



NEWS RELEASE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Acting Commissioner Terra Taylor

Presented by Jason P. Miller, Chief of Communications and Community Relations

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Fall 2023 DOC Citizens Academy gives community members a look "inside the walls" of Delaware's correctional system

Six evening sessions start September 18; applications due September 1

Dover, DE – The Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) is seeking applications for its Fall 2023 Citizens Academy which begins September 18 in Wilmington. Designed as a free program for community members, the DOC Citizens Academy gives local residents a first-hand look at the operations of Delaware’s largest law enforcement agency and provides an insider’s view into how the DOC achieves its dual mission of public safety and rehabilitation. Participants meet with Department of Correction leaders, uniformed officers, and treatment and program providers and have an opportunity to engage with individuals under DOC supervision. Weekly sessions feature informational presentations, specialized unit demonstrations, class discussions and interactive tours of prison and community corrections facilities and a Probation and Parole office.

“The Department of Correction Citizens Academy gives Delaware residents the opportunity to see our correctional system up close and it builds valuable connections between our staff and the communities we serve,” **Acting Commissioner Terra Taylor said.** “I welcome you to complete your application today and to join us this Fall.”

The Fall 2023 DOC Citizens Academy will meet from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. on Monday evenings from September 18 through October 23. Sessions and tours will take place at the Howard R. Young Correctional Center and Plummer Community Corrections Center in Wilmington and the Northern New Castle County Probation & Parole District Office and Baylor Women’s Correctional Institution in New Castle.

The DOC is seeking applications from a diverse group of community member participants age 18 and over. No corrections or law enforcement experience is necessary. Class size is limited and interested participants must complete a short application and pass a simple background check that is attached [and posted online HERE](#). Completed applications should be returned to Jason.Miller@Delaware.gov by September 1, 2023.

The DOC Citizens Academy seeks to strengthen public engagement with the DOC through information-sharing, access, and dialogue and to build a strong partnership with local residents. Sessions will focus on a variety of topics, including officer and staff training, prison operations, probation supervision methods, medical care, substance abuse treatment, behavioral healthcare, vocational training and education, and DOC's central role in Delaware's statewide reentry initiative. Participants will gain an understanding of how DOC assesses offender needs and risks and leverages technology, training, communication, and collaboration to meet their needs, mitigate those risks, support reentry success and reduce Delaware's recidivism rate.

Members of the media are encouraged to attend and participate in Citizens Academy sessions.

Statewide, more than 4,000 individuals are currently incarcerated in Department of Correction facilities and approximately 10,000 individuals are currently being supervised by the DOC on probation or court-ordered pretrial supervision. Previous DOC Citizens Academy programs have taken place in New Castle County, Sussex County and Kent County.

For more information and to submit an application please contact Jason Miller, Chief of Communications and Community Relations at Jason.Miller@Delaware.gov or call 302-379-4048.

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