



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 16, 2009
CONTACT: Michael Winder, SD DOC (605) 773-3478

Corrections Commission elects officers

Pierre, S.D. – The state Corrections Commission elected new leadership during a March 10th meeting in Pierre.

State Senator Julie Bartling of Burke was elected as Chairperson of the Corrections Commission. State Senator Craig Tieszen of Rapid City was elected as Vice-Chair. Tieszen was appointed to the commission earlier this year, replacing Senator Ken Albers of Canton.

State Representative Rich Engels of Hartford was appointed to the Corrections Commission by the House Minority Leader. He replaces former State Representative Garry Moore of Yankton. State Representative Lance Carson of Mitchell was appointed to the Corrections Commission by the House Majority Leader to replace Representative Carol Pitts of Brookings.

The Corrections Commission assists the Department of Corrections in examining criminal justice issues and developing initiatives to address problems in corrections and the criminal justice system. State law also allows the Commission to undertake a continuing study of criminal sanctions in South Dakota, including a review of current felonies, felony sentences, sentencing options, practices, programs, trends, and initiatives.

The Corrections Commission is made up of nine members, including two state senators and two state representatives that are appointed by their respective political party caucus leader. The Governor appoints three members, including representatives of labor, Industry and Commerce Association and the South Dakota Retailer's Association. The Chief Justice of the South Dakota Supreme Court also appoints two representatives.

Current Corrections Commission members include:

<u>Commission Member</u>	<u>Representation</u>	<u>Appointing Authority</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Senator Julie Bartling, Chair	Senate Democrats	Senate Minority Leader	Burke
Senator Craig Tieszen, Vice Chair	Senate Republicans	Senate Majority Leader	Rapid City
Judge Kathleen Caldwell	2nd Circuit Court	Chief Justice	Sioux Falls
Judge John Brown	6th Circuit Court	Chief Justice	Pierre
Representative Rich Engels	House Democrats	House Minority Leader	Hartford
Representative Lance Carson	House Republicans	House Majority Leader	Mitchell
George W. Prest	Industry & Commerce	Governor	Brookings
Brad Drake	SD Retailers Assn.	Governor	Watertown
Paul Alyward	Labor	Governor	Huron