

Timothy Schuetzle's love of learning was fostered during his years at New Ulm High School. This 1972 NUHS graduate participated in both music and sports during his high school years. He went on to Gustavus Adolphus where he earned degrees in psychology, general sciences and education. During his college career he was a proud member of the acclaimed Gustavus Concert Choir, with which he had the opportunity to tour the United States and Europe. Tim spent his college summers and weekends working at Kraft Foods in New Ulm.

After graduation, Tim began his career as a science teacher in Danube, Minn. He then went on to graduate school at Bowling Green State University where he obtained his master's degree in counseling. A newspaper ad for a job managing a cleaning products factory that employed inmates caught his eye while he was visiting Bismarck, N.D. He was hired for the position, thus beginning his long and fulfilling career in corrections.

He started as prison factory manager then became Assistant Warden, then Director of Prison Industries, Warden and finally Prisons Division Director for the state of North Dakota.

Tim's long and distinguished career in corrections was due to his strong leadership skills and his integrity. He firmly believed that the majority of inmates can change for the better provided the underlying cause of the criminality can be addressed. He implemented a "needs-assessment" program in which staff gave incoming inmates tests to determine why they came to prison, after which a plan was developed to address those issues specifically. These interventions included therapy for addiction, career and skill-based opportunities or behavioral therapy.

Tim also issued case managers to work with inmates to stay on task in their quest for self-improvement. The recidivism rate for the North Dakota prison system during Tim's tenure there was between 20 to 28 percent, though Tim felt it should be lower; it was far below the national rate of over 50 percent. In the 18 years that Tim was Warden there were zero inmate suicides. He worked tirelessly to engage selected inmates to help watch out and listen for suicidal inmates.

The countless improvements implemented by Tim to the North Dakota prison system led to him being honored as the 1997-1998 North American Association of Wardens and Superintendents, Warden of the Year.

He retired in 2010, but that only lasted mere weeks as the University of Mary then hired him as associate professor. He was in that position from 2010 to 2016. While at the University of Mary he also served as the Criminal Justice Program Director as well as being named Chair of the Department of Behavioral Sciences in 2013.

He continues to act as a consultant for the American Correctional Association where he evaluates correctional facilities and assists them in meeting American Correctional Association standards. As a consultant he's had the privilege to complete 65 prison audits across the country.

In addition to having a long and storied career, Tim has found time to volunteer for organizations that he's passionate about. He has served on education boards, coached youth sports, retained membership in the Bismarck Elks Lodge, organized league activities and tournaments for the Riverwood Golf Association and has been a proud member of several community and church choirs.

Tim and his wife Ann have three grown children, Jordan, Jeff and Jenna. He's a devoted family man who sees the good in the world and strives to improve the community and state which he calls home. Tim's leadership abilities began at New Ulm High School and have flourished throughout his life, providing opportunities along the way to make a positive difference in the lives of many.