



Nevada Department of Corrections

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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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The Nevada Department of Corrections Director James Dzurenda announces David Tristan, formerly of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), has been appointed to the position of Deputy Director of Programs in Las Vegas.



Early in his career, Tristan served local youth as one of the few Spanish speaking parole agents in the East LA, Compton area. His early work helped to reduce gang homicides while providing parolees supervision, counseling and assistance. Before long Tristan was responsible for 4000 inmates as he moved up the ranks to Associate Warden for the California Rehabilitation Center. By concentrating on inmate programs with a focus on fighting addiction, Tristan's success promoted him again to New Prison Coordinator where he was instrumental in the opening of the impressive 4,800 capacity R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility in San Diego.

In 1988, Tristan took a position as the Assistant Deputy Director of the Institutions Division where he was responsible for overseeing ten High Security and Maximum Custody prisons. Within two years, he was promoted to Deputy Director taking on thirty-three institutions, thirty-eight fire camps and all the support services necessary to run such an extensive organization. Conducting compliance audits to ensure legislation, regulations, policies and court mandates were successfully implemented in each division was one of his main responsibilities.

Tristan retired from CDCR in 2000, but within a year accepted the position of Chief Deputy Director of Field Operations where he worked to reduce parole recidivism, obtain funding to expand San Quentin and licensed CDCR's hospitals. After two years, Tristan utilized his vast knowledge base and years of experience to become a consultant and expert witness testifying in state and federal court cases dealing with everything from use of force and prison gangs to internal affairs and worker's compensation. His consultant work has taken him through California, Arizona and Nevada reviewing staffing studies ensuring facilities can safely and securely carry out their missions.

Most recently, Tristan had been conducting detailed detention facility inspections throughout the United States for the Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement checking every facet of operations for facilities that house undocumented immigrants. He was recruited to join the Nevada Department of Corrections and began June 6, 2016.

Tristan has a Bachelor's of Arts from Pepperdine University and completed graduate coursework at California State University, Northridge.