
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

It's Public Employees Recognition Week, and we have had events at the secure facilities to honor our staff. We have been at Swanson Monroe and Columbia, and Bridge City, and I have been very happy with the programs that have been presented to recognize our employees. As I always say, our staff is our greatest resource, and it always does me good to get out to the facilities and offices and spend time with you all. Each of the facilities presented Employee of the Year Awards, and I'd like to recognize those special people for their outstanding service to our youth and our agency:

The Employees of the Year were: **Bridge City:** JJS – JJS2 Cory Morgan; Supervisor – Pride Dorm Group Leader Charles Farris; Support Staff – Administrative Assistant 3 Shauna Charles. **Swanson Monroe:** JJS – JJS2 Kimberly Roquemore Robinson; Supervisor – Acting Deputy Director Eric Washington; Social Services – Social Worker 5-B Glenda Ward; Support – Administrative Assistant 3 Deborah Coleman. **Swanson Columbia:** JJS - JJS3 Michael Lyons; Supervisor - JJS4 Reginald Hammock; Social Services - Social Services Counselor 3 Jatansha Jackson; Support Staff – Administrative Assistant 4 Karen Connolly.

Next week we will recognize central office staff. We are looking forward to the month of July, when we will be traveling and getting out to see everyone in the field offices, which will have their events in accordance with APPA's National Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week.

It's always good to hear from staff in the field. After my remarks last week about being optimistic, some staff members did send me some of the things they have found to be grateful for. Some of the things they are thankful for: "I am thankful for my faith; God, my fiancée and family that loves me; daily needs for food, drink, shelter (and a hot shower) are met; freedom to work, worship and attend church as I want to and do other activities that I choose; **a good job, working with some truly wonderful people!** Sufficient income to do some of the recreational activities I like; good health." "I am so thankful and grateful to God for just waking me up this morning, and in my right mind, and then allowing me to travel to work safely. And when I arrive I find our youth and staff doing good. Another day that I have the opportunity to speak positively into someone's life. We are all a work in progress; I am so thankful that God is still working on me." Nice to hear!

Sunday is Mother's Day, so I hope you've already chosen just the right card, gift, or remembrance for your mom. Something to be grateful for is still having your mother with you, or happy memories if she is not. One of my staff (in her 60s) was a little sad that she no longer has a mother or mother-in-law to honor, but she received a handwritten note from her adult daughter and son that brought tears to her eyes. "The cycle goes on," she said, "I'm grateful for all the years I had my mother and father with me, for all they taught me, and for knowing where they are now and that we will be together once again." So for those of you who have your Moms, give them a big hug and a "thank you" too. Here's a shout-out to my mom: "Happy Mother's Day, Mom! Thank you for teaching me about 'spunk'." Some people have told me that I may have a little bit of spunk in me! The acorn falls close to the tree!

Well, I'll close for now with best wishes to each of every member of the OJJ family, especially to all the moms, with my heartfelt thanks for all you do, every day and everywhere, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,
"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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