



Department of
Youth Services

Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed
National Correctional Officers and Employees Week
May 8, 2013

Dear Staff:

In honor of National Correctional Officers and Employees Week, May 6-10, I want to take a moment to personally recognize and give thanks for the daily efforts of the correctional professionals employed with DYS.

As we roll out our Back-to-Basics initiative at all of the facilities, our focus will be on creating safe, positive environments where youth can change their lives. Together we will target the challenges that come with managing difficult youth:

- **Violence reduction:** assaults on youth and staff are unacceptable, and youth will be held accountable
- **Zero tolerance for sexual exposure:** we will improve youth's pro-social skills by making it clear that sexual exposure is inappropriate and intolerable
- **Reduction of gang activity:** since many of the youth in our care admit to gang involvement, we will increase our gang interventions to reduce active and disruptive gang activity

From those who have daily interaction with youth, to those who offer behind the scenes support and direction, every staff member plays a vital role. With your cooperation and input, improvements will be developed and solutions will be implemented. The end result will be safer and more beneficial environments for both youth and staff.

Thank you for the impact you have had on the youth currently in our custody and under parole supervision, and for the many youth you have helped become productive members of their families and communities.

Sincerely,

Harvey J. Reed, Director
Department of Youth Services