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# IN TOUCH with OWDS

NYS Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives: IN TOUCH WITH Offender Workforce Development Specialists (OWDS)

## They're off and running...

### New Ready, Set, Work! Groups

- Women's Prison Association, NYC
- Fortune Society, NYC
- Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services, NYC

## Inside Highlights

Congratulations

OWDS Corner

Conferences/Trainings

OWDS Trivia

Welcome to *In Touch with OWDS* an electronic newsletter from the [New York State Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives \(DPCA\)](#), written specifically for OWDS and others interested in offender employment.

## Leading the Way... GCDF instructor, Matt Charton and OWDS, Craig MacNeil recently concluded the first *Ready, Set, Work! for Specialized Needs*

**The Albany County Probation Employment Services Unit** piloted the first *RSW!*-Sex Offender (SO) group in October. The group met in Albany over a five-week period. Probationers from the first group were registered Sex Offenders from Albany and Schenectady Counties. The group was established as a result of several meetings between representatives from Albany, Dutchess, and Schenectady County Probation Departments. Elaine Kost from the NYS DOL, Forensic Psychiatrist, Dr Richard Hamill and DPCA representatives also participated.

**Cattaraugus County Probation Department** is also *leading the way*. GCDF, Art Cooney and OWDS, Ann Faulkner, Collin Quigley and Dale Wilkinson

are forging ahead in another area. Cattaraugus County is currently running an *RSW!* group at their One Stop location in Olean NY. The *RSW!* groups are held at different locations throughout the county to allow for greater probationer access to the training. Additionally, Cattaraugus is scheduled to begin **the first evening sessions of *RSW!* this month.**

### RSW! Groups

Probation departments running *RSW!* groups: Albany, Cattaraugus, Dutchess, Erie, Monroe, NYC, Ontario, Onondaga, Schenectady, St. Lawrence, Suffolk, Ulster, Warren

### Women's Prison Association

Holds first *RSW!* group!

GCDF, Virginia Lasoski-Nepa, Program Director for WPA, held the first *RSW!* group at their East New York site. Eight participants graduated from the group that ran from November through December 2009. Three participants have found employment since completing the *RSW!* group. They are off to a great start!

# Congratulations

To Malroney McLean

## Global Career Development Facilitator

Malroney McLean, from the Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services in New York City, is the first graduate of the DPCA OWDS 2009 class to receive his GCDF.

congratulations to Malroney for this accomplishment!

## New Year News!

## First 2010 Employment Matters Training to be held in Rensselaer County

Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2010  
Rensselaer County Office Building, 1600 Seventh Ave, 5th floor conference room A, Troy, NY, 12180  
9am-4:30pm.  
Registration Deadline: February 9, 2010

To register contact: Laura Bauer, Acting Director III Rensselaer County Probation Department 518-270-8440 or [lbauer@rensco.com](mailto:lbauer@rensco.com)

## Taking it to the Next Step

### Global Career Development Facilitator Instructor Training

As promised, we will be hosting, with the assistance of Schenectady County Probation, the GCDF-I training this year. On March 16, 17, and 18, John Rakis of NIC will be in Schenectady to conduct an instructor training for all eligible OWDS. If you have received your GCDF from CCE, you are eligible. We still have open slots and a few double room occupancy scholarships available.

## OWDS Training In 2010

DPCA was awarded an additional \$15,000 from NIC to support OWDS Training in 2010. The original \$25,000 grant was to support the training of 25 practitioners. With the help of our partners, the New York State Department of Labor, the Albany, Schenectady, and Suffolk County Probation Departments, as well as NYC probation, 45 probation and community correction professionals have been trained in OWDS. Our goal is to add a minimum of 15 new OWDS in 2010.

## 2010 Offender Workforce Development Specialists Training to be held in Albany, New York

This intensive 180-hour, three-week training will be held at DPCA 80 Wolf Road Albany, NY

Week One: April 12-16  
Week Two- May 24-28  
Week Three: July 12-15

For more information regarding this training contact Cynthia at 518.485.5162 or [cynthia.blair@dpcastate.ny.us](mailto:cynthia.blair@dpcastate.ny.us)



## DOWD Conference!!! April 5-8, 2010

A chance to unite or reunite with OWDS throughout the country. Meet hundreds of individuals across the country and throughout the world who have successfully navigated the 180-hour NIC course....and won the coveted title of OWDS. Join them in Dallas, Texas. For details go to [ncda.org](http://ncda.org). Let us know if you are planning to attend.

## OWDS Trivia

1. Who was the first OWDS to receive their GCDF from the NIC-DPCA 2008 class?
2. According to your OWDS training, what do the letters **RIASEC** stand for?
3. Who was your OWDS class Valedictorian?

## Keep in touch:

Let us know as soon as you receive your GCDF.

For technical assistance with **Ready, Set Work!** or **Retention Counts!** groups, or if you are interested in an **Employment Matters** training contact DPCA 518-485-5162.

## OWDS Corner

### Let's Talk Numbers

By Matt Charton  
Probation Officer, OWDS,  
GCDF-Instructor

Albany County Probation Department's Employment Services Unit (ESU), has conducted 48 **Ready, Set, Work!** sessions since 2005 and 289 individuals have successfully completed the program. Probationers completing **RSW!** did markedly better in obtaining and retaining employment. Fifty-five (55%) of persons completing **RSW!** obtained full-time employment, compared with just 11% who did not.

Additionally, 24% of probationers completing **RSW!** violated probation-- compared with 57% of non-completers.

**RSW!** groups are making a very positive difference in the lives of offenders.



## Answers

### OWDS Trivia

1. Answers Mark Pisano
2. Realistic, Investigative, Artistic, Social, Enterprising, Conventional
3. 2008-Craig MacNeil  
2009-Rachel Heasley