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Inside this Issue

- 1** WELCOME TO MADISON !
- 2** MORE CHANGES TO CEA-WISCONSIN BOARD
- 3** MSDF TEACHERS DEDICATED TO EMPOWERING STUDENTS
- 4** THANKS TO THESE GENEROUS AUTHORS
- 5** TWO WISCONSIN MEMBERS ELECTED TO REGION III EXECUTIVE BOARD
- 6** A HERO IS SOMEONE WHO CHANGES LIVES
- 8** A TEAM APPROACH TO ADULT INMATE EDUCATION IN SHEBOYGAN COUNTY
- 9** CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION-WISCONSIN 2009 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
- 10** JAIL TEACHERS NETWORK AT JAIL BREAK 2
- 11** THANKS TO SILENT AUCTION DONORS & BIDDERS
- 12** PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Correctional Education Association - Wisconsin

Welcome to Madison !

Welcome to all of you joining us in Madison for the **64th Annual CEA Conference, Moving Forward: Focusing on the Future**. In addition to availing yourself of this excellent professional development opportunity, we hope you will share your ideas and experiences with other conference participants from throughout the United States and beyond.

Take some time to enjoy Madison. As you will see, Madison is situated on an isthmus between three lakes with many interesting attractions and activities located within walking distance of the hotel. Be sure to enjoy some entertainment, recreation, cultural attractions, dining and shopping during your free time. Group activities planned include a tour of Oakhill Correctional Institution, a Capitol tour, a Madison Mallards baseball game, and pontoon boat rides.



Thanks to all of those who have worked hard to make this conference a reality:

Conference Oversight Chair – Norris Williams
Conference Co-Chairs – Peggy Meyers & David Webb
Program Chair – Barb Wulfers
Registration Chair – Deborah Thomas
Hospitality Chair – DeNeal Ericksen
Teacher of the Year Gala Chair – Mary Stierna
Exhibitor Chair – David Nell
Merchandise/Silent Auction Chair– Jerry Bednarowski
And many others who donated their time and energy

More Changes to CEA-Wisconsin Board

The only constant is change. As things continually change in the Wisconsin correctional system, so to does the make-up of the CEA-Wisconsin Board.

New to the board is Peter Garetson. Peter will be assuming the post of Medium Security Representative. This position was vacant as a result of the retirement of Conrad Reedy.

Peter is an instructor at Oshkosh Correctional Institution. He has taught the Building Maintenance and Construction Vocational Program for the past 5 years as well as Student Success and Workplace Success. Prior to that, he taught ABE/HSED and Occupational Communication classes at OSCI and Fox Lake Correctional Institution. Peter started his career as a correctional officer at OSCI in 2000. He has also sponsored both the CEA-Wisconsin and Keys Newspaper writing contest at OSCI since 2003.

Peter is excited about the prospect of working with the CEA-W board members and representing vocational education.

Departing the CEA-W Board is Cory Anderson. Cory is leaving his teaching position at Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility to take a job in private business. Cory had been the President-Elect since May 2008.

Replacing Cory as President-Elect will be Margaret Done. Margaret was the Minimum Security Representative on the Board. This move will leave the Minimum Security Representative post vacant. Anyone interested in serving as Minimum Security Representative on the CEA-W Board may contact Mary Stierna at mary.stierna@wisconsin.gov.

To join CEA go to: www.ceanational.org

Executive Officers		<p>The CEA-W News Review is published by the members of the Correctional Education Association-Wisconsin Chapter. The opinions herein are entirely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the executive officers, the Department of Corrections, or the body as a whole.</p> <p>It is our hope that this newsletter will be used to communicate information concerning activities, special events, new directions and policies of CEA-W and DOC.</p> <p>Articles for publication may be submitted to the CEA-W News Review Editor Jerry Bednarowski at:</p> <p>W6443 Old Highway Road Menasha, WI 54952 920-734-5902 jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com</p>
President	Mary Stierna, WRC	
President-Elect	Margaret Done, REECC	
Secretary	Sharon Neseemann, WRC	
Treasurer	Ray Schlesinger, OCI	
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Medium Security	Peter Garetson, OSCI	
Minimum Security	Vacant	
Juvenile	Holly Audley, SOGS	
State Agency	Peggy Meyers, WTCS	
Local Educational Agency	Chuck Brendel, MPTC	
Community Corrections	Laurie Jarvis, FVTC/Waushara CJ	
Member at Large	Laura Reisinger, LVCV	
Member at Large	Jerry Bednarowski	
News Review Staff		
Editor	Jerry Bednarowski	
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Proofreader	Laura Reisinger, LVCV	
Collating/Folding	WRC Vocational Workshop	

