



BRIAN FISCHER
COMMISSIONER

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
THE HARRIMAN STATE CAMPUS – BUILDING 2
1220 WASHINGTON AVENUE
ALBANY, N.Y. 12226-2050

October 28, 2008

As Commissioner of the New York State Department of Correctional Services, I would like to welcome you to this Annual Training Symposium and commend the coordinators for conducting this event. The issue of staff development is clearly of critical importance as the correctional field changes and grows more complicated and interdependent.

DOCS is increasingly working closely with our colleagues in the Division of Parole, Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives, State Police, Office of Children and Family Services, Office of Mental Health and other agencies to prepare our inmates – and their families – for life after prison. The treatment offenders receive while incarcerated, and the supervision and support they receive afterwards, must be part of a consistent and comprehensive approach to rehabilitation and public safety.

The best way we, as correctional professionals, can assist offenders under our care is to become better professionals ourselves. We do this by coming together and in open dialogue, learn from one another more about what each can contribute, and more about ourselves.

We are doing positive work in helping to prepare inmates for the outside world, whether through additional educational opportunities that help offenders get meaningful jobs after release or programs which challenge inmates to change their thought patterns. Attracting more minorities to the field of corrections is an important goal of corrections given the disproportionate number of minority inmates we are responsible for.

Please make the most of this symposium and the chance it affords each of us to network, share new ideas, and learn.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Fischer".

Brian Fischer, Commissioner