



Friday
February 4,
2011

Former IDOC Commissioner Edwin Buss was presented the Distinguished Service Award by Indiana National Guard Adjutant General Martin Umbarger at the Leadership Symposium in Brown County. It is the highest civilian honor the United States military can bestow and is issued for exceptionally meritorious service to the government of the United States. General Umbarger commented, "Commissioner Buss has been extremely supportive of the Indiana National Guard. A military veteran himself, he understands the demands placed on our Citizen-Soldiers. And no state agency has been more accommodating and understanding of our Guardsmen than the Indiana Department of Corrections." (see photo left)



The 2011 Hoosiers Helping Hoosiers IndiCANA Food Drive, sponsored by First Lady Cheri Daniels, began this week and runs through February 25th! Last year the Department collected 7227 food items and \$4,247 to be donated to food banks across the state, thanks to the tireless efforts of IDOC staff. Again this year, each facility is encouraged to participate in the month-long event. If your facility has not signed up to join the cause, please have the coordinator for your facility contact Stephanie Lightfoot at Central Office.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility staff gathered to wish Superintendent James Basinger well in his new assignment as Executive Director of Adult Facilities. Director Basinger helped serve cake during a reception in his honor. "Base" said his years at Wabash have been educational. "It feels like I "grew up" here in terms of my correctional development. "Many of my co-workers have become life long friends." The 20 year veteran of the IDOC has been linked to Wabash Valley since 1992. James Basinger will begin serving in his new post effective Sunday, February 6, 2011. (see photo below)

Westville Correctional Facility was successfully recommended for re-accreditation by the American Correctional Association (ACA) at the ACA winter conference in San Antonio, with its highest score yet of 99.1% on the non-mandatory applicable standards.

Occupants of the Indiana Veterans Education and Transition (INVET) Dorm, a newly implemented veterans program at the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility, held a memorial service to honor one of their comrades who had lost his battle with cancer on Wednesday, February 2, 2011. Residents remembered the Army veteran through inspirational messages and song, and observed a moment of silence.



PEN Products' Job Placement Department conducted a "Job Club" for 19 of their resident workers from the Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility. The topics discussed included Ethical Decision Making, focusing on the workplace, and "The 30 Second Elevator Speech". After a general discussion, the residents participated in small group activities which concluded with one on one practice of their elevator speeches.

Indiana State Prison-Minimum Security Unit Work Crew gave their assistance to the citizens of Michigan City. Recently, large amounts of snow had made it difficult for the street departments to keep up with the demands. The offenders helped by shoveling sidewalks, fire hydrants and bus stops.



Their help was greatly appreciated by all. (see photo left)

The Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) Advisory Board met, learning more about a pilot solar water heating project, upcoming construction of a stun fence, and how P.E.W. report recommendations could lead to sentencing reform. Board members were also briefed on an upcoming MSNBC production at WVCF.

Central Office received 100% compliance with all ACA mandatory standards and 97.9% compliance on non-mandatory standards during its mock audit. Preparation continues as staff prepare for the ACA audit in March.

The Indiana Correctional Peace Officer Fund (ICPOF) Scholarship Committee met to review applications for the seven scholarships available for the spring semester. Look for the winners to be announced soon!

Weekly Views