

2015 SC Criminal Justice Training Conference

The annual South Carolina Correctional Association (SCCA) Criminal Justice Training Conference was held November 15-18, 2015 at the Marriott at Grande Dunes in Myrtle Beach.

Some 450 attendees and over 40 exhibitors were on hand to follow four training tracks and to participate in 24 high quality workshops. The conference offered multiple training tracks focusing on the latest investigative techniques, information technology, correctional strategies, and evidenced based practices.



Immediate past President Loretta T. Bookard passed on the gavel of leadership for the next two years to John Barkley. Manning Correctional Institution Warden Nena Walker-Staley is the new President-elect. Barkley, SCDC's first full-time PREA Coordinator in the Office of General Council, is a 21 year veteran of the agency. He began his career in what was previously called the Public Affairs Department (Communications) and also worked as a Program Coordinator at Manning CI and as an Associate Warden for programs at Broad River CI.



“I am looking forward to working with elected SCCA officers, the board of directors and chapter presidents to grow and promote our association,” stated Barkley. “Our new opportunity for employees to enroll in payroll deduction with our Association and with SCLEOA under their new president, Mark Keel of SLED, is quite exciting. As the state chapter of the American Correctional Association, our goal is to promote the corrections profession whether you’re employed at adult or juvenile prisons or work in parole and probation,” Barkley emphasized.

Awards were presented during the conference to three very deserving individuals representing three different agencies. Allison Avenger of S.C. Probation, Parole and Pardon Services received the Executive Committee Award. Barnard McKie, Region 1 Director at SCDC, was awarded the William D. Leeke Award of Excellence, and Sharonda Sutton of the Department of Juvenile Justice earned the President’s Award (See below).



Scholarships were also awarded to four young people. Tiffany Seals was the recipient of \$500.00 from Turbeville CI and a \$200.00 scholarship from Lieber CI. Chelsea Smith received a \$1,000 SCCA scholarship as did Amanda Belding. Christine McFadden won the \$1,000 Barbara McKellar Nursing scholarship.