MSDF Teachers Dedicated to Empowering Students

The Education Department at the Milwaukee Secure Detention Center is dedicated to empowering students through education to pursue their future goals.

We achieve this by providing opportunities for pursuit of pre-college, transitional, and other lifelong learning curricula.

We are guided by our belief in the unlimited possibilities of human potential and an awareness of the vital role that education plays in reintegration and success in life.

The above is the Mission Statement of the education department at the Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility (MSDF). MSDF is unique, not only in its structure, but also in its education of offenders.

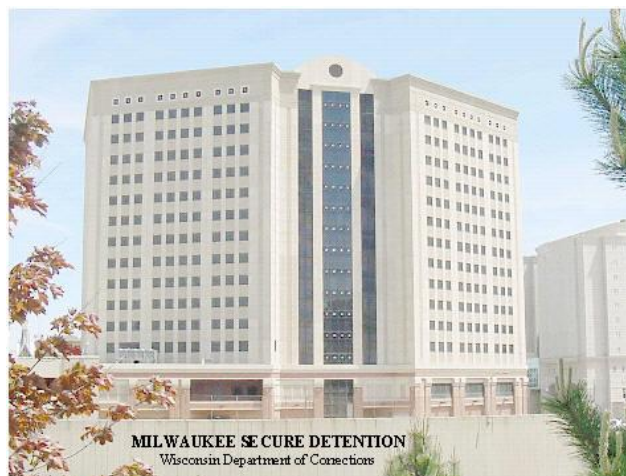
Because MSDF is basically a probation and parole violation hold facility, we are limited, in some ways, in providing consistent education. We hold both DAI and DCC offenders, whose average stay is 67 days. We may work with a student one day and the next day discover they have been moved out of the institution. However, we work hard at providing educational opportunities the best we can with the challenges we face.

Some of the classes we teach are: math, parenting, financial management, employability skills, creative writing (and professional), short story/poetry, journaling, spelling, ABE refresher, College of the Air, literacy, health, WTRP training, driver's license classes, reading, government, recreational therapy/stress management and reentry classes. Also, there are volunteers who come in and teach anger management and healthy relationships, and we work with tutors from Marquette University and various other organizations.

MSDF also teaches GED preparation. We are an official GED testing site and test twice a month. We have approximately 8-12 testers each testing time. Since the beginning of this year, we have had close to 100 testers, with a passing average of approximately 92% and 14 GED/HSED graduates. What an accomplishment for the limitations we face!

The education director and teachers at MSDF are committed to what we do and interested in finding new and better ways of teaching and helping our students grow and learn -- to afford them a better future.

by: Susan Butcher, MSDF

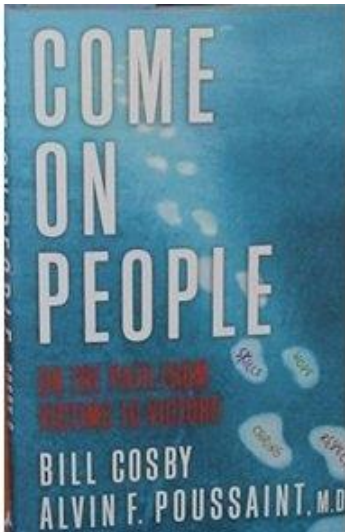


Thanks to These Generous Authors

All of those attending the 64th Annual CEA Conference in Madison found two books in your conference bag. Due to the generosity of the authors, these books have been provided for each conference registrant. The Correctional Education Association and its Wisconsin chapter would like to thank these authors for their book donations and lifelong support of correctional education.

