



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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Eight local residents complete the Fall 2023 DOC Citizens Academy

New Castle, DE – This past week, eight local residents completed the [Fall 2023 Department of Correction \(DOC\) Citizens Academy](#). This six-week program gave participants an inside look at the organization and operations of Delaware’s largest law enforcement agency and provided first-hand insight into how the DOC achieves its dual mission of public safety and rehabilitation.

“The Citizens Academy was established with a single goal - to empower and educate our citizens about the important work behind the walls of our correctional system and the impact of that work in the community. It is a unique program that offers a glimpse into the world of corrections and aims to bridge the gap between Delawareans and the men and women of the DOC,” **said Acting Commissioner Terra Taylor**. “We value the connections we develop and the partnerships we strengthen with our Citizens Academy participants and we encourage each of them to be ambassadors for change, to use their voice and newfound knowledge to break down barriers, and to become advocates for our Department across our State.”

Participants in the most recent class represented a wide range of interests and professions, from treatment, social services, and the law to the criminal justice, academic, and business communities. Four DOC Citizens Academies have been completed since the program kicked off in the fall of 2021, with more than 40 total participants to-date. The Fall 2023 Citizens Academy sessions featured informational presentations on a range of key topics including assessment and classification, medical and behavioral healthcare and treatment programs, education and vocational skill instruction, Probation and Parole community supervision methods, evidence-based practices, staff training, and reentry. Participants received on-site briefings and facility tours led by Wardens, treatment professionals and security staff of Plummer Community Corrections Center, Howard R. Young Correctional Institution, and Baylor Women’s Correctional Institution, and spent an evening exploring community supervision programs, practices, and outcomes with senior Probation and Parole leadership at the state’s largest Probation and Parole District Office on Cherry Lane in New Castle. Participants engaged throughout the Academy with senior DOC leaders, security, and treatment staff and heard directly from current inmates during sessions at prison facilities.

The Citizens Academy goal is to strengthen public engagement with the DOC through information-sharing, access, and dialogue and to build a strong partnership with local residents. Academy sessions are built around informational presentations, demonstrations, class discussions and facility tours. Sessions focus on a wide variety of topics and participants 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.

The DOC will continue to offer the Citizens Academy program in 2024. Members of the community who are interested in receiving application information should contact Jason Miller, Chief of Communications and Community Relations, at Jason.Miller@Delaware.gov. A call for applications will be released in early 2024 and will be posted on the DOC website and social media pages.

Statewide, more than 4,500 individuals are currently incarcerated in Department of Correction facilities and more than 10,000 individuals are currently being supervised by the DOC on probation or court-ordered pretrial supervision.



The attached photo from the October 23, 2023 session at Baylor Women’s Correctional Institution features the 8 members of the Fall 2023 DOC Citizens Academy class with Acting Commissioner Terra Taylor and BWCi leadership and staff.

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