

Defendant/Offender Workforce Development Conference

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The 2010 DOWD Conference wishes to congratulate the following awardees for their outstanding contributions to prisoner reentry!



OUTSTANDING DOWD COMMITMENT AWARD (NATIONAL)

*Recognizing outstanding leaders and/organizations on a **NATIONAL** basis who have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to the DOWD initiative and have successfully promoted programs, practices, policies or legislation that improve the long-term employment prospects of persons with criminal convictions.*

Chief Jack McDonough, (District of Delaware) has worked tirelessly in pushing for implementation of the 2nd Chance Act and programming assistance for U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services. The implementation of a new Budget Code for all 94 districts nationally will now allow these offices to contract out for services to help reduce recidivism levels for federal defendants/offenders. Furthermore, Chief McDonough helped to educate the federal courts and its staff regarding “best practices” on prisoner reentry. His work was showcased by the University of Delaware via a three-district study, which compared the success of prisoner reentry programming on medium- to high-risk offenders.

OUTSTANDING DOWD COMMITMENT AWARD (LOCAL) –

*Recognizing outstanding leaders and/organizations on a **STATE** or **LOCAL** basis who have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to the DOWD initiative and have successfully promoted programs, practices, policies or legislation that improve the long-term employment prospects of persons with criminal convictions.*

Bill Siedhoff, Director of Human Services (St. Louis, MO) is an institution in the state of Missouri for his tireless work around prisoner reentry and found a way to navigate beyond party politics. Mr. Siedhoff, nominated by Francis Slay (Mayor of St. Louis City), Ms. Nancy McCarthy (Regional Administrator for Probation & Parole), and Sr. Carleen Reck (St. Vincent de Paul), was recognized for his innovativeness in finding funding for reentry programs, i.e. \$1 million in 2006 for [Project Re-Connect \(PRC\)](#) to focus on employment/housing for offenders and \$1.2 million in 2006 for [nonviolent jail diversion program](#). He also helped to create St. Louis' first one-stop career center focused on the formerly incarcerated. The [Re-Entry One-Stop \(REOS\)](#) was created in 2009 to help individuals with criminal backgrounds become connected to employment, training and other services.

MIGDALIA “Miggie” BAERGA-BUFFLER AWARD

*Recognizing a faith-based or community-based **organization** that have promoted offender workforce development through partnerships with local, state, or federal agency, delivered effective support & other related services; and advocated for policies and practices that supported successful reentry.*

Providing service since 1984, [Prison Outreach Ministry](#) was nominated by the Montgomery County (MD) Department of Corrections. Prison Outreach Ministry's [Welcome Home Reentry Program](#) is a dedicated constituency of trained mentors. Matching people of faith and maturity with individuals returning home from jail and prison in Montgomery/Prince George's county (MD) as well as the District of Columbia. Each mentor tailor individualized plans to address mentee needs, such as transitional and permanent housing links, job training and employment, healthcare, mental health and much more. The [National Association of Counties \(NACo\)](#) has recognized the Welcome Home Reentry Program housed at Montgomery County's Pre-Release Center as a national model of a successful collaboration between a faith-based organization and correctional department.

OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP IN WORKFORCE

Recognizing individuals who have demonstrated leadership in creating and promoting innovative offender workforce development partnerships, programs, policies, practices, and/or legislative initiatives.

Mary Moran, Offender Workforce Development Administrator for Travis County (TX), has dedicated her life to individuals with little resources. Through her efforts she was able to partner with the National Institute of Corrections in training a team of like-minded officials in Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) training. Through the training she has been able to educate others in OWDS. As of August 2007, over 250 individuals have been trained by Mary. Furthermore, due to her passion she spearheaded "Ban the Box" in [Travis County](#) (Austin, TX). Through the partnership this initiative was unanimously approved by the Travis County Commissioners' Court.

OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO OFFENDER WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION

Recognizing organizations that have developed and initiated correctional industry and/or correctional education programs that assist with successful transition into the community. These may include innovative training and apprenticeship programming in high demand industries.

Nominated by the U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services Office (Northern District of Texas) [Texas State Technical College](#) in Abilene (TX) is known for its ability to partner. This partnership along with the Corrections Departments in Texas created the "on-line, web-based" program [ACHIEVE](#) to assist inmates develop personal skills that improve employability. Inmates can learn about a variety of topics including: education, employment, housing, financial literacy, and time management. The information collected on this data management system generates daily, weekly and yearly statistics to measure outcomes. The system is designed to allow probation/parole officers or facilitators who enroll the participants to monitor their caseloads and observe individual progress on-line to better assist clientele.

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP OF THE YEAR (NATIONAL)

Recognizing national businesses and/or employers who have provided training and/or employment opportunities to persons with criminal backgrounds. These trainings and employment opportunities have increased prospects for successful reintegration to society.

JE Dunn Construction in Kansas City (MO) is the nation's largest builder of prisons and the nation's tenth largest general contracting firm. Though this nomination seems out of place JE Dunn Construction has placed a commitment on assisting prisoner reentry programming and workforce development. The company has actively recruited and employed individuals with criminal backgrounds as well as donating ten percent of the company's pre-tax earnings towards charitable contributions including reentry programming with the [Salvation Army](#), [Catholic Charities](#) and others. In 2008, Mr. Dunn provided a \$300,000 contribution at the launching of the Second Chance Program in Kansas City, which serves both Missouri and Kansas. Furthermore, he brought leaders of business and elected officials with him to join the board of this initiative. His belief extends further onto his staff who have donated over \$780,000 to charities in 2008.

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP OF THE YEAR (LOCAL)

Recognizing national, state or local businesses and/or employers who have provided training and/or employment opportunities to persons with criminal backgrounds. These trainings and employment opportunities have increased prospects for successful reintegration to society.

Solo Cup, nominated by [Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas](#), is a manufacturer of consumer packaging products and has sales of \$2.4 billion and is one of the employment leaders in the Dallas community. Solo Cup works in partnership with [Volunteers of America](#), [Work in Texas](#), and the Dallas workforce system in ensuring quality applicants are referred for employment. In 2009, almost 40 offenders have been employed with Solo Cup earning a starting salary of \$7.25/hr and up depending upon experience and receive standard benefits.

JUSTICE REINVESTMENT-STATE CHAMPION AWARD

Recognizing a Hero of the DOWD conference's home state in assisting the reduction of recidivism, enhancing public safety and promoting effective prisoner reentry strategies.

As Vice-Chair for the Texas House Corrections Committee, **Rep. Jerry Madden** from Plano (TX) has negotiated key reform policies to assist the state's prison population in promoting prisoner reentry. During this same time he helped save the state over \$200 million while improving public safety conditions for incarcerated mothers with infants, release policies for the terminally ill and tackling a challenging juvenile incarceration system. Rep. Madden, a Republican, has felt it his duty to reach out to state Democrats while recruiting fellow Republicans to this cause. In 2007 Texas Monthly Magazine highlighted Rep. Madden as one of the state's [10 Best Legislators](#).