[Come On People: On the Path from Victims to Victors](#)

by Dr. Bill Cosby and Dr. Alvin F. Poussaint



This spring, CEA Executive Director Steve Steurer announced that Bill Cosby agreed to donate 10,000 copies of his book *Come On People* to distribute to the nation's adult prison inmates. Those attending the 64th Annual CEA Conference will also receive a copy of the book.

Dr. Cosby and Dr. Poussaint believe, "For the last generation or two, as our communities dissolved and our parenting skills broke down, no one has suffered more than our young black men." To be sure, the problems faced by Black youth are many: poverty, low education, shortage of role models, violence, hyper-incarceration, self-hate, breakdown of community, mental health problems, shorter life expectancies, etc.

In the chapter *Teach Your Children Well*, the authors discuss tools that can be used by teachers and parents to help children by inspiring them, keeping them in school, keeping the faith, and keeping them out of prison.

Dr. Cosby and Dr. Poussaint hope to positively affect offenders' thinking and future behavior. They have long been the champions of responsible parents, vibrant families and strong communities. In this book, they talk about personal responsibility and the need for a strong family and community -- messages that dovetail with the purpose of correctional education.

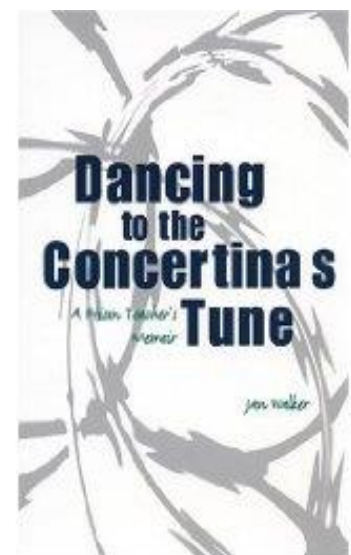
[Dancing to the Concertina's Tune: A Prison Teacher's Memoir](#)

by Jan Walker

During the 18 years Jan Walker taught parenting and family relationships concepts to adult felons inside prison classrooms, she developed curriculum specific to their needs, wrote textbooks and booklets widely used by correctional educators. Her popular text, *Parenting From a Distance, Your Rights and Responsibilities*, is designed to assist parents who are separated from their children to strengthen their bonds, through learning the rights they have and responsibilities they can accept, even though they are apart.

In her other books, Jan Walker draws upon her experience working with offenders to describe the human side of prison life. *An Inmate's Daughter*, is a fictional account of the reality faced by over 2 million American children with a parent in prison or jail. The children are doing time too.

In *Dancing to the Concertina's Tune*, Jan Walker candidly describes her reactions to prison realities, her belief in education as a door-



opener for even the worst offenders, and inmates' responses to the program. She offers readers an honest look at the rhythms of living and working inside both female and male prisons. Through Jan's eyes, readers see her students as human beings struggling to survive behind bars.

Currently, Jan volunteers as President of the Community Advisory Board for a women's reentry prison in Washington State. She also helps facilitate "Preparing for Release," a four-day workshop that helps female offenders and their family members plan together for the women's return to the community.

As a long-time member of CEA, Jan has presented workshops at CEA conferences and provided training at institutions. To show her continued support of correctional teachers, Jan has generously donated copies of *Dancing to the Concertina's Tune* for all those attending the 64th Annual CEA Conference.

More about Dr. Bill Cosby's, Dr. Alvin F. Poussaint's, and Jan Walker's books and work with correctional education may be found in this month's issue of the *Parenting Connection* newsletter which is posted on the www.ceawisconsin.org website. Information on Jan Walker's other books can be found at www.janwalker-writer.com.

