**Chapter 13: Corrections and Multiculturalism**

**Summary**

None of the many facets of corrections is exempt from multicultural concerns. The diversity within our correctional system warrants significant societal attention. What type of attention is needed and what can society do? Being tolerant of diversity would break down many barriers between cultural groups. Trying to understand the many cultural lifestyles found in society may help us better understand why people commit crime and how we can correct their behavior.

Cultural intolerance has existed for some time. So has the inability of correctional practices to fully correct. These statements, taken together, do not infer that becoming tolerant of other cultures will substantially change corrections. There are far too many variables involved with correctional practices to suggest that enhanced tolerance is the solution to solving crime. However, understanding the uniqueness of individuals and groups certainly plays a significant role in correcting human behavior.

What can we expect with regard to multiculturalism and corrections in the near future? The increased presence of females and minorities on correctional staffs suggests a more diverse correctional workforce. Such diversity will seemingly coincide with an increasingly diverse correctional population. Demographic trends suggest increased minority representation in the larger society, and statistical trends suggest greater representation of minorities under correctional supervision. It is hoped that the continuous search for alternatives to crime can someday eliminate the need for correctional intervention.