

Comments of Commissioner Joe Schmidt on Brian Hutchison being named Spring Creek Correctional Center Employee of the Year for 2006-07:

So often in this business, our rewards have to come from within because it's not the type of business where accolades come down every day. That's why the Spring Creek Employee of the Month and Employee of the Year program is so important.

We usually know right away when something is wrong, but not when things went well. Things going well is expected, and fortunately, is the normal way of our business.

When someone is nominated and finally selected by their peers it is an honor, because corrections staff is a demanding lot. It is an honor because we work hard, and to be successful we have to be right most of the time, and we have to be unfailingly honest. It's an honor because corrections workers are not an easy group to get over on.

If a person is still learning, or lacking the important traits that will make them a successful facility staff member your peers will be the first to know it, because they know what is important and why.

We listen to manipulation every day, and we become very keen at detecting games, and dealing with them. Only the honest, employee with a strong work ethic can rise to the level required of this award.

And only a group of your peers will best know who should receive with this award.

Although I have not worked directly with Officer Hutchison, I read what his peers say about Brian, and what this award is predicated on. Brian's peers see him as calm Officer. One who sets the tone for a calm mod.

Brian is seen as a team player who shows compassion, and covers for his co workers when things are busy. And he is seen as a person who shows respect, and who in turn has earned great respect within the facility.

I had the privilege of working with a former Spring Creek Employee of the year, Sergeant Larry Smith. We recently lost Larry to cancer. I worked closely with Larry at Point Mack and I saw many of the traits we see in Officer Hutchison.

He was unfailingly honest, and I used his advise every day.

I will always have the utmost respect for Larry, and I saw the caliber of leader required by this group, to achieve the title of employee of the year. The Spring Creek employee of the year is testament to the highest standard of leadership, honesty, work ethic, and effectiveness.

And Brian, you should be proud.

I also wanted to thank Mr. Turnbull for this invitation.

This is a peer driven program. By the peers, for the peers, and I was honored to be asked to come here and participate. This program has

shown a light on the best of the best, and I look forward to giving many more speeches to this honor.

Thank you.