Two Wisconsin Members Elected to Region III Executive Board

For the first time ever, a CEA member from Wisconsin has been elected Region III Director. In a ceremony conducted at the Region III & IV CEA Conference held in Ames, Iowa on May 5-7, Peggy Meyers was sworn in to succeed out-going Director David Webb. Joining Peggy on the Region III Executive Board is Assistant Director DeNeal Ericksen.

For the past term, Peggy had served as Region III Assistant Director. Both Peggy and DeNeal have long-time records of service on the Board for the Wisconsin Chapter of CEA, including serving as the State Chapter President.

Rounding out the Region III Executive Board are Secretary Susan Nell and Treasurer Tim Phillians, both from Ohio.



THE CENTER ON
EDUCATION AND WORK
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Careers Conference: Turning Challenges into Opportunities

The Center on Education and Work at the University of Wisconsin will be holding its **24th Annual Careers Conference** at the Madison Concourse Hotel on January 26-27, 2010. The theme of this year's conference is "Turning Challenges into Opportunities." The Center on Education and Work's conference is the leading national conference dedicated to lifelong career development and career education. One of the featured workshop tracks will be "Transition."

The conference's Call for Proposals is now available on the website: www.cew.wisc.edu/careers.

The deadline for proposals is August 28, 2009.

A Hero Is Someone Who Changes Lives

At the CEA Region III & IV Conference held in Ames, Iowa on May 5-7, Wisconsin Teacher of the Year DeNeal Ericksen was selected Region III Teacher of the Year. Along with the other regional Teachers of the Year, DeNeal will be honored at the Teacher of the Year Gala at the 64th Annual CEA Conference.

DeNeal is the seventh Wisconsin Teacher of the Year to go on to win regional honors. The others were:

- 2007 Ken VanMieghem -- Wisconsin Resource Center
- 2006 Sharon Abel -- Lakeshore Technical College / Sheboygan County Detention Center
- 2005 Mary Stierna -- Wisconsin Resource Center
- 2004 Mel Free -- Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution
- 1998 Anita Wilcox -- Blackhawk Technical College / Rock County Jail
- 1992 Phil Leader -- Wisconsin Resource Center



DeNeal Ericksen (center) with Region III Director David Webb, and CEA President Denise Justice at the Region III & IV CEA Conference in Ames, Iowa

About a week after the CEA-Wisconsin Board had selected DeNeal Ericksen as Wisconsin Teacher of the Year, I received the following email. Although the email came after the Board had already made the selection, it reinforced the Board's decision.

Good morning, my name is Kristin Miller and I am writing you to see if you have information on nominating a certain teacher for the annual teacher's award for the correctional system? I was looking at the websites and I see it is coming up, but I didn't see how to nominate someone, or if I could.

There is a teacher that is so incredibly amazing that words aren't enough to describe her true beauty and the wonderful gifts she gives so many women. I was in Ellsworth for 3 years. When I got there, I was a drug addicted, drop out of high school, labeled "thief", walked out on my child, never paid a bill or stayed at a residence longer then 2 months. I didn't know what it meant to hold a job or be responsible. I was 25 at that time, when I met Ms. DeNeal Ericksen. She changed my whole entire life and I don't feel that anyone recognizes just how incredible she is and the difference she makes in so many lives.

Today, I am a mother of a newborn, graduating college in one semester for Human Services, spend my free time volunteering, and just got a wonderful job at Safe Haven working with runaway and abused teens. I couldn't be happier. I am healthy, responsible, dependable, honest....with morals and values....all thanks to Ms. Ericksen. I even named my daughter after her. I wrote a paper for my final exam last semester on her, I only had a half an hour and I didn't do that great, I thought. My teacher gave me an A though. I want you to read it and if there is still time to nominate this lady, can you help me????? She deserves it more than anyone in this world. Thank you for your time.

