

NEWSRELEASE

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Corrections Hires New American Indian Liaison

HELENA – Department of Corrections director Mike Batista today announced that Harlan Trombley of Great Falls has been hired as the department’s new American Indian liaison.

“With more than 11 years as a professional in the corrections arena, Trombley brings a wealth of experience and cultural understanding to this very important position,” Batista said. “His expertise will be invaluable as we work to strengthen our efforts to help offenders who are leaving the corrections system succeed in their communities, whether that’s in a city or on a reservation.”

Trombley, who is a member of the Blackfeet Nation, has worked in the criminal justice field for 17 years. He began his career as a police officer with Blackfeet Law Enforcement Services in Browning. Since Dec. 2002, he has worked for the Cascade County Adult Detention Center, first as a detention officer and then, through a series of promotions, as a case manager, unit manager and supervisor.

Trombley graduated from Browning High School and has an associate degree from the Blackfeet Community College and a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from the University of Great Falls.

“I’m honored to have this position with the Department of Corrections,” Trombley said. “And I look forward to communicating with the Native American offenders, their families, crime victims and others who have questions or concerns related to American Indian culture and correctional practices.”

The American Indian liaison provides guidance and training to corrections staff on American Indian spiritual and cultural issues, within the realms of sound correctional practices. As liaison, Trombley will communicate with American Indian offenders and their families to develop an understanding of their concerns and find solutions that take into consideration the cultural and spiritual needs of native offenders. He will also be in regular communication with the Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs, tribal officials, Indian Alliance Center staffs and others.

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