



NEWS RELEASE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Acting Commissioner Terra Taylor

Presented by Jason Miller, Office of the Commissioner, Chief of Communications and Community Relations

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Department of Correction receives national recognition for accreditation

Philadelphia, PA – This August during the semi-annual meeting of the American Correctional Association (ACA) the Delaware Department of Correction received two national awards that recognize its commitment to excellence in correctional practices.

During the ACA's 153rd Congress of Correction in Philadelphia, Acting Commissioner Terra Taylor accepted the Global Eagle Award and the Lucy Webb Hayes Award from Thomas Stickrath, Chair of the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections and former Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. **The Global Eagle Award** is presented to state correctional agencies that have achieved ACA accreditation across all facilities. **The Lucy Webb Hayes Award** recognizes agencies that are dedicated to enhancing public and the well-being of those in its care by achieving full ACA accreditation along with full compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). PREA, passed by the U.S. Congress in 2003, established national standards around the prevention, detection and response to sexual assault, sexual abuse and sexual harassment in prisons, jails and other facilities. The Hayes award is named in honor of the wife of United State President Rutherford B. Hayes who served as the ACA's first president in 1870.

“The men and women of the Delaware Department of Correction have worked long and hard to earn this national recognition,” **said Acting Department of Correction Commissioner Terra Taylor**. “ACA accreditation affirms our work to implement industry-leading security, health, safety and administrative policies and practices, a willingness to subject ourselves to rigorous outside scrutiny, a commitment to maintaining transparency at all levels, and a track record of continuous improvement to meet our dual mission of public safety and offender rehabilitation. In addition, meeting and exceeding the standards of the Prison Rape Elimination Act is a longstanding priority for the DOC. PREA compliance demonstrates our commitment to fostering a comprehensive system of safety and security that is built around excellent training, buy-in from security and non-security staff at all levels, educating incarcerated people about their rights and protections, and a commitment to respond quickly and thoroughly to PREA-related reports. These awards are a testament to the exceptional efforts of our people and their dedication to our important work.”

In 2022 the DOC marked a milestone by [securing ACA accreditation across all Level V prison facilities](#). Additionally, earlier this year the Community Corrections Treatment Center (CCTC), DOC's Level IV statewide substance use disorder treatment facility in Smyrna, also earned ACA accreditation

which marked the final facility in Delaware's correctional system to achieve this benchmark. [To secure ACA accreditation](#) correctional facilities complete months to years of best practice analysis and internal policy development, review and implementation. The accreditation process features a two- to three-day on-site audit by a team of independent auditors who conduct a comprehensive inspection, review files, and interview staff and inmates or probationers about facility conditions and operations. Each facility's ACA Audit Committee recommends re-accreditation to the ACA Commission on Accreditation for Corrections which is solely responsible for rendering accreditation. A total of 16 DOC individual facilities and offices have earned ACA Accreditation:

- 9 Level V prisons and Level IV community corrections facilities
- All Probation & Parole District Offices (5 offices)
- Steven R. Floyd Sr. Training Academy
- Central Administration Building

ACA is a private, non-profit, trade association and accrediting body for the corrections industry. The organization was founded in 1870 and is one of the preeminent correctional organizations in the United States. ACA accredits prisons, jails, community residential centers (halfway houses), probation departments, correctional treatment communities, and various other corrections facilities in the U.S. and internationally, using their independently published standards manuals. The standards created and refined by the American Correctional Association represent fundamental correctional practices that ensure staff and inmate safety and security; enhance staff morale; improve record maintenance and data management capabilities; assist in protecting the agency against litigation; and improve the function of the facility or agency at all levels.



ATTACHED PHOTO (pictured left to right): DOC Statewide Accreditation and Compliance Manager Damaris Slawik, DOC Acting Commissioner Terra Taylor, DOC Chief of Planning, Research, and Reentry Heather Zwickert.

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