



For immediate release

IDOC Receives National Award in Corrections

Indianapolis, IN (August 9, 2011) – Indiana Department of Correction’s (IDOC) Commissioner Bruce Lemmon announced today that the IDOC has received the Golden Eagle Award from the American Correctional Association at the annual conference in Kissimmee, Florida.

The Golden Eagle Award, which is given to agencies who have achieved 100 percent ACA accreditation, was presented to Commissioner Lemmon at a ceremony yesterday afternoon.



From left to right: Executive Director of Adult Facilities James Basinger, Former IDOC Commissioner Edwin Buss, Current IDOC Commissioner Bruce Lemmon, Branchville Superintendent Gilbert Peters, Executive Director of Youth Services Mike Dempsey, IREF Superintendent Beckie Bennett, and PEN Products Director Mike Herron.

Commissioner Lemmon commented, “Receiving the Golden Eagle is a tremendous honor for Indiana and a testament to the hard work and dedication that each of our staff exhibit every day. This could not have been achieved if it weren’t for the nearly 6,500 current employees in the department, as well as the many who have been involved in the process but are now retired. The award is a great asset for any agency that participates in the accreditation process.”

Indiana joins the ranks of only 15 other correctional jurisdictions in the nation who have received this honor and obtained ACA accreditation in all of its facilities, including all adult and juvenile state facilities, the Correctional Training Institute, Central Office, and the Parole Services Division.

The final three facilities to receive their accreditation this year, and position the IDOC to receive the coveted ACA's Golden Eagle Award, were the Indiana Women's Prison, Branchville Correctional Facility, and the Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility.

The accreditation process for each facility includes an audit of the policies, procedures and practices in the areas of operations, programs and services. The audit also checks for compliance with mandatory and non-mandatory standards. With accreditation comes the responsibility of completing an IDOC audit once a year and meeting the standards and passing an ACA reaccreditation audit every three years. ACA standards represent the current best correctional practices associated with the care, custody, and management of offenders.

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