



2021 APPA AWARD WINNERS

THE APPA PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Corey Cain – *Texas Department of Criminal Justice*

Corey Cain is a unit supervisor with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. He has demonstrated an exemplary leadership quality and a strong desire to see that the parole division mission statement of public safety and positive change in offenders' behavior are not compromised even with COVID-19. Cain stepped up to take on the duties of parole officers who were out on quarantine. With few officers available to conduct home and field visits as well as the UA, TRAS Assessment and Pre-revocation process, Unit Supervisor Corey Cain singlehandedly completed all contacts for one of the officers that was out on quarantine and ensured that all UA were completed.

THE JOE KEGANS AWARD FOR VICTIM SERVICES IN PROBATION AND PAROLE

Lisa Kinard - *Florida Department of Corrections*

Lisa Kinard is the Victims Services Administrator for the Florida Department of Corrections. Kinard was recognized for assisting victims for nearly 25 years. Since 2016 she has been passionate about not only matters on a statewide basis but also on a national scale. In the fiscal year 2019-2020, the Florida Victim Services Unit provided 40,132 notifications to victims. Lisa has updated the language in victim notifications to provide communication in clear language that provides direct information and has reduced calls from victims seeking clarification. Additionally, she has assisted in updating victim rights brochures and publications to assist victims in understanding their rights within the criminal justice system. In 2019, Lisa assisted in the development of processes for Florida's implementation of Amendment 6 to ensure that the Florida Department of Corrections provided for the rights outlined in Marsy's Law to each victim. Kinard is a Florida Certified Contract Manager, Auxiliary Probation Officer, and member of the Florida Crisis Response Team. She participated in the Hurricane Michael response in north Florida. She also holds an active Florida Victim Services Provider designation and FDLE General Instructor certification. She serves as an At-Large Board Member with the National Association of Victim Service Professionals in Corrections (NAVAC) and is an active member in the Big Bend Victim Assistance Coalition (BBVAC), Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency (FCCD), and the National Institute of Corrections' (NIC) Post-Conviction Victim Service Providers Network.

SCOTIA KNOUFF LINE OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Ermelinda Miramontes - *Sonoma County, California Probation*

Ermelinda Miramontes is a Deputy Probation Officer III for Sonoma County in the San Francisco Bay Area. Since 2017, this area has been plagued by disasters, including flooding, fires, power shutoffs, civil unrest and COVID-19 that impacted juvenile facilities and probation camp. Deputy Probation Officer Miramontes not only took care of the community, but she also took care of her co-workers. Due to the on-going struggles of the day-to-day work coupled with unprecedented disasters, Miramontes volunteered to help create a Peer Support Team. She not only received the required training as a Peer Supporter, but she went even further and became a certified Mind-Body Skills facilitator to promote officer wellness. She arranged for socially distanced lunch breaks for staff to gather and be able to see each other in person rather than on a computer monitor. She has delivered ice cream and snacks to each Division throughout the Department and set up guided meditations for the graduates of her Mind-Body Skills classes, to keep them practicing the skills they have learned. Finally, not only has she focused her positivity on the staff, but she has helped organize appreciation events for local hospital workers and fire fighters by gathering staff and making signs to cheer on our other local heroes and first responders at their shift changes. Prior to her current position, she was a field supervision officer with a sex offender and high-risk caseload.

THE WALTER DUNBAR MEMORIAL AWARD

Francine Perretta - *Westchester County Probation, New York*

Francine Perretta is the Deputy Commissioner of Westchester County Probation in White Plains, New York. She has been a decades-long champion of community corrections and represents the best of our profession. Her strong work ethic helped her move up the ranks at St. Lawrence County Probation in Canton, NY, until she became the Director in 1987. During her career with the department, Francine began many innovative programs and was known on the national level as a rural model for many programs. She retired from the department in 2010. As soon as the field learned of Francine's retirement, her phone began to ring. She eventually accepted the position of Deputy Commissioner for the Westchester County Probation Department and commuted each week to the office, a distance of more than 300 miles. As Deputy, Francine helped lead the agency that supervises more than 13,000 adults and young people each year. As is her style, Francine worked to promote officer participation in national associations such as APPA, where she served on the Board of Directors for many years. Most recently, Francine was on the APPA Executive Committee as the Affiliate Representative for the Association of Women Executives in Corrections (AWEC). She is also an active member of the National Association of Probation Executives (NAPE). In 2016, NAPE awarded her the George Keiser Award for excellence in leadership. Francine's second try at retirement in 2017 did not last long. That same

year she became Executive Director of AWEC, an association she helped found and later lead as president.

CARMEN RODRIGUEZ MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Gene Cotter - *Administrative Office of the Courts & Probation, Nebraska*

Gene Cotter is the Deputy Administrator in the Office of the Courts & Probation in Lincoln, Nebraska. He serves as the Region 4 Representative on the APPA Board of Directors, elected in 2021. He has been affiliated with APPA since 1995. Over the last decade, Gene has graduated from the Leadership Institute, has served as Track and Program chair at various Annual and Winter Training Institutes, and as a peer reviewer for Perspectives and as a Regional Representative for Region 13. He was also elected by fellow Regional Representatives as one of their two voices to the APPA Executive Committee. In the past two years, he was appointed by two different APPA Presidents to help lead groups tasked with retooling the Leadership Institute and to redesign the selection process for our Annual and Winter Training Institutes. Gene has worked in community corrections for more than 30 years as a Probation Officer, Supervisor, Chief Probation Officer, and he now serves as the Deputy Administrator for Operations for the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation. He is devoted to serving others, starting his career as a Probation Officer in very rural settings, eventually being selected as the Chief Probation Officer in one of the largest, most urban districts in the state. He has worked in the service of juveniles and adults, specializing in special population supervision. Like Carmen, Gene has been a champion of APPA membership for community corrections staff across the nation. He is devoted to serving staff and Courts across Nebraska and never misses the opportunity to promote the honorable work of Probation and Courts staff. He leads teams of professionals working within Judicial Branch Education, Performance Management, Data and Research, Communications, Human Resources, and Interstate Compact.