Kristin Miller

Here is Kristin's essay:

A hero is someone who changes lives without selfish reasons or motives. A hero is someone who you name your child after because of your undying gratification of knowing them in your lifetime. DeNeal Ericksen is that woman that everyone admires, especially me. DeNeal is a mother, grandmother, teacher at a women's prison facility. Not only that, she leads a group that donates activity kits to the children's cancer hospital, donates produce to the food bank, promotes the Racine Literacy Council, and coordinates donations of crocheted blankets/mittens/hats for the less fortunate. Wait, there's more! DeNeal teaches women to be better mothers to their children, better people to our family, and to never say the word "can't." There is so much more to list, but not enough time. She is the most influential person in mine and so many other women's life's. She might just be superwomen because to conquer all these things she has had to face long hours of work and time away from her own family, the responsibility of speaking for others who couldn't speak for themselves, and a terrifying diagnosis of cancer and having to keep it a secret. These are all the exciting things that make Ms. Ericksen so incredibly wonderful.

While Ms. Ericksen is currently employed at Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center, she teaches incarcerated women college courses for them to have a possible better life. Endless hours she would stay overtime to meet with a women in need of assistance or just to talk. She taught MotherRead and Parenting. They are programs that are 4 months long and teach these women how to understand, communicate with their children, and be better parents. Encouraging reading, play, and quality time with our children was always stressed. DeNeal is always a person giving more, stepping out of the box when it came to meeting her "job requirements."

DeNeal's wonderful qualities weren't always a welcomed characteristic in the correctional system. She pushed for greater activities to encourage change amongst the women. In 2005 I wanted to start a program for the Children's Hospital where we would donate activity kits to children too sick to get out of bed. We also made crocheted blankets for them and funky crocheted hats to help cheer them up due to the effects of cancer treatments. DeNeal fought to have the institution administration allow women the opportunity to do something as constructive as this for the community and for the women.

Despite all the obstacles and battles DeNeal faced, she never backed down. I remember her crying in frustration and always smiling when I asked what was wrong. She never wanted to burden another person with her own personal afflictions. When she was diagnosed with cancer and going through treatments, none of us knew. Every day she strongly showed up at work and made it the best day for everyone around her.

My life is so incredible now since I've met this woman so many years ago. I think about her every day, especially since my daughter is named after her. Sometimes I stop and call her to thank her because I'm overwhelmed with tears when I think about how wonderful my life is from all she taught me. I am a better mother, daughter, and a better person because of her. DeNeal Ericksen is someone I will tell my great children about.

A Team Approach to Adult Inmate Education in Sheboygan County

With support from a highly competitive Adult Education & Family Literacy Act grant, Lakeshore Technical College (LTC) partners with Sheboygan County Sheriff's Department to provide on-site basic education services for adults incarcerated in the Sheboygan County Detention Center (SCDC). These services include General Educational Development Certificate/High School Equivalency Diploma, basic skills review, college preparation, and employment preparation. LTC provides a full-time instructor and equips the SCDC classroom with textbooks, office supplies, and computers. LTC and Sheboygan County share in the expenses to supply a part-time Instructional Assistant. Instructional services are provided year round, generally four afternoons and two evenings per week. Participation in the adult basic/secondary education program is voluntary and is considered a privilege. Each inmate participating sets individualized education and employment goals at registration and regularly evaluates progress towards those goals with the help of the instructor.

LTC provides fundamental literacy programming in the areas of reading, vocabulary, career exploration, employability, mathematics, written and verbal communication, computers, civics, health, parenting, and personal finances for a very diverse inmate population, diverse as per: age, ethnicity, race, physical and cognitive ability, medical condition, criminal record, socioeconomic status and background, employment status and history, educational level, religion, alcohol/drug use, sexual orientation, custody level, escape risk, danger risk, and expected length of stay.

In an effort to meet the challenges posed by a wide range of learning needs, LTC and SCDC partner with a variety of community agencies including but not limited to: the Literacy Council, Family Resource Centers of Sheboygan County; Consumer Credit Counseling Services, Family Service Association; Friends of the Mead Public Library; Eastern Shores Library System; Sheboygan County Job Center; Sheboygan Area School District; Good News Jail & Prison Ministry; and the LTC Foundation. Literacy volunteers, certified credit & housing counselors, and guest speakers encourage cooperation between on- and off-site services and offer familiar reference points to inmates post-release, increasing the potential for successful reentry.

