



Spokane County Detention Services Community Corrections Newsletter

Director John McGrath

Lt. Jason Robison

Winter 2017-18



Our Mission:

Providing services for adult offenders to enhance public safety through effective and innovative programs supporting positive choices, constructive behavior and accountability, thereby reducing repeat criminal behavior.

Our Principals:

- We believe change is possible, and it begins internally.
- We believe all people are equal and diverse individuals having intrinsic worth who deserve personal attention, support, humor, empowerment and recognition.
- We believe in creating a challenging environment that emphasizes individual growth, exploration and strength.
- We believe in being proactive participants in societal, environmental, political and individual change to promote a safer community.

Geiger Debuts AGC Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program



Geiger inmates participating in AGC Pre-Apprenticeship training shown practicing with Class VII rough terrain forklift.

Geiger Corrections Center offered its first-ever Pre-Apprenticeship Training program this fall. Partnering with the Inland NW Associated General Contractors, Geiger sought to provide a pathway offenders to living-wage employment.

Geiger Corrections Lt. Jason Robison explained those who complete the program will be released with skills leading directly to building trades employment. "AGC has put together a pre-apprenticeship training package that includes CPR, first aid, forklift and flagging certifications, plus an introduction to construction framing. Upon release from Geiger, they're qualified to apply for acceptance into AGC's Pre-Apprenticeship program with pathways to carpentry, heavy equipment operation or construction laborer. These are good paying jobs that are in demand right now."

Mike Ankney, Director of AGC's Apprenticeship Center in Spokane, explained that the local construction workforce is aging. "With baby boomers retiring, they take with them a lifetime of skills and expertise. This is demanding work and we're finding it difficult to retain dependable, physically fit applicants. The apprenticeship positions we hire for offer a combination of on-the-job training and related classroom instruction under the supervision of a journey-level craft person teaching the practical and theoretical aspects of a highly skilled occupation."

The AGC Apprenticeship program at Geiger met four days a week, eight hours a day for six weeks. Primary instructor, Shawn Kingsbury, started each day with yoga, circuit training and classroom instruction. The afternoon was dedicated to hands-on instruction and project building. The chosen project was converting a 576-square foot picnic shelter into an enclosed greenhouse to be used by Geiger's Community Garden.

Shawn is a Spokane native who had his major college football career cut short by injury. Now 8 years sober, Shawn fell into alcoholism as he crisscrossed the country working construction jobs. Shawn keynoted the Sept. 28 Breaking Barriers graduation at Geiger, telling the grads he fought through three significant relapses over three years before finally breaking alcohol's hold; each time more resolved than the last to succeed.

Due to the amount of individual instruction required and the accelerated pace of the curriculum, Shawn explains the program is limited to about 10 participants in each training group. Most of those selected for the Geiger pilot were Work Crew inmates who'd demonstrated adherence to rules, personal responsibility, a positive attitude and a strong work ethic. They also were required to be sentenced inmates who'd be in custody long enough to finish the 6-week program.

Geiger Lt. Robison commented the program is designed to provide offenders a route back to a constructive life. "Geiger has been pretty good at promoting our positive change programs and a lot of offenders have broken from their criminogenic connections and addictions. However, it's a difficult process with a lot of stumbling blocks, and too many end up falling back to old behaviors when they're unable to establish stable housing and meet basic expenses. We're really pleased to be able to bring this program to this select group of inmates, but regret the first class wasn't able to accommodate females--simply because it would have complicated the logistics. The hope is to offer the program again in the early spring, and we're anxious to be able to include females. Our experience with female Work Crew inmates is that they're consistently some of the best workers we put afield."

Geiger Lt. Joanne Lake Puts A Wrap On 30-Year Corrections Career



Detention Services Sgt. Jason Robison (right, promoted to Lieutenant as Lt. Lake's successor) and Geiger Admin Sergeant Dan Flint (center) confer with Lt. Lake on her retirement day.

Spokane County Detention Services staff and can be forgiven if they were feeling a void late last summer, as affable Spokane County Detention Services Lieutenant Joanne Lake embarked on retirement. Fond reminiscing, well-wishing and "Navajo Tacos" made for a memorable retirement send-off.

While all were elated for Lt. Lake, the underlying realization was that Detention Services was losing somebody who for decades had made the organization more cohesive and proactive; somebody who brought out the best of the people around her.

She's the person explaining why a piece of information others considered irrelevant might be important. She's the person looking beyond an inmate's outward behavior and instead focusing on

their criminal history, motivators and needs. She's the one reminding that evidence-based practices teach us to look at the offender, not the offense. She's the one comfortable working with conflicting ideas and competing ideals; determined to explain and explore rather than separate and isolate.

