



**DOCCS Celebrates Black History Month with Guest Speaker and Reception
February 27, 2014**



From l. to r.: Former Superintendent Joseph Williams, Acting Commissioner Anthony Annucci and Deputy Commissioner of Correctional Industries and Accreditation Osbourne McKay.

DOCCS celebrated Black History Month, on February 27th, with a brief presentation at Central Office in Albany. The event featured the reading of the [proclamation](#) issued by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo. Acting Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci then spoke on the successes and hardships faced by African Americans over the last 50 years, using the movie "42", about Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier of major league baseball, to highlight how difficult, and yet rewarding, positive change can be.

The honored guest speaker, Joseph Williams, retired Superintendent of Lincoln Correctional facility, touched on many aspects of the history of African Americans in the United States. Mr. Williams also mentioned DOCCS staff that were among the first African Americans to hold certain positions within the agency and who were contributors to ensuring equal rights for all.