Length of participation in LTC's Sheboygan County Incarcerated Project is based on length of stay and ranges from less than one week to over a year, with a two to five month average. As long as behavior meets the classroom conduct code and the detention center/jail rules and the inmate is making progress toward identified goals, the recognized duration of programming for said inmate is from point of registration to release or transfer. However, LTC Instructor Sharon Abel has made it a practice to follow up with her former students and remain an approachable resource for inmates/students post-release. She can be reached by e-mail sharon.abel@gotoltc.edu or voice mail 920.693.1747.

by: Sharon Abel, Lakeshore Technical College

Mark Your Calendar

Wisconsin GED/HSED & Adult Literacy Conference
Radisson Paper Valley Hotel
Appleton, WI
November 10-12, 2009

Correctional Education Association- Wisconsin 2009 Scholarship Program

Again this year CEA-Wisconsin is sponsoring two \$500 scholarships. One scholarship will go to a CEA-W member and the other will go to a family member of a CEA-W member.

Purpose: The CEA-Wisconsin Scholarship Award Program is designed to assist CEA-W members or their spouses/dependents that are pursuing a degree at an accredited university or technical college.

Scholarships Details: Each year, CEA-Wisconsin endows two scholarships of \$500 each. One scholarship will be awarded to a CEA-W member who is furthering his/her education in the education or library services field. The other scholarship will go to a family member of a CEA-W member who is pursuing a university or technical college degree in any field. The recipients must provide verification of enrollment in an accredited university or technical college.

Eligibility:

- Applicant must be a current CEA-W member, member's spouse, or member's dependent.
- Applicant must be pursuing (full or part time) a graduate, undergraduate, or technical degree at an accredited university or technical college.
- Applicant must be entering his/her freshman, sophomore, junior, senior year, or graduate school. First year students must have been officially accepted by the college/university they plan to attend.
- Past winners are not eligible.

Application: Applicants must complete the application form that can be found on the www.ceawisconsin.org website, provide all required attachments, and submit the entire package to the address below no later than September 1, 2009. Incomplete application packages will not be accepted for consideration.

Selection: The scholarship recipients will be selected by the CEA-Wisconsin Board. Criteria for selection will include academic record; financial need; school, community, or association activities. Recipients will be notified in writing.

For more information contact:



Holly Audley
CEA-Wisconsin Scholarship Committee
Southern Oaks Girls School
21425B Spring Street
Union Grove, WI 53182
262-878-6525
holly.audley@wisconsin.gov

Jail Teachers Network at Jail Break 2

Again this spring, the Wisconsin Technical College System and the Correction Education Association–Wisconsin collaborated to bring Wisconsin jail educators a day to focus on jail education and advancement.

Jail Break 2 was held on April 24, 2009 at Pine Ridge in Wautoma, Wisconsin. Twenty-three county jails were represented by 43 people who work in various capacities in Wisconsin county jails.

The night before a twilight event was held. Waushara County Sheriff David Peterson and Lieutenant George Peterman greeted participants at the Waushara County Jail for a jail tour. Conference attendees met in the Multipurpose Room for a question answer session facilitated by Laurie Jarvis Fox Valley Technical College Jail Instructor and George Peterman Jail Administrator. A tour of the jail followed this informative session. The group then had a pizza party at Christianos.

The Jail Instructor Training Day featured speaker Joseph J. Marchese, of J.J. Marchese & Associates, Inc. His presentation *Surviving Crisis Situations* focused on bringing correctional staff personnel home safely at the end of each work day. His major focus was helping all of those in attendance to recognize a crisis situation in a correctional facility such as a hostage incident or jail riot. These incidents are one of the most critical situations that any staff member might face. For this reason it is important that staff be trained in facility safety and survival skills and in particular on how to survive a crisis/hostage situation.

In this workshop, participants gained information that gave them an understanding of the dynamics of a jail crisis and provided them with some methods and techniques they can use to enhance their survival skills in such a situation.