Lt. Lake spent her final six years with Detention Services managing Geiger's Custody operations and launching Geiger's offender reformation programs. She instituted the Breaking Barriers cognitive behavioral course and established a RCW-compliant intensive out-patient substance treatment program. She started a GED program at Geiger, which is now expanding to certain inmates at Spokane County Jail. She collaborated with Fulcrum Institute to bring re-entry education to Geiger offenders transitioning back into the community. She spear-headed the return of the Electric Home Monitoring to Geiger. She enlisted Celebrate Recovery and Alcoholics Anonymous volunteers to supplement the substance treatment program. She worked patiently for years to help bring jail and Geiger Corrections Officers together under a uniform contract. She adroitly navigated maintenance problems stemming from Geiger's antiquated buildings, plumbing, electrical and boilers. She oversaw many safety and security improvement projects. She worked successfully with other Spokane County department leaders and elected officials on the Spokane Regional Criminal Justice reform initiative and was an integral member of several committees involved in winning the MacArthur Foundation's Safety & Justice Challenge Grant.

Lt. Lake was hired as a Corrections Officer in 1987, rose to the rank of Sergeant, then in 2005 was promoted to Lieutenant. She graduated from Rogers High School and EWU. Lt. Lake received the Spokane County Sheriff's Star in 2012, recognizing her dedication and leadership at Geiger Corrections Center, and also her success in planning, organizing and directing programs designed to lower offender recidivism.

Her love for learning was obsessive. Somebody asked her once how she excelled on so many managerial fronts during her career. She replied that when faced with a new challenge, she surrounds herself with subject experts, asks a thousand questions, absorbs everything they explain and reads anything she can find. Then she involves those in-the-know in the decision-making process.

Lt. Lake's managerial style was to support, communicate and commend, always aware that employee performance is enhanced through goal-setting, coaching, constructive feedback and supportive review.

She was forward-thinking. During offender case management discussions, she might agree that inmate X was too risky for EHM or Work Release. "She practiced the continuum track approach to Geiger inmates that allowed certain offenders to progressively earn less restrictive confinement options," explained Detention Services Case Manager Ron Cunningham. "Suppose an inmate has 9 months to serve. He's requesting Work Release, but has a continuing battle with alcohol and a history of failing to comply with court orders prohibiting alcohol. She might suggest starting him on Work Crew. If he's successful with no major infractions, in a month or two he might invited to begin working in Treatment. If the offender is amenable and makes Treatment progress, we ultimately might offer Work Release with an alcohol monitoring unit required."

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Substance Treatment, Pre-Apprenticeship Training, And Ready For A Restart!

Emilio Alonzo's time at Geiger has been anything but restful. And that's just the way he wants it. "I'm keeping myself busy, and when I get out in another month, one of the ways I will avoid drugs and alcohol is to remain busy as possible and not associate with negative influences," he stated on Dec. 21 after receiving his certificate for successfully completing Pioneer's IOP Substance Treatment program.

That's just one of Emilio's accomplishments since arriving at Geiger May 23, 2017. Besides completing the 16-week intensive outpatient treatment program, Emilio has been a mainstay on Geiger's Work Crew. Four days a week he's gone out, rain or shine, scorching or freezing, providing volunteer labor to various Spokane area non-profit organizations. As an excellent and cooperative Work Crew member, Emilio was one of nine Geiger inmates invited last fall to enter into a pilot program to attain his OSHA and Associated General Contractors (AGC) Pre-Apprenticeship Construction Trades certificates.

Emilio tells that he'll continue attending Pioneer's Substance Treatment program when he leaves Geiger in late January. "Just because you finish IOP doesn't mean you're cured. It's a life-long journey, and I'm anxious to begin the next stage. Of course, what I'm really excited

about is my chance to begin working in the building and construction trades as a job site laborer. It's tough work, but I've worked long hours all my life. Being from Yakima, I've done a lot of agricultural labor in the past, including fruit and vegetable harvesting. AGC Director Mike Ankney thinks that construction laborer is the perfect progression for me, and I believe he's right. Having a lot to do when I get out is part of the plan, so the busier the better."

Emilio explained that while he has family in the Yakima area, he'll be staying in Spokane after release. "I'll be on probation for two years after release, and with the prospect of employment through AGC plus continuing IOP Treatment with Pioneer, Spokane is where I need to be."

While visiting with guests and staff after Treatment graduation, Emilio was reminded there were cookies and punch. He replied that besides working on his addiction and laying a foundation for better employment while at Geiger, he's been concentrating on his health, too. "No cookies or punch, thank you; call me when it's time for work."



Emilio Alonzo (third from left) is presented his AGC Pre-Apprenticeship certificate at Geiger's first-ever building trades graduation ceremony, Nov. 28, 2017. Emilio completed the apprenticeship pilot program along with seven other selected Geiger inmates. Also pictured (from left) are City of Spokane Mayor David Condon, Inland NW AGC instructor Shawn Kingsbury and AGC Pre-Apprenticeship Training Director Mike Ankney. Helping bring the pilot program to Geiger was Judith Gilmore, collaborating with AGC and "Headstart To The Construction Trades" Pre-Apprenticeship program.

