



Michigan Corrections Organization

421 W. Kalamazoo St.
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 485-3310
mco-seiu.org

Michigan Department of Corrections

206 E. Michigan Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 335-1426
michigan.gov/corrections



Mar. 1, 2024

Contact: Adam Earley, MCO Communications Coordinator
(517) 485-3310 adam@mco-seiu.org

Contact: Kyle Kaminski, MDOC Public Information Officer
(517) 242-1233 kaminskik@michigan.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Corrections Officer Marvin Sanders named 2024 Michigan Department of Corrections Officer of the Year

Lansing, Mich. – Marvin Sanders, a Corrections Officer at Saginaw Correctional Facility, has been named the 2024 Michigan Department of Corrections Officer of the Year.

MDOC QUOTE

Officer Sanders has been an MDOC Corrections Officer for 24 years. Whether administering NARCAN, performing CPR, or engaging in effective communication to deescalate volatile situations, he routinely exhibits exemplary heroism. His peers recognize his deep understanding of policy and procedure and his dedication to mentorship and continued learning. He is widely regarded as an honest and objective leader who recognizes humanity in every individual.

Marvin has demonstrated versatility by undertaking various roles such as Resident Unit Officer, facility trainer, weapons trainer, front desk officer, control center officer, and he is currently the bid healthcare officer. Officer Sanders readily accepts additional duties and is committed to the seamless functioning of his team.

Cary Johnson, Vice President at Michigan Corrections Organization and a member of the Officer of the Year selection committee said, “Any of the five candidates today could have been the winner and can come to JCF and work with me any time! The professionalism and values of the Officers I met today let me know that we continue to have the highest of standards. The hardest part was choosing one. Officer Sander's work within the community and his facility are so impressive. I am so happy for him and SRF.”

As a departmental trainer, Marvin fosters innovation and creativity by delving deep into subject matter; breaking down content into digestible steps and ensuring that students grasp the underlying rationale.

Officer Sanders is a volunteer firefighter for the Bridgeport Fire Department, a part-time deputy for the Midland County Sheriff's Department, a member of the Bridgeport Gun Club and participates in Shop with a Hero events. He is currently enrolled in courses at Delta College.

"Take what's given to you and make the best of it," Officer Sanders said. "Strive for your goals, work hard, and don't take what you already have for granted."

The Michigan Correctional Officers' Training Council, comprised of representatives from the MDOC, Michigan Corrections Organization, law enforcement, and higher education, chose Officer Sanders for the honor from a pool of five finalists.

Finalists included: Corrections Officer James Burch, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility; Corrections Officer Matthew Opperman, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility; Corrections Officer Mark Smith, Muskegon Correctional Facility; and Justin Cantu, Thumb Correctional Facility.

###