An extremely informative was session held in the afternoon. Rich Norenberg presented a workshop on *Recognizing Mental Illness and Strategies that Encourage Student Cooperation and Learning*. Rich is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), Teacher and Social Worker. He facilitates Relapse Prevention, Understanding Mental Illness, and Follow Your Dreams classes at the Wisconsin Resource Center.

His workshop provided an overview of Depression, Schizophrenia and Bi-Polar Disorders, as well as typical behaviors associated with these illnesses. Participants were introduced to strategies and techniques used to connect with, understand and effectively instruct students with mental health issues. Expressing empathy, awareness of non-verbal communication, patience and individual instruction were emphasized. Helping students to develop and maintain a Relapse Prevention Plan was discussed.

Networking with other jail education workers and supporters is essential for quality programs to continue. Plans for Jail Break 3 are being made. Watch for information in the January/February 2010 newsletter.

by: Laurie Jarvis, FVTC/Waushara County Jail

Learn All About CEA-Wisconsin at:
www.ceawisconsin.org

Thanks to Silent Auction Donors & Bidders

Thanks to all the institutions, technical colleges, businesses, and individuals who donated to the Silent Auction at the 64th Annual CEA Conference and all of the bidders who purchased items.

All proceeds from the Silent Auction and merchandise sale will be used to help support CEA-Wisconsin initiatives to strengthen literacy, high school equivalency, vocational training, and treatment programs which improve the juvenile and adult offenders' chances of successfully reintegrating into society upon release from incarceration, and thereby creating safer communities.

The CEA-Wisconsin initiatives that are funded in part by Silent Auction and merchandise sales are:

- Sponsoring or co-sponsoring conferences and training days:
 - CEA-Wisconsin State Conference
 - Wisconsin GED/HSED & Adult Literacy Conference
 - Jail Educators Training Day
 - Parenting instructors training seminars
 - Region III and International CEA Conferences
- Sponsoring education awards:
 - Teacher of the Year
 - Showcase Award
 - Friends of Correctional Education Award
- Funding two CEA-Wisconsin Scholarships
- Conducting the CEA-Wisconsin Creativity Contest and publishing the contest booklet
- Printing and distributing newsletters and other publications:
 - CEA-Wisconsin newsletter
 - Parenting Connection newsletter
 - Directory of Education Programs in Wisconsin's County Jails and Juvenile Detention Centers
 - Guide to Successful Parenting Programs in Corrections
- Operating the www.ceawisconsin.org website

We wish to thank those who have donated items to the Silent Auction and support CEA-Wisconsin's efforts to strengthen the skills of correctional educators and support effective and innovative educational programming:

- Wisconsin correctional institutions – Some of the items in the Silent Auction were made by offenders as part of vocational training or community services projects in Wisconsin institutions. These programs enable offenders to develop skills which will help them reintegrate and become productive members of the community.
- Wisconsin Technical College System – WTCS partners with many county jails to provide staff and materials for educational programming within county jails and detention centers
- Wisconsin businesses – Many businesses in Madison and throughout Wisconsin have generously donated their products to support our efforts
- Friends from other states – Several CEA state chapters have donated items to help our efforts!

President's Message

Welcome to the 64th Annual CEA Conference!

We are very excited to be hosting the conference in Wisconsin this year. There are over 75 workshops to choose from on a variety of topics! I hope you have the opportunity to meet correctional educators from all over the country. One focus of the conference is to honor the Teachers of the Year (TOYs) from the nine regions within CEA. The Regional TOYs will be identified by a special ribbon on their name tags. Please take a moment to welcome and congratulate them.

We have some special people from Wisconsin being honored at the conference this year. DeNeal Ericksen is our Region III TOY, so come and celebrate with her at the TOY gala on Tuesday evening. Also, Jerry Bednarowski is receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Awards luncheon on Monday. We all know how deserving Jerry is of this award! Congratulations to DeNeal and Jerry!

I want to thank all of the Wisconsin CEA members who contributed their time and talents towards making this conference a success! Your efforts over the past year are truly appreciated! Enjoy, Mary

Mary Stierna

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