

Jill Benz

Bio for election 2021 - At Large Position

I became a Correctional Officer at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in July of 2000. I attended my first ICA conference in the fall of 2014 as a non-member to see what it was all about. In the spring of 2015, I became an ICA member. As a C/O, I had to jump through hoops to be able to attend the conferences. I would work a double shift so I could get time off to attend. I would use my vacation time or trade days off because I did not want to miss the conferences. It was worth the extra effort it took to be able to be part of these events. I always left the conferences feeling inspired and wanting to do more.

I decided to go back to school to earn my Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Purdue University Global. In 2016 I received the ICA Member Scholarship. There were a few conferences I attended where I was not able to participate in the fun social events they had planned because I would be in my hotel room attending my online classes.

I was promoted to Sergeant in January of 2020. Still wanting to do more, this promotion has allowed me new opportunities. I am now able to attend the ICA conferences without having to jump through so many hoops. That is why I feel now is the perfect time for me to run for one of the At Large positions.

My goal is to continue to tell others about ICA while inviting and encouraging them to join. Corrections is a unique family. We encourage and support each other through the tough times, and we praise each other in the good times. It is through both experiences that we grow together. ICA allows so many opportunities for growth through the excellent speakers, informational trainings, and networking opportunities. I hope to give back to this great association so that others can experience even a fraction of what I have during my years with ICA.