Geiger's Community Garden Yields Big Harvest Despite Late Warm-Up

Geiger Program Officer Zac Crawford reports that the final weight total for the Geiger's 2017 gardening season was **2,829.8 pounds**. The vegetables were donated throughout the season to eight local food banks and charity kitchens.

Officer Crawford notes that's a 22.3% increase in production compared to the 2016 growing season and a 41.3% increase from 2015. This year's harvest was a varied mix of vegetables and herbs: cilantro, basil, oregano, garlic, lavender, green and yellow zucchini, butternut and acorn squash, cucumbers, hot and sweet peppers, 30 tomato species, green beans, snap peas, carrots, beets, onions, lettuce, collard and mustard greens.

Officer Crawford mentioned the prolonged late growing season was especially helpful. "May and early June were colder than usual, but good weather lasted well into October. Next year, with our newly constructed greenhouse right on site, cold spring weather won't be a concern."



Geiger staff extends a hearty thank you to Programs Officer Crawford, who will be transitioning back to Custody in January. He's spent 5 years managing, assisting and teaching Geiger re-entry education classes. Corrections Officer Ted Tofsrud is moving from the jail to Geiger as Officer Crawford's programs successor.

Spokane City Councilwoman Kate Burke (from left), Spokane Municipal Judge Shelly Szambelan and Spokane Mayor David Condon listen to AGC instructor Shawn Kingsbury (foreground) explain the design and construction of the greenhouse training project, completed by Geiger's AGC Pre-Apprenticeship pilot program trainees. The greenhouse will afford an earlier start to the community garden growing season.

(continued from pg. 2) Lt. Joanne Lake Caps Flourishing Career

Lt. Lake points to the effectiveness of morality cognition therapy, noting that after an offender commits to positive change and completes substance Treatment, their long-term success often hinges on support group participation. "Just because you complete an addiction recovery program doesn't mean you're cured. It's a life-long commitment. Faith-based support groups like AA, Celebrate Recovery and Narcotics Anonymous are vital. Some people are turned off by the religious element of these groups, but there aren't many other post-Treatment recovery support options. Detention Services is open and accepting to all recognized faith-based volunteer organizations and we encourage their outreach."



Lt. Joanne Lake and Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich

Geiger Case Manager Barb McGlothen explained that Lt. Lake's vision for Detention Services has always been a dedicated, stand-alone Spokane County Community Corrections Center facility located in the central core. "She often referenced programs in other counties where every convicted offender is obliged to meet with Community Corrections case managers to develop a re-entry plan focusing on employment, housing and education. Some offenders may come to the facility during the day for re-entry education classes such as Job Skills and Anger Management or to meet with counselors, then return to their homes at night. Others might go out to work, school, training or job interviews during the day, then return to the Community Corrections Center at night. The Community Corrections concept provides social service referrals, substance assessments and Treatment programs, employment counseling, parenting help, LFO education, Driver's Relicensing, housing assistance specialists and more."

Not everybody Lt. Lake worked closely with during her 30-year Corrections career is retired yet. Sgt. Dan Veloski, who started at the jail in 1978, succeeded Lt. Lake as Jail Medical Supervisor. Officer Mike Jolstead began in 1985 and lately has been helping launch Fulcrum re-entry education courses on his module (female inmates) at the jail. Corrections Officers Jay Shuman, Tom Staudinger, Shawn Smith and Andy Brown were all on staff to welcome Lt. Lake her first day working at the jail in 1987, and they were still around to bid her farewell.

At her final Breaking Barriers Graduation, Fulcrum Institute Education Director Justin Van Elsberg cited Lt. Lake for supporting his vision of Geiger re-entry education. "She kept me self-aware as a manager, instructor and curriculum writer. Thank you."

Sheriff Knezovich suggested to the 56th Breaking Barriers graduates that without Lt. Lake and several of her staff, Geiger's Community Corrections programs simply would not have worked.

Robert Martin Helping Inmates Navigate Healthcare & MH Services



Robert Martin of United Healthcare Spokane.

Robert Martin of United Healthcare works with lesser-served populations in the Spokane area, emphasizing Medicare and insurance exchange enrollments. Robert has been instrumental in counseling inmates at Geiger and the jail toward ACA enrollment and, for some, mental health support services,

Speaking at a recent Breaking Barriers graduation, Robert delivered a message of inspiration and self-empowerment. Noting the graduating inmates had already demonstrated aptitude and achievement through their successful completion of courses, he challenged them not to fear the prospect of success. "Maybe you think you're not one of those people who gets what they go after; that you don't deserve success in life. Do not make yourself smaller for the convenience of anyone. A small child is fearless because it hasn't learned inhibition. To succeed, be like that fearless child."

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We're on the web:
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or comments?

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