



Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

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Terry Collins, Director

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Ohio Prison Director Names 2008 Correction Officer of the Year

(Columbus) – Today, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) Director Terry J. Collins was joined by State Representative John White and other dignitaries at the Reginald A. Wilkinson Corrections Training Academy for the annual DRC Correction Officer of the Year Ceremony. A Correction Officer from each of Ohio's 30 state-operated prisons, along with their family members, friends, and DRC staff were present for the announcement of the recipient of the Ronald C. Marshall Award.

Correction Officer VeeDa Rucker from the Warren Correctional Institution (WCI) was selected by her peers as the winner of the prestigious award. Officer Rucker began her career with DRC in August 2000 and has proven to be an asset both to the Warren Correctional Institution and to the department. Since beginning her employment at WCI she continues to be active in several areas, including the Combined Charitable Campaign, Health and Safety Committee, Equal Employment Opportunity Committee, Security Threat Group Committee, Special Response Team and the DRC Honor Guard. Within her community, Officer Rucker is actively involved with the Dayton Urban League, Neighborhood Association, and a church affiliate mentorship program. She is also a member of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice. She has embraced opportunities for career and personal development and is looked to as a leader among her peers at the Warren Correctional Institution.

"Officer Rucker is a shining example of the qualities we look for in a true corrections professional," stated DRC Director Terry J. Collins. "She makes contributions to our mission each and every day, and we are very proud to have her represent our agency as the Correction Officer of the Year."

For more information, please contact Mark Stegmoller, Public Information Officer at Warren Correctional Institution, at (513) 932-3388.