

## **Amber Connolly**

### **At-Large Position**

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 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 a position as a Correctional Counselor at the Anamosa State Penitentiary (ASP). During that time, she was also the Apprenticeship Program Coordinator and acted as the Re-entry Coordinator at ASP. In 2020, Amber moved to her current position with Institutional Operations/Offender Services. 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 10 years with the past 4 years being on the ICA Board.

I have decided to again run for the office of at large because I'd like to continue to build upon the last 4 years of commitment I've had the opportunity to devote towards ICA. I really enjoyed working with the ICA Board, getting to know other ICA members, and helping grow our professional organization.

My vision for ICA over the next few years is growth, in both membership and activities/offerings to members! I'd like to increase our visibility and overall ICA awareness through various events, not only statewide but locally as well. I'd also like to incorporate some new, innovative opportunities for our members. I'm pushing for growth at all our institutions and districts.

Traditionally, our organization has sponsored a wide variety of activities. I believe ICA should continue to look at bringing quality training 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, fall, and women's conferences as well.