

Amber Connolly – ICA Board (At Large)

Amber Connolly began her career with the Iowa Department of Corrections in 2007 as a Correctional Officer at the North Central Correctional Facility (NCCF) in Rockwell City. In 2009, she transitioned to a new position at NCCF as the IWD Re-entry Workforce Advisor where she helped incarcerated individuals prepare for and find employment upon release. In 2014, Amber accepted her current position as a Correctional Counselor at the Anamosa State Penitentiary (ASP). In addition to her position as a Correctional Counselor, Amber runs the Apprenticeship Program at ASP and acts as the re-entry coordinator. Amber graduated from Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, IA with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology/Criminal Justice. She has been a member of ICA for 5 years.

1. I have decided to run for the office of at large because after being involved with ICA for the past 5 years, I would like to do my part in contributing to this fine professional organization! I've really enjoyed being a part of ICA and I'd like to be a part of continuing to grow not only ICA's membership but also its offerings to members.
2. My vision for ICA over the next few years is growth! Like I mentioned above, growth in both membership and activities. It has been great to see the growth in awareness and membership at just the institution I work at over the past 5 years (ASP). What started as a very sparse ICA conference attendance from ASP has now grown to I believe we had 17 staff sign up to attend this Spring Conference! I'd like to push to continue to see that growth at all our institutions and CBC districts. I believe a big part of that growth is not only the advocating that our current members do, but also creating more awareness and exposure to ICA through marketing and local events/activities.
3. Traditionally, our organization has sponsored a wide variety of activities. I believe ICA should continue to look at bringing quality training/education related to important and trending topics affecting our staff, incarcerated individuals, and department as a whole. These opportunities not only assist our members but they also create exposure and visibility to ICA for potential new members. I would like to see if we could offer additional training opportunities outside of the spring and fall conferences as well.