care Program is a partnership between DOCCS and the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation (TRF). The Department runs a vocational program that teaches inmates how to work with horses. The Foundation retires former racehorses to either be retrained and adopted out, or rehabilitated for retirement either at Wallkill or one of the TRF satellite farms.

Monique Kohler, a Manhattan advertising executive, read an article in Newsday about a retired race horse program that was closing. She appealed to well-known trainers and owners to help finance a not-for-profit group dedicated solely to saving retired thoroughbreds from abuse, neglect or slaughter. She was successful in recruiting big names like Secretariat’s owner Penny Tweedy, Kelso’s owner Alaire DuPont, trainers Peter Howe and Skip Shapoff, Hall of Fame trainer Angel Penna and wife Eleanor, and others.

Kohler convinced owners of three famous geldings — Kelso, Forgo, and John Henry — to bring them together at Belmont Park in 1983 for a picture-taking fundraiser that netted the foundation over $50,000.

New York State Senator Howard Nolan of Loudonville, a prominent owner and breeder of thoroughbreds, suggested that DOCCS new land, acquired to provide a buffer near the new maximum-security prison Shawangunk Correctional Facility, would make a perfect site for a vocational horse care program using retired thoroughbreds.

A contract executed in 1983 assigned the horse and capital improvement expenses to the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation. Labor and field maintenance would be the responsibility of the State.

In May 1984, Jim Tremper was hired by the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation as onsite supervisor.
Horse fencing was erected and a tractor shed was converted into a six-stall barn. The first horse — Promised Road — arrived in August 1984.

Fields were excavated and ditched to provide better drainage. All work was performed by inmate labor with Tremper, the officers, and other state employees supervising and teaching.

Deputy Superintendent for Programs Len Portuondo coordinated the facility’s resources to aid in the start of the program, which was fondly called “Portuondo’s Pony Palace”.

By the end of August 1986, Tremper was hired by the State as Vocational Instructor. He assisted curriculum specialist Dr. Russell Prill in developing an employability profile as the syllabus for the Horse Handling and Care Vocational Program. By that November, there were 24 horses. Although the program began with one run-in shed, Wallkill now has seven sheds and 54 horses.

The partnership brought together retired thoroughbreds and inmates preparing to return to the community. They both benefited from the bond and the trust formed.

Horses are smart enough to train people. According to Tremper, horses make men calm. They make them slow down and be gentle. Horses teach inmates that there must be a give-and-take interaction, that it is not about the inmate. Some inmates learn the hard way with a quick push by the horse.

The TRF has opened other facilities across the country at both prisons and private farms with Wallkill as the model for prison facilities. With few exceptions, Wallkill has received horses that retire with the most serious problems. This is largely due to the success inmates have had rehabilitating them. We have had several horses adopted out as well.

Many former inmates have contacted the TRF and given credit to their interaction with the horses as the main influence that turned their lives around for the better. When they first come to the farm, most are quite scared of the thoroughbreds. This fear gradually fades and connections form that have helped the men with problems like impulsivity, addiction, and anger.

Overall, the cooperative effort to retire deserving racehorses while teaching inmates responsibility, empathy, and job skills has been a success.

Tremper retired this year and passed the reigns to Kelsey Kober, who has a passion for horses and will continue to make the Wallkill program a shining example for others.

The Department will expand the Second Chances program to Wyoming and Washington in 2019.

To find out more or to sponsor a horse visit www.trfinc.org.
**Orleans K-9 Training Program**

Orleans Correctional Facility, in conjunction with Volunteers for Animals in Genesee County and Trainer Tom Ryan, has become home to a rescue K-9 Training Program. It teaches shelter dogs basic obedience and socialization skills to give them a greater chance of life-long adoption. Inmates assigned as handlers are given instruction and guidance by certified trainers. Handlers are selected based on criminal record and behavior, and are interviewed by a staff committee.

The program runs for approximately 12 weeks with an opportunity to extend if the dogs are not yet adopted at the time of graduation.

Through the creativity of Vocational Instructor Ms. Mitchell’s Painting and Decorating students, an indoor dog park was created for the new K-9 Training Program. Three talented members of the class turned an ordinary classroom into a bright and inviting training space for the dogs and their handlers, giving them a more relaxed environment in which to work. Through his initial vision and design of the mural, student Jeffrey Eastman was instrumental in the inspiration and project development. To enhance the mural, students Ramon Santiago and Johnel Lillard contributed their own ideas for additional detail and color.

