



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

ADMINISTRATION

3200 East Highway 34
c/o 500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070
Phone: (605) 773-3478
Fax: (605) 773-3194

Owen Spurrell Appointed As Training School Superintendent December 31, 1999

(Pierre) – Owen Spurrell, an ordained Methodist minister and family counselor who has worked for the state Department of Corrections the past 11 years, is the new superintendent for the State Training School for juvenile offenders at Plankinton.

"His whole professional experience is helping people in trouble and assisting people as they try to find their own route in life," Gov. Bill Janklow said in announcing Spurrell's appointment Tuesday.

Spurrell's professional career began in 1976 as a United Methodist minister serving several churches in the Wakonda area. He later developed programs and after-care for troubled male and female adolescents at the Woodfield Center in Beresford and was a co-founder of the Families Unlimited home-based adolescent therapy program in Auburne, Nebraska.

Spurrell has been serving as the superintendent on an interim basis in recent weeks. He succeeded the previous interim superintendent, Kris Petersen, who returned to his post as director of parole services in Sioux Falls.

Prior to taking the Plankinton post, Spurrell was the associate warden for custody at the State Penitentiary and Jameson annex in Sioux Falls, where he supervised 200 uniformed officers. His starting annual salary will be \$49,608.

"Col. Spurrell brings a unique set of qualifications. His experience working with adolescents and families, his broad experience in adult corrections and his very obvious and very deep life-long interest in the well-being of other human beings have truly prepared him for this new role at the training school," Janklow said.

Spurrell joined the Department of Corrections in 1988 as a counselor at Springfield, where he worked with medium-security male inmates and all levels of female inmates.

He later served as a psychiatric social worker at the Security Treatment Unit at the state Human Services Center at Yankton and was promoted to manager of the Yankton Trusty Unit for minimum-security offenders.

In 1993 he was promoted to a management post overseeing housing units for a variety of inmates at the State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls. He received promotions to major in charge of security in 1995 and colonel/associate warden in 1996.