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Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members

From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Date: April 21, 2021

Re: Coronavirus and KDOC updates

Today we are celebrating Administrative Professionals Day. Our administrative support staff have many roles throughout our department and are an essential part of our KDOC family. We could not fulfill our vision of "Transforming Lives for the Safety of All" without their dedication, flexibility and creativity as they solve problems and find answers for colleagues, residents, volunteers and partners, families and the general public. As you go about your day, please take a moment to say thank you to these individuals who always seem to find a way to get the job done.

On April 16, Governor Kelly signed into law HB 2247, authorizing the naming of a part of K-67 highway in Norton County in honor of Trenton Brinkman, the KDOC Corrections Officer II who tragically lost his life last September in a vehicle accident near the facility. Trenton had been employed at Norton Correctional Facility since 2015 until his death on September 23, 2020. KDOC expresses appreciation to both the Kansas Legislature and Gov. Kelly for honoring Trenton in this way.

April 18–24 marks the 40th anniversary of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVWRW). KDOC's OVC supports the observance of NCVWRW by honoring crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf. This special observance is a time to renew commitment to serving all victims of crime, acknowledge the achievements in victim services and allied professions, honor those who have gone above and beyond in their service to others, and remember crime victims and survivors. This year's theme - "Support Victims. Build Trust. Engage Communities." - emphasizes the importance of leveraging community partnerships and support to help victims of crime. Engaging and strengthening partnerships is one of the goals of KDOC's Strategic Plan, Pathway for Success. Partnerships can be between organizations or between individuals, all working towards a common purpose.

Last Sunday was as an important day along our COVID-19 journey. Across KDOC we welcomed family members and loved ones to in-person visitation after more than a year. We truly appreciate everyone's cooperation with the new way to register, and for your help in following the safety and health protocols in place during in-person visitation. While counties across our state may be lifting the local mask requirements, we remind you that KDOC asks everyone to wear masks and follow all public health protocols. There is news of slight rises in COVID-19 cases tied to variants throughout our state, and while our positive case numbers among both staff and residents are currently near zero, we must not grow complacent.