Orleans is proud of them for their commitment and hard work, which will serve as a safe space to successfully train dogs in the K-9 Program. Staff and volunteers are committed to providing a top-quality program to benefit the dogs and inmates who participate.

It recently held its first graduation for the K-9 Program of Will, Richie, and Serena, as well as for their assigned handlers.

Orleans Correctional Facility looks forward to a long partnership with community volunteers, which is already proving to be an excellent addition to the prison environment.

*Jeffrey Eastman, Ramon Santiago and Johnel Lillard turn classroom into dog park.*

K-9 graduates Will, Richie and Serena with their handlers.
**Gowanda Correctional Facility**

**Gowanda Horticulture Program** donated over 100 pumpkins to Gowanda Elementary School for “Pay-it-Forward Pumpkins Community Service Project.” Students decorated the pumpkins for Halloween and re-donate them to Gowanda Nursing Home to brighten the lives of residents with colorful, heartfelt fall decorations. The vocational project under the direction of Vocational Instructor Scott Wagner, Supervisor Bill Clark, and CO Mark Hummel have also donated nearly 10,000 pounds of fresh vegetables to local food pantries.

**Gowanda Correctional Facility Building Maintenance Instructor Daren North** shows off student’s talent; student made boat pictured from scrap pieces of wood and the skills he learned during class.

**Gowanda Vocational Education Flooring Class** spent a work day in the gym preparing it for the upcoming fall and winter sporting events. They started by replacing worn-out wall cushions. Materials were provided by Livingston Correctional Facility and installed by the men of the Gowanda Vocational Education Flooring class. The men did a great job!
Lakeview S.I.C.F. participated with Special Olympians. On September 13, Sgt. James Payne and COs James Myers and Jason Coleson participated with Special Olympians in meeting and greeting customers, taking orders, and sharing information about the WNY Special Olympics Law & Orders at Applebee’s fundraising event. Other staff supported the event by showing up, meeting Special Olympians, and enjoying a delicious meal. The event raised $822 at the Dunkirk location for Special Olympics.

Sullivan Correctional Facility inmates donate $1,000 to Liberty Rotary Club. To help with the Puerto Rico relief, inmate Gabriel Cabrera started the Puerto Rico Fundraiser. The Liberty Rotary Club and Operation Endeavor is an international agency with an office in Sullivan County. It provides support and relief to areas in need before and after disasters occur. The organization has several ongoing disaster operations it continues to assist and was grateful for the donations Sullivan Correctional Facility inmates raised. Other inmates who helped raise awareness of the fundraiser include Javier Roman, Vincent Pepe, Adrian Jackson, Anthony Negrin, and Danny Hearns. The money collected will be used to provide appliances, shelter, roofs on homes, and everyday supplies for the community in Moca.


Gowanda Correctional Facility Jeans Day Committee donated 30 backpacks to Gowanda Elementary School students filled with binders, folders, erasers, crayons, markers, and other items. Items were delivered by DSA Tarbell. Pictured: Jeans Day Committee members Eva Waterman (OA1), Billie Beck (OA2), and Cindy Irish (HCP).
Livingston Correctional Facility

Annual Inmate Garden Contest: Livingston held its Annual Inmate Garden Contest on September 14. Inmates from a.m. and p.m. classes spent spring and summer months growing plant material and planning the layout for the beds. With a competitive spirit on both sides, results were very close this year with the a.m. class winning by a narrow margin.

The reward for the winning team was Mess Hall pizza with sweet peppers, onions, sliced tomatoes and garlic from our gardens. The p.m. class is already planning the flowers and plants they want to grow to win the contest next year.

Speaker Series for Friends of Bill W (members of Alcoholics Anonymous): Five volunteer guests with 38 years of combined sobriety spoke to over 130 inmates, sharing their experiences and hope in recovery and sobriety. Pictured: Mark (Scotia), Mike and Dan (Buffalo), Kevin (Neptune, NJ), and Don (Bellingham, WA).

