

Washington

Secretary of State

SAM REED

# SMART GOVERNMENT

A NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE

WASHINGTON STATE PRODUCTIVITY BOARD



**“ Innovation and creativity are essential to the effective operations at the Department of Corrections. We seek to become leaders in employee involvement and embrace the Productivity Board as a primary vehicle to accomplish that goal. While safety is our top priority, we never lose sight of taxpayers’ expectations that our operations remain cost-effective. ”**

Secretary of Corrections  
Eldon Vail

## IN THIS ISSUE

Leadership Award  
Going Paperless  
Prison Libraries

## Department of Corrections rolls out “Bright Idea” campaign

The State of Washington is always looking for ways to help its employees be recognized for innovative and intelligent ideas, and we as citizens are on constant lookout for ways to help improve the environment while lowering our household bills.

The Washington State Department of Corrections is combining the best of both worlds, linking its fight to raise awareness for energy conservation with a marketing drive for the Employee Suggestion and Teamwork Incentive Programs.

All of the nearly 9,000 DOC employees will be receiving special energy saving light bulbs as a part of their “Bright Idea” campaign, encouraging their workers to participate in both the Employee Suggestion Program and the Teamwork Incentive Program.

Both the Department of Corrections and the Productivity Board are committed to excellence in public service by demonstrating leadership. The Employee Suggestion Program and Teamwork Incentive Programs are designed to give all state employees, from rank and file to agency management, a chance to be rewarded for innovative thinking. It provides an incentive for government to better protect the people’s money - to do more with less.

Over the course of 25 years, the Productivity Board has inspired money-saving solutions by recognizing ideas that put real money back in the State’s coffers. All told, the Productivity Board ideas have saved more than \$54 million, a figure that only reflects savings collected during the first year the ideas were implemented.



For more information: [www.secstate.wa.gov/productivityboard](http://www.secstate.wa.gov/productivityboard) - (360) 704-5203



# EXCELLENCE

## Prison Libraries help to rehabilitate inmates

According to a recent study published by The Pew Center on the States, one person out of every 100 is currently incarcerated in the United States – a total of 2.3 million adults in 2007.

Busy with the newfound problems that come with these rising rates, states are struggling to identify alternative, cost-effective solutions aimed at decreasing the number of incarcerated adults and reducing repeat offenses, without jeopardizing the safety of the general public.

The prison library system is also feeling the crunch of the rising numbers of inmates. While the segment has been expanding with the growing population, it has also been challenged by a variety of factors, with budget constraints and staffing topping the list.

Yet, despite these hurdles, prison libraries are dedicated to creating a place where the freedom to explore has no confines – in the form of novels, poetry, legal resources, medical, self-help, educational and vocational materials.

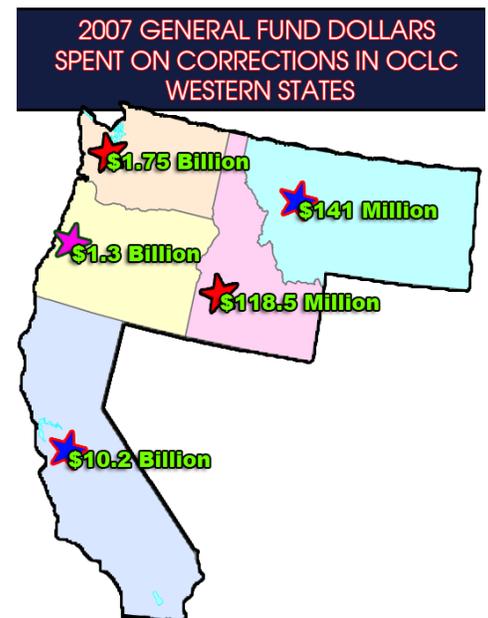
William Earl Dungey, Library Associate at the McNeil Island Corrections Center (MICC) in Steilacoom, suggests that the prison library system is a necessity.

“One of the most prevalent fears among the inmates is that no one will want to hire them once they’ve been released,” he says. “My goal – every day – is to help someone become more than he was before.”

Prison libraries are just one of the ways Dungey hopes to help rehabilitate all those who strive for it. Circulation at MICC is currently around 7,000 items per month, and similar to other prison libraries, inmates also have access to items via interlibrary loan. Prisoners are also provided reference services, and are given resources related to GED and career counseling programs.

