



MOVE FORWARD: THE VALUE OF INTEGRITY IN CORRECTIONS

In life or on the job, integrity is among the most important values an individual can possess. It is central to earning the trust of the public and vital to building relationships with our co-workers, supervisors, friends, and family.

Integrity can mean something different to us all. For some, it's simply following through on your word or doing what is needed when no one else is looking. For others, its being a good role model, practicing what you teach, and leading by example no matter what the situation.

That's why integrity is the most recent value in the Michigan Corrections Organization – [Move Forward Campaign](#).

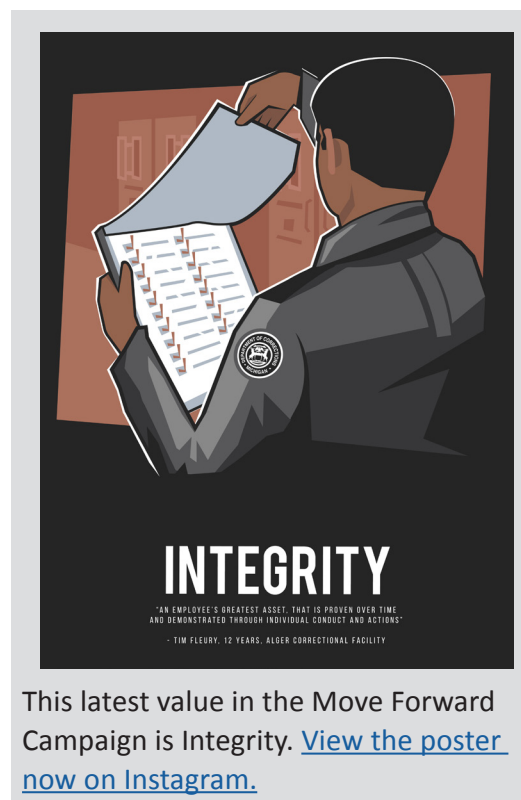
For corrections officers, integrity can be displayed in a variety of ways and is often tested at every turn. But who we are and how we conduct our business speaks volumes about our

profession and illustrates the key role we play in the criminal justice system.

Corrections Officer Pam Basal of the Marquette Branch Prison said that she has run into former inmates while volunteering at the U.P. State Fair, and they've commented on the integrity of officers and what impact it had on their lives.

"They said the programming was good, but it was the officers in the unit that made the difference, that made sure that they got up, learned to be responsible, set an example for who they should be...we (the COs) helped change them," CO Basal said.

What does integrity mean to you? MCO wants to hear from you and lift up your stories. This is how we start to change the narrative on corrections work and break down the misperceptions of who officers are



This latest value in the Move Forward Campaign is Integrity. [View the poster now on Instagram.](#)

and what matters most in our profession. Email MCO Communications Director [Anita Lloyd](#).

MCO points out the role of COs as first responders in the opioid crisis

MCO is elevating messages of professionalism in corrections in many different ways. This week, the Detroit News published a column by MCO Executive Director Andy Potter on the dangerous opioids flowing into U.S. prisons, and the role COs should play in combating them.

Read the column on the [Detroit News website](#).

"Recognize corrections officers as first responders and allow us to carry and administer life-saving drugs such as naloxone," Potter writes. "By doing so, we create an alert and well-trained workforce with the skills and knowledge to impact the opioid crisis on the front lines and provide on-the-spot care."

This article's timing coincided with the Michigan House of Representatives' 9/11 ceremony in which they recognized first responders throughout the state. Each representative was allowed to bring two first responders as their guests and until recently, corrections officers had not been invited. But at Thursday's ceremony, there were four officers from Jackson, Lansing and Ionia representing corrections as first responders. [See photos on Flickr](#) or our [members-only Facebook group](#).

We should all be thinking outside the box about what a union is and should be to its members. It's more than a contract. When we join together, we can elevate our profession in powerful ways.

We should all be thinking outside the box about what a union is and should be to its members. It's more than a contract. When we join together, we can elevate our profession in powerful ways.

IN MEMORIAM: CO WROBEL



LCF retiree William (Bill) Wrobel passed away Aug. 24.

Wrobel started with the MDOC in 1993 at Alger and retired from Lake-land in 2015. He also served in the Air Force Reserve.

A celebration of Bill's life will be Sept. 10 in Coldwater. Information is at [dutch-erfh.com](#).

Rest in peace, CO Wrobel.