The Livingston SEFA Committee, chaired by Emily Stringham, used mums grown by its Vocational Horticulture Class for its fundraiser and provided 75 mums to the Vincent House Comfort Care Home in Wayland. Pictured: Vocational Instructor Marquis, retired Livingston Business Office staffer Ms. MacDonald, and Director of Development and Volunteers Ms Jacobs.
To commemorate Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Community Supervision’s Regions held a variety of events and activities:

**Photo 1. Bronx Region.** Assistant Re-entry Manager Wanda Burgos created a display at the Bronx Alexander Avenue Community Supervision reporting area location. She made purple ribbons to distribute, provided information from the National Domestic Violence Hotline, and included two DV prevention t-shirts.

**Photo 2. Brooklyn Region.** The Brooklyn Region Re-entry staff contacted the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) and accessed the website for resources. They received 123 books entitled “Domestic Violence Finding Safety and Support” to distribute. Re-entry Manager Audrey Thompson along with Assistant Re-entry Managers Michelle Hall and Libby Black set up a resource table for both staff and parolees to raise awareness on domestic violence, discuss domestic violence and let victims know they are not alone. Re-entry staff also attended the W.A.R.M. Annual Domestic Violence Panel in Manhattan.

**Photos 3 & 4. Queens Region (Queens/Long Island Region).** Re-entry Manager Erik Singletary and Assistant Re-entry Manager Sheryll Brown put together an extensive workshop for Queens staff: Awareness Breeds Change. Re-entry Manager Erik Singletary and Assistant Re-entry Manager Will Smith planned for the Long Island portion of the Region and had survivors of abuse speak at the program.
Photo 5. Queens Region staff (Queens/Long Island Region) in their Awareness Breeds Change T-shirts.

Photo 6. Wear purple in support of domestic violence awareness.

Photo 7. Albany staff from OVA, Medical, and OMH (145 Central Avenue) don purple for Domestic Violence Awareness Day.

Herkimer College Magazine Wins Awards

Two Herkimer College students received recognition from the Community College Humanities Association (CCHA) for their contributions to the 2018 issue of the college’s arts and literary publication Phaethon.

Theodore J. Cook of the Mohawk Correctional Facility won first place for his original script, “The Other Side of the Curtain.”

GuiHua Gan, an international student from China, won third place in the artwork category for her ceramic sculpture “Longping.”

The CCHA’s annual literary magazine contest recognizes student achievement in the humanities across the United States.

Phaethon competes in the Eastern Division comprised of community colleges in a region extending from Maine to Maryland, and also including Puerto Rico.
Wende Correctional Facility hosted its first ever “Deaf Art Show” featuring a culmination of five years’ worth of art created by Wende’s deaf inmate population in monthly art workshops. Also on display was artwork that adorns the walls of Wende’s Deaf Resource Room/Sign Language Class.

In addition to Wende staff and inmates, the show was attended by deaf facilitators from Rochester and RIT — Patti Durr, Karen Christie and Rob Tawny, NTID Sign Language and Interpreting Professor NTID Danny Maffia, and renowned deaf artist Nancy Rourke, whose own work served as the inspiration for several of the inmates’ paintings.

The workshops were originally designed as an outlet for the deaf population to express their feelings through art. It has since become a way to show deaf pride, as well as acceptance into the hearing world.

The program has amassed quite a collection of art from current and former inmates.

Fishkill “Celebrate Your Children” Day

On October 20, Fishkill Correctional Facility held its Celebrate Your Children event — a program designed to strengthen and reinforce family bonds between fathers and children. Fathers and children enjoyed a fun-filled evening of activities. And while fathers spent time with their children, mothers and caregivers were pampered at the Springfield Baptist Church.

Following are snapshots of this event, including a group photo with Superintendent Leroy Fields, Fishkill staff and fathers who participated.
In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Department held its annual event at the Albany Training Academy on October 11 themed “Hispanics: One Endless Voice to Enhance our Traditions”.

**Photo 1.** Shawangunk Correctional Facility Superintendent Jaifa Collado served as keynote speaker for the Department’s Hispanic Heritage Month event.

**Photo 2.** Director of Transitional Services Lisette Roldan-Hart emceed the Hispanic Heritage Month event and Sullivan Correctional Facility Offender Rehabilitation Counselor Jefrysson Aldana (far left) presented a proclamation.

**Photo 3.** Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci and Deputy Commissioner Osbourne A. McKay provide remarks and present Superintendent Collado with a Certificate of Appreciation.

**Photo 4.** L-R—Commissioner Annucci, Superintendent Collado, and Deputy Commissioner McKay.