Dungey has seen the promise of young men fulfilled because of his program, and hopes that those who realized their potential will share those dreams with others.

“Prison librarian positions aren’t necessarily the most sought-after positions in the industry,” he says. “What people don’t understand is – people just assume that working in this type of environment is too dangerous. But the inmates, even though they can be demanding at times, do value you as a resource. I am always cautious, but I’ve personally never felt like I was in danger. The inmates appreciate that you’re there to help them. And in terms of job satisfaction, this job is truly a prize.”



## Look who is saving Washington money!

Nikki Phillips, a Tax Service Representative with the Employment Security Department, suggested streamlining end-of-quarter tax reports, resulting \$12,990 in savings to the agency.



## Dan Pacholke honored with Leadership Award



Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW), has been celebrated in Washington State since 1990. Throughout the nation, PSRW is used to recognize the men and women who have dedicated their careers to bettering this great state.

As part of PSRW the Washington State Leadership Award gives employees the opportunity to nominate a supervisor, manager or director for outstanding service.

Ten out of the 85 nominated were selected to be honored with the Leadership Award – Dan Pacholke was one of the chosen.

Pacholke was chosen because of his objectives and vision for Stafford Creek Corrections Center. His innovative ideas around sustainability and conservation are cutting edge; he demonstrates what a positive attitude and leadership can accomplish. Pacholke is someone who is, according to the nomination, “a hard-working employee who not only goes the extra mile for Department of Corrections but for all stakeholders he comes in contact with.”

## Paperless Notification to Law Enforcement Saves Money, Time

This past May, the Department of Corrections switched to a paperless distribution of notification bulletins sent to law enforcement. Using e-mail and compact discs instead of fax machines and the U.S. Post Office has made it easier to notify law enforcement and the department expects to save more than \$30,000 each year with the move.

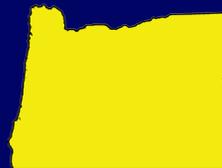
The escalating costs of paper and postage have made it increasingly expensive to mail information about offenders to law enforcement offices. File material for Level 3 sex offenders can be hundreds of pages and cost more than \$8 to mail. The department mails about 1,000 notifications each year.

Law enforcement offices will save time and money because they no longer will have to scan the documents and can print only the pages they need.

## Suggestions Across the U.S.

These are just a few examples of what other states are doing, and how their employees are taking advantage of their Suggestion Programs.

### Oregon



Dan Wright of the Department of Consumer & Business Services helped streamline the agency's clerical functions and saved the State of Oregon \$85,174.

### New York



A Tax Compliance Representative from the New York State Department of Labor proposed utilizing the Western Union Quick Collect as a tool to collect taxes for the agency. His suggestion earned him \$1,000 and a Certificate of Merit.

### North Carolina



An employee of the Department of Justice used the State Suggestion Program to help change the agency's online legal research software, and was given a \$17,503 monetary recognition.



Department of Corrections  
Productivity Board Coordinator  
**CARRIE CHASTAIN**

Carrie Chastain is no stranger when it comes to working with innovative employees. With almost 15 years at the Department of Corrections, she's come in contact with some great "out of the box" thinkers. She was recently appointed the agency's Productivity Board Coordinator in February when she started working for the Assistant Secretary of Administrative Services Division.

## COORDINATOR SPOTLIGHT

She is the liaison to over 8,000 staff, and continually kept busy with the endless creative and inventive ideas she receives.

### Productivity Board Members:

- Governor Christine Gregoire - Ex-Officio
- Secretary of State Sam Reed - Chair
- State Auditor Brian Sonntag
- Department of General Administration Director Linda Villegas Bremer
- Department of Social & Health Services Appointee Kathleen Brockman
- Private Sector Representative - Retired Mike Kerschbaum PEMCO Financial Services
- Speaker of the House Appointee George Masten
- Office of Financial Management Appointee Roselyn Marcus
- Federation of State Employees Appointee Wanda Riley
- Department of Personnel Assistant Director Scott Turner
- Council of College Presidents Executive Director Terry Teale

Smart Government is a quarterly publication of the Washington State Productivity Board

6880 Capitol Boulevard  
P.O. Box 40244  
Olympia, WA 98504

STATE OF WASHINGTON  
PRODUCTIVITY BOARD  
P.O. Box 40224  
Olympia, WA 98504-0244

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE