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## Correctional Education Association - Wisconsin

### Join Us in Madison

Time is growing short to register for the **64<sup>th</sup> Annual CEA Conference, Moving Forward: Focusing on the Future**. Conference participants will be coming from throughout the United States and several other countries. The conference planning committee is working hard to make this conference an excellent professional development opportunity.



### Conference Agenda

- Opening Session (Sunday Night)
- President's Reception
- General Sessions with Featured Speakers
- Professional Workshops
- Institution Tour
- Awards Luncheon
- Teacher of the Year Gala
- Vendor Exhibits
- Silent Auction
- Membership Business Meeting

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# Key Senators Reintroduce Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act

On March 24, Senators Pat Leahy (D-VT), Arlen Specter (D-PA), Herb Kohl (D-WI) and Richard Durbin (D-IL) introduced juvenile justice legislation similar to the bill passed by the Senate Judiciary Committee at the end of the last Congress but did not make its way for action prior to the close of the last session of Congress.

This legislation, the *Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2009, S. 678*, would reauthorize and make significant improvements to federal law. It builds on efforts begun with the last reauthorization in 2002 to bring child welfare and juvenile justice systems together to improve outcomes for children and youth through improved coordination, procedures and protocols.

The legislation would extend the requirement to remove juveniles from adult jails by making it applicable for the first time to juveniles held pretrial, whether charged in juvenile or adult court, and would strengthen the provisions regarding disproportionate minority confinement. The bill also would strengthen the deinstitutionalization-of-status-offenders requirement by asking all states to phase out and fully eliminate use of the Valid Court Order Exception (which causes non-offending youth/status offenders to be locked up) and would encourage states to eliminate dangerous practices that are harming youth in confinement and to promote adoption of best practices and standards.

Some project passage of this in the Senate within the next few weeks to a month.

**Learn All About CEA-Wisconsin at:**  
[www.ceawisconsin.org](http://www.ceawisconsin.org)

<b>Executive Officers</b>		<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 style="text-align: right;">W6443 Old Highway Road                  Menasha, WI 54952                  920-734-5902  <a href="mailto:jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com">jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com</a></p>
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# Friends of Correctional Education 2009 Award

## Do you know someone who has been noteworthy in their support of correctional education?

This person may be a volunteer who contributes time and effort to an education program, a community agency employee who has presented special workshops, a business person who has donated funds or materials to make programs more effective, or an advocate of correctional education in some way. If such person has contributed to your facility's education program, submit his/her name to the Correctional Education Association-Wisconsin for the "Friend of Correctional Education Award."

Nominees cannot be employed by the Department of Corrections, Department of Health and Family Services, or a county jail.

## Friends of Correctional Education Entry Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution to Correctional Education: \_\_\_\_\_

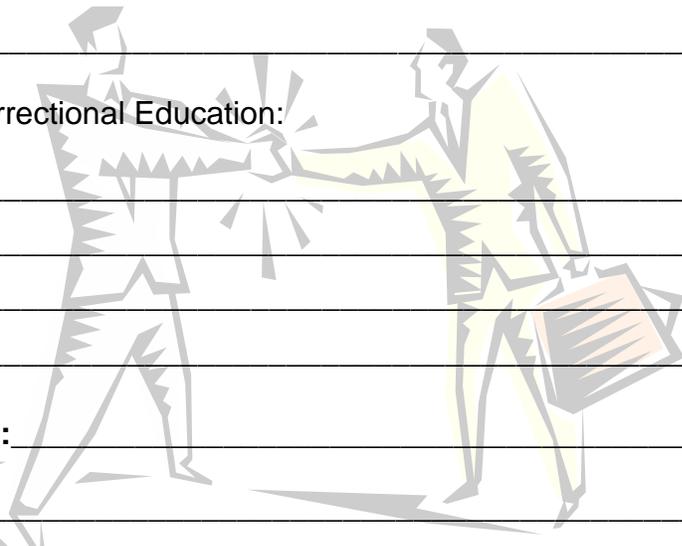
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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_



**Deadline: July 1, 2009**

Submit your entry to:

Mike Breszee

CEA-W Awards and Recognition

Waupun Correctional Institution

PO Box 351

Waupun, WI 53963-0351

Phone: (920) 324-1147

Fax: (920) 324-7250

Email: [michael.breszee@wisconsin.gov](mailto:michael.breszee@wisconsin.gov)

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## Tentative Professional Workshops

Over 60 professional workshops, presented by educators from a number of states are scheduled for the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual CEA Conference. Here is a sample of tentative workshop titles:

- Making Math Make Sense for At-Risk Youth
- Reentry and the Consequences of Having a Criminal Record
- What's in a Story?
- Integrating Technological Resources Effectively and Efficiently into Correctional Education
- Using Manipulatives to Teach GED Writing Skills
- Conducting an Inmate Job Fair
- The Oakdale Prison Community Choir: Integrating Volunteers, University Students and Offenders through Music and Writing
- From the Inside/Out: Taking Personal Responsibility for the Relationships in Your Life
- Using Tunes to Tell a Child's Story
- Another Chance at Life and Learning: Youth and Greyhounds Learn Together
- CEA Online Professional Development Course Offerings
- Integrating Effective Problem-Solving into Correctional Education Instruction
- Yes, I Do Belong in Prison
- Not Just Another Recidivism Study
- Avoiding the Sting
- Decoding Strategies for Developing Second Language Literacy
- An Interactive Reading Approach: From the Bottom – Up
- Offering Hope on a Budget: The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program
- Correctional Education in Historical Perspective: Eastern State Penitentiary as Case Study
- Make Math “Add Up” for the Incarcerated Learner
- How to End the Plight of Women Who Go Missing Because of Domestic Violence
- Dual-Completion: The Effects of Completing a CTE Program and Earning a GED on Post-Release Outcomes
- Spiritual Literacy
- Cognitive Biology: Helping Juveniles Restructure Their Thinking and Behavior
- Specific and Effective Tools to Renew Motivation and Build Resiliency in At-Risk Youth
- Effective Collaboration: Building and Maintaining an Effective Inter-Agency Program
- Identifying and Assessing Special Education Disorders in Correctional Settings
- A Frame Work for Understanding Poverty
- Celebrating the Positives – Starting Recognition Ceremonies in Jail Settings
- Decoding Strategies to Improve Literacy for Struggling Readers
- The Big Read
- New Directions: A Roadmap to Prison Life and Beyond
- Read Naturally: A Research Based Reading Program for Struggling Readers
- Today's Leaders



## Registration Information

All registration materials are on the National website: [www.ceanational.org](http://www.ceanational.org). Open to the home page and look for the yellow column (Hot Topics) on the left, click on "64<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference." Everything is there.

- Full Registration (before June 1, 2009)
  - \$298 for CEA Members
  - \$353 for Non-Members (renew or join to receive member benefits)
  - \$265 for CEA Retirees or CEA Students
- Full Registration (after June 1, 2009)
  - \$358 for CEA Members
  - \$413 for Non-Members (renew or join to receive member benefits)
  - \$325 for CEA Retirees or CEA Students
- Full registration includes President's Reception Sunday, Breakfast & Luncheon Monday, Breakfast and Dinner Tuesday, and Brunch Wednesday.
- One day registration and meals for non-registered guests are also available.

## Hotel Information

The Madison Concourse Hotel is located near the State Capitol, State Street, University of Wisconsin, Monona Terrace Convention Center, Overture Center and more. The Concourse offers 356 guest rooms, including the Governor's Club and 12 hospitality suites. Located on the top three floors, the 100 room Governor's Club executive level offers the premier rooms in Madison. Fresh from a \$2.5 million renovation, the guest rooms feature 42" plasma TVs, spacious bathrooms with walk-in, glass showers and compact refrigerators. Enjoy complimentary breakfast, top-shelf cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and desserts in the private lounge, overlooking the State Capitol and sapphire lakes.

### The Madison Concourse Hotel

1 West Dayton Street

Madison, WI 53703

800-356-8293

[www.concoursehotel.com](http://www.concoursehotel.com)

- **Room Rates**

Guest room rates are subject to state and local taxes in effect at the time of check-in unless written proof of exempt status is provided at check-in. The current tax rate is 14.5%.

Room Type	Single Rate	Double Rate
Concourse Level	\$ 95.00	\$105.00
Governor's Level	\$159.00	\$169.00
- **Reservation Method**

Individuals are requested to call the Hotel directly at 1-800-356-8293 to make reservations. Please identify that you are a part of the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Correctional Education Association Conference when making your reservation.
- **Reservation Cut Off Date**

The reservation cut off date is midnight C.S.T. on June 18, 2009. Any reservations received after the cut off date will be accepted on a space and rate available basis.

## For More Information

Check out the national or state websites at [www.ceanational.org](http://www.ceanational.org) or [www.ceawisconsin.org](http://www.ceawisconsin.org). Contact Conference Co-Chair Peggy Meyers at [peggy.meyers@wtcsystem.edu](mailto:peggy.meyers@wtcsystem.edu).

## Enjoy Madison

Lake, city, lake – Madison is situated on an isthmus between three lakes. The Conference Hospitality Committee has put together a list of events, attractions, tours, dining, and shopping for you to enjoy before and after the conference. These include a boat tour of one of the lakes and a tour of the State Capitol building. Information on Madison attractions will be available at the conference registration desk.

# Celebration of Literacy Award Honors Students, Tutors, and Programs

Many things go well together: horse and carriage, chocolate and peanut butter, and pen and paper. Wisconsin Literacy, Inc. and Wisconsin Institutions Literacy Council (WILC) are two organizations that work well together. Wisconsin Literacy, Inc. is a statewide agency that was initially formed in 1985 as a coalition of adult, family and workplace literacy providers for the purpose of supporting one another through resource development, information and referrals, trainings and advocacy. WILC is an organization which promotes literacy and life skills through a learner-centered environment. This is accomplished through tutoring services offered by individual institutions for inmates enrolled in school, and also for inmates in the general population who wish to improve their math, reading, writing and keyboarding skills in order to prepare for re-entry into society, family life and the workplace.

One of the activities in which Wisconsin Literacy and WILC partner is the annual Celebration of Literacy. On Thursday, May 7, 2009, Wisconsin Literacy hosted its 7th Annual Celebration of Literacy at the Edgewater Hotel in Madison. Seven awards were presented. WILC submitted nine nominations. Of those nine – three won awards.

The winners from WILC (Wisconsin Institutions Literacy Council) were:

## **Outstanding English Language Learner of the Year**

Award Winner: Javier Bautista-Sanchez  
Nominated by: Stanley Correctional Institution

## **Courage Award for Achievement in a Correctional Setting**

Award Winner: Colin Fields  
Nominated by: Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility

## **The First Lady Jessica Doyle Award for Family Literacy**

Award Winner: Fathers Sharing Books Program  
Nominated by: Stanley Correctional Institution

The award winners from other organizations were:

## **Outstanding Adult Literacy Learner of the Year**

Award Winner: Teresa Sanfilippo  
Nominated by: Literacy Council of Greater Waukesha

## **Outstanding Achievement in a Workplace Literacy Program**

Award Winner: Cargill, Inc.  
Nominated by: Milwaukee Achiever Literacy Services, Inc.

## **Tutor of the Year**

Award Winners: Sister Jeanne Jarvis and Sister Carlotta Ullmer  
Nominated by: Literacy Green Bay

## **Literacy Advocate of the Year**

Award Winner: Jessica Hale  
Nominated by: Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College Adult Basic Education Program

The other WILC nominations were:

## **Courage Award for Achievement in a Correctional Setting**

Beth Gretzinger	Taycheedah Correctional Institution
Nancy Kantorowicz-Gruenwald	Taycheedah Correctional Institution
Christopher Brooks	Stanley Correctional Institution

## **Tutor of the Year**

Teddy Tritten	Jackson Correctional Institution
Joshua Tibbetts	Stanley Correctional Institution
Dawn Ludwig	Taycheedah Correctional Institution.

**Outstanding English Language Learner of the Year:**

Mr. Sanchez began his educational journey at Stanley Correctional Institution in May 2004 in the Vocational Custodial Services program. He completed all the Chippewa Valley Technical College requirements and received his diploma in May of 2005. In spite of his ESL challenge, he earned a 3.71 GPA in his college courses.

He then began work on his HSED. The journey through all of the courses involved in the HSED was long and hard as he struggled with his ESL barrier. Mr. Sanchez completed work on his HSED on September 17, 2008. He averaged a score of 522 on the five GED core tests. He completed Civics and Employability Skills with distinction and earned a 71 on the State of Wisconsin's Health Test.

In addition to all the work completing his Vocational and HSED diplomas, Mr. Sanchez went above and beyond what average students do. He completed these additional elective courses while working on his educational courses: Introduction to Computers, Advanced Computer Application, MS Office Suite, and Tutor Training through ProLiteracy America.

Mr. Sanchez's goal is to become a Bilingual Literacy Tutor and help those who are experiencing the same difficult challenges that he did. Mr. Sanchez is definitely an outstanding English Language Learner.

**Courage Award for Achievement in a Correctional Setting:**

Colin Fields' birth was anything but easy. After nine hours of painstaking labor, his mother gave birth to an 11lb./11oz. baby boy. The traumatic delivery left his face bruised and beaten, as well as a broken clavicle (collar bone). He was immediately rushed off by nurses, leaving his mother to wonder if he was even alive. Due to the lack of oxygen, it was thought that he would suffer permanent brain damage, or even blindness. Worse than the bruises and broken bones was the nerve damage caused by the improper delivery. The nerves in his neck and shoulder were severed causing Erb's Palsy in his left arm. His parents were told if he recovered he would never use his arm again. Against all odds he survived, with the only lasting effect being that he has minimal use of his arm.

Growing up, he never allowed this to hinder him. The divorce of his parents when he was 12 had a profound effect on him. The divorce placed him between homes, moving from Wisconsin to New Mexico. While in New Mexico he lived in a neighborhood called the "war zone;" here he was introduced to drugs and gangs. Upon moving back to Wisconsin, he came with the same mentality he had in the "war zone." Mr. Fields immersed himself in a criminal lifestyle. At age 17, he learned that his girlfriend was pregnant and he realized he needed to make a change. He focused on school and received his first job, but soon after his old habits caught up with him and he was incarcerated.

While incarcerated, he continued his schooling and received his HSED. On July 20, 2007 he became a ProLiteracy Tutor and went on to help other inmates receive their HSED. He completed the Diversity Circles Program and also received a job in the library. Mr. Fields enrolled in the Micro Computer Application Specialist Course and recently graduated from it, earning a total of 12 credits through Gateway Technical College. He also accumulated 18 credits through Milwaukee Area Technical College.

On February 13<sup>th</sup> he was selected as one of the student speakers for graduation. In his speech he shared, "The choices I decided to make and the lifestyle I chose to live set in motion the circumstances that led me to this institution. The consequences of my actions and my poor judgment affected more than just me. I failed to foresee how my behavior would affect those around me. Every step I take now is a step toward rectifying the broken relationships and making amends for the hurt I caused." Seeing the smile on his mother's face made every struggle worth fighting and every obstacle worth overcoming.

Malcolm X said, "Education is the passport to the future, tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today." Mr. Fields has prepared himself and his family for a better future by the courage he demonstrated while in a correctional setting.

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**The First Lady Jessica Doyle Award for Family Literacy:**

“Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.” This quote by W. Fusselman is a good summary of the Fathers Sharing Books program at Stanley Correctional Institution (SCI).

The Fathers Sharing Books program began at SCI in 2004 with the purpose of keeping fathers connected with their children. Other important goals of the program include improving the literacy of the fathers involved and potentially breaking the cycle of crime. This reading program allows incarcerated fathers to stay in touch with their children.

Once enrolled, men attend class to learn why reading to children is important, how to select age appropriate materials, and where to find books and materials. Classroom sessions encourage the fathers to discover what their own educational values are and to express those values in personal journals.

When they have completed the class, time is reserved for each of them to burn a CD as they are reading a book they have personally chosen. They may read more than one book because each father is allotted 30 minutes to read to their children. The CD is paid for by the father and mailed to his child/children. Men are allowed to make additional CDs (same cost) by simply contacting the instructor to reserve a time to read another book for their child/children. The program is offered 3 to 4 times per year at Stanley Correctional Institution. At least 50 men a year have the chance to read a book to their children and are able to promote family literacy.

This program has an incredibly positive effect not only on the inmates, but also on their families. The instructor has received letters of support and thanks from some of the families. They are grateful for the connection being made between the inmate and their children. The books that the inmates read are readily available for families to have in their homes. The effort made by these men to contribute to and be a part of their families' lives is invaluable. Encouraging their children to read and follow along as Daddy reads is an integral part of developing family literacy, even from a distance.

Besides honoring the award-winning adult learners, tutors and literacy advocates in Wisconsin, the Celebration of Literacy helps raise necessary funds to support 58 literacy programs throughout the state.

This year's keynote speaker was Michael Feldman, award-winning host of the nationally syndicated radio show *Whad'Ya Know?* The Celebration also featured a silent auction of a wide range of items, including signed books by some of Wisconsin's best authors.

by: Kay C George, WILC Co-Director & Tutor Supervisor  
Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility

## Please Double Check

Many state employees have received new email addresses in the last few years, while others have retired or changed their private email addresses recently. When renewing your CEA membership, be sure to correct your email address so that your information in the CEA Directory is correct and you can receive electronic information from the national office. If you have retired, you are eligible for a reduced CEA membership rate.

If you have retired or changed your private email address and are not receiving emails from me, send me your new email address to [jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com](mailto:jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com). I have already changed the email addresses of all state employees on my email lists.

**To join CEA go to: [www.ceanational.org](http://www.ceanational.org)**

# Redgranite Correctional Institution Strives to Give Back to the Community

Most of us think we have a good idea of what a prison looks like inside and how it operates within the prison walls. We see it on TV and at the movie theatres. Movies like “Lock-Up,” with Sylvester Stallone, or “Escape from Alcatraz,” with Clint Eastwood, paint pictures in our minds of what it is like to live behind bars.

Just recently I had the opportunity to take a tour of the Redgranite Correctional Institution (RGCI), a medium-security facility, located on County Road EE, just on the edge of Redgranite. As a result of that afternoon tour, my mental “picture” of prison-life has been altered in a very positive way. I’ll no longer be looking at prison-life in the same way again.

Make no mistake, however; RGCI is a prison, housing 1,014 inmates who have committed crimes against their victims and society. There is a watch tower with armed guards, high double fencing, with furled razor sharp wire and a stun fence.

Visitors to the facility have to empty their pockets, store their items in a locker, and pass through electronic surveillance, and there is a control center that monitors, with cameras, virtually every area of the prison. There are guards present at every activity and in every housing unit, and armed guards patrolling the perimeter of the 89-acre parcel of land 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

My “tour guide” was RGCI Education Director, Kim Koeck, who met me near the front entrance of the facility, where the administrative and business offices are located. From there we went to the Visitor Center, where approximately 300 visitors per week meet with inmates for family visitation. Each inmate can have a three-hour visit anytime from 1 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. during weekdays, and a two-hour visit anytime between the hours of 8a.m. and 3:30p.m. on weekends and holidays.

The Visitor Center has vending machines available, tables and chairs, and a colorful mural painted on a wall in a designated children’s play area. There is also a separate, more-private room for conferences and meetings between inmates and their attorneys, clergy, and others. During the warmer months, inmates can also visit with their families in an adjoining outside fenced-in Victim’s Awareness Garden, which is maintained by the inmates.

From the Visitor Center, Kim took me to the Chaplain’s office and craft/recreational area. Chaplain Debra Mejchar provides worship services and spiritual consultation to inmates who come from eight different religious backgrounds, and added that the inmates have a band that provides musical entertainment for the inmate graduation ceremonies and other events held within the prison. She also administers a grief support program and a “Read to Me” program, which gives inmates an opportunity to videotape themselves reading stories to their children.

After we were checked by the control center guard and given the “okay” to go forward, Kim took me to the facility “school,” where there is a library and a number of classrooms, all filled with inmates wanting to get an education and graduate with their High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED). Kim told me proudly, that the facility has four graduation ceremonies per year, with 712 inmates graduating within the facility since opening in 2001.

Warden Larry Jenkins is an avid supporter of inmate education, knowing that studies show there is a lower recidivism rate for those inmates who become educated than those who don’t. Some inmates learn to read for the first time in their lives, while others are able to take correspondence courses from UW-Platteville to earn college credits.

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Next we stopped by the large gymnasium where inmates can get exercise playing basketball, volleyball, and ping-pong or using exercise equipment 45 minutes a day. The gymnasium is also used for graduation ceremonies and other special events at the facility.

As we walked through the facility, Kim also pointed out the Health Services Unit, where there is a full-time doctor, a part-time dentist, and nursing staff who operate the unit around the clock, everyday of the week; a canteen, where inmates can order snacks, personal hygiene, and letter-writing supplies (no tobacco; the facility is totally tobacco-free); a barbershop, where licensed inmates provide barber services; the Badger State Industries workshop, where computers and wheelchairs are restored and donated to charities; and the kitchen, where approximately 3,000 meals are prepared and transported to unit cafeterias, per day.

Near the back of the facility grounds, there is a common walkway, where inmates can walk to and from their rooms, to classes, to the gym, and their work areas. They can walk without guard escort within this area.

Housing consists of two large buildings, with four wings in each building. Two wings make up a unit. A unit manger and guards supervise approximately 250 inmates, who typically share an 80-square-foot room with other inmates. Each unit has its own cafeteria, recreation area, and central shower room.

The unit manger system, rather than a somewhat outdated system of housing inmates in one large central area, has proven to be less costly, improve communication, enhance control, and is safer for the inmates, staff, and community. The multidisciplinary staff assigned to the unit meet and work with each inmate regularly to review their goals and progress. There is a 50-bed segregation building, which houses inmates who have been unable to follow facility's rules and are behaviorally unmanageable within the normal units; while living in the segregation unit, inmates are allowed out of their rooms only one hour a day.

Each inmate has a daily schedule to follow, which includes classes, recreation, treatment, and work programs. Treatment programs include: Anger Management, Cognitive Intervention (which is designed to motivate inmates to take responsibility for changing their criminal thinking), Domestic Violence, Alcohol and Other Drug Addiction, and the Sex Offender program. Other programs available also include a Home program, which prepares inmates for their return to society, with the goal that inmates will be successful and not re-offend.

Most inmates work at RGCI and are paid anywhere from five cents to 42 cents per hour, depending on the complexity of their job. They get paid 15 cents per hour while in school. There are many jobs available to inmates at the facility, including food service workers, custodial and maintenance, yard and garden, clerk, carpentry and painting, and school tutor positions, which require an HSED, 16 hours of classroom training, and a final exam.

Earning money for their work at the facility enables inmates to pay restitution or child support, teaches them financial management and responsibility, allows them to buy materials for some of their craft projects, allows them to purchase items from the canteen, and enables them to donate money to various charities.

Throughout my tour, various staff members told me that one of the goals the inmate population learns about and adheres to is giving back to our local communities and to various programs.

For example, there are a number of inmates that enjoy knitting and crocheting and make and donate their handmade blankets to Waushara County Habitat for Humanity families, baby infant carrier-covers to Waushara County Health Services for needy new mothers, Christmas stockings for local clinics and hospitals, baby blankets for local church groups that send them to third-world countries, and blankets for animal shelters as part of the statewide Snuggles Program and statewide crisis centers.

Some of the items are used directly by the program recipients, while other times the items are auctioned off, with the money going to benefit individuals or the community in some other way. Other item or money donations are given to local schools and booster clubs, foundations such as the LeRoy Butler Breast Cancer charity, the Special Olympics, the Crime Victim's Rights Week, rape crisis centers, Boys and Girls Clubs, the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and others. In addition, the inmates who work in the gardens harvested and donated over 6,200 pounds of fresh produce to the Wautoma and Redgranite food pantries in the past year.

Former Redgranite Village President Betty Eannalli, who serves on the RGCI Community Relations Board, which meets once a year with prison and local officials, believes that the facility has also made a positive financial impact on the community. "With the prison employing approximately 300 people and with inmates visitors on a regular basis, they bring money into the community that we wouldn't have without it," said Eannalli.

In addition, the prison pays the Village of Redgranite once a year for municipal services, which amounted to approximately \$41,000 last year. Their quarterly payment for sewer and water and an additional surcharge ranging from \$18,000 to \$21,000 a quarter has enabled the fixed sewer charge to decrease from \$45 to \$30 for Redgranite residents since the facility was opened in 2001.

Likewise, Warden Larry Jenkins, who has been a warden in the Wisconsin Department of Corrections for over 31 years, is appreciative of the cooperation of the local community and its services to the prison and the employees. "I'm also extremely proud of the staff at the facility; they do a great job working with our inmates each day," added Jenkins.

For more information about the Redgranite Correctional Institution, contact Education Director Kim Koeck at 920-566-3126.

by: Sherry Kelley, Waushara Argus newspaper  
Reprinted with permission

## **Five Members Remain, One Retirement on CEA-W Board**

Because all of the incumbents for the CEA-W Board were unopposed in this year's election, there were no new members elected. Continuing on the Board are:

**Margaret Done – Minimum Security Member**  
**Holly Audley – Juvenile Member**  
**Chuck Brendel – Local Education Agency Member**  
**Laurie Jarvis – Community Corrections Member**  
**Laura Reisinger – Member-At-Large**

After 15 years of serving as Medium Security Representative on the CEA-Wisconsin Board, Conrad Reedy has announced his retirement. Conrad has served on the CEA-W Nominations and Auditing Committees. He was one of the founding developers of CEA-W's Creativity Project and helped to select the entries to be published in each of the annual anthologies. Conrad helped to plan each of the CEA-W conferences during that time span and assisted with the Silent Auctions held at those conferences. The CEA-W Board wishes Conrad a happy and well-deserved retirement.

Due to Conrad's retirement, the Medium Security Representative office is now vacant. Anyone interested in serving as Medium Security Representative on the CEA-W Board may contact Cory Anderson at [cory.anderson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:cory.anderson@wisconsin.gov)

# Bring the Goddess of Justice to Your Class

After hosting author Lark Telarana at a meeting of their book club at the R.E. Ellsworth Correctional Center, teachers DeNeal Erickson and Margaret Done, received this letter. If you would like to contact Lark Telarana, you may email DeNeal at [deneal.ericksen@wisconsin.gov](mailto:deneal.ericksen@wisconsin.gov) or Margaret at [margaret.done@wisconsin.gov](mailto:margaret.done@wisconsin.gov).

*Dear Librarians/Teachers:*

*Back in January, I received a heartfelt letter from DeNeal Erickson and Margaret Done, teachers at the R.E. Ellsworth Correctional Facility in Union Grove. Ms. Erickson had just heard about the book I published in June of 2008 and as the moderator of the facility's book club, she felt the book would be a good choice for the women in the club. We arranged for her to receive a free copy of the novel as well as the study guide. We later scheduled a guest appearance on March 25<sup>th</sup>, so that the women in the book club would be able to meet me in person and ask questions concerning the novel. It was one of the most rewarding experiences of my career, being able to hear the way my character's experiences paralleled the lives of the inmates (as well as my own). What I found most compelling was the desire of the women to learn more about Mythology and the Humanities. Not only was I readily available for advice on how to become a writer, but I even had a few women reveal their desire to attend college after their release. These events thus led to a personal spiritual awakening.*

*Convinced that this type of educational program would be advantageous to the rehabilitation of inmates, I would like to extend the same invitation to other correctional facilities across the country – starting with my home state of Wisconsin! If you are teaching a course in a correctional facility, moderating a book club, or preparing for a special event to be held at a facility, I would be honored to share my story and experiences with you and your students/inmates/staff members. This is not a paid service – but a volunteer effort – as I begin my speaking/book tour. Teachers/Librarians who intend to teach/moderate an educational program may request a copy of the novel as well as a full Study Guide and a contract allowing for the use of certain items in flyers or newsletters. After reading through the synopsis and assessing your needs, feel free to contact me with questions, concerns, or ideas. I would consider it a pleasure to hear from you!*

*A former student asked me why I would consider this endeavor. I smiled as I replied, "Minerva is the goddess of wisdom, JUSTICE, and war. Thus, beginning my educational tour in the criminal justice system makes perfect sense."*

*With gratitude,  
Lark Telarana*

## **About Lark Telarana's book:**

Minerva Blewett lives by the Chavezian Theory, based on the ideas of her favorite writer, *Denise Chavez*: "Be secure with yourself (and your curves); show confidence when dealing with men, for men will come and go." Unfortunately, life for Minerva is not so simple. An educated professional (a high school Remedial Reading Teacher and Community College Sociology Instructor), she sometimes doesn't relate to her African-American heritage; instead feeling more of a connection to the Latino community. Estranged from her own family, Minerva wishes to start a family of her own. Minerva regularly contemplates and dissects the broken relationship she has with her parents, and she questions her own ability to be a good mother. This seems even more farfetched because not only is she not in a relationship, but at thirty-one years old, she hasn't accepted her own sexuality. Minerva holds on to her virginity and it becomes her sword and shield to protect herself from her fear of heartache. It also becomes the crutch she leans on when forced to confront her sexual identity. And, as if things couldn't get any worse, Minerva has fallen in love with her best friend, Diego. His confidence and strikingly handsome features, makes him – to Minerva – the perfect Latino. There is one little setback. Diego is

gay. While fighting her own feelings of cultural isolation, Minerva attempts to reach her students as she encourages discourse in her classes on controversial topics from sexuality to racism. Acting as the class facilitator and hand of justice and wisdom, Minerva must come to terms with her insecurities if she is to reach her true potential as an educator, a lover, and a friend.

### **About the Author**

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin under a similar name (Lark Telarana is a pen name), Lark spent most of her childhood writing. Her dream was to make up a fantasy world, where interesting and powerful creatures roamed, under the nose and eye of humanity, without detection. A fascination since childhood with mythology and folklore, Lark began to explore all of the ancient myths. She grew to love them all and displays her adoration in her novels as she weaves in symbolism from various myths within her character of *Minerva*. *"She and I are a lot alike. We are both passionate. We both love what we do. And, when we fall for someone or something, we fall hard. Our love is fierce."*

An educator who respects *Anne Rice* ("She's a historian as well as a writer"), *Tananarive Due*, and *Daniel Quinn*, Ms. Telarana (pronounced TEL-EH-RON-YAH) is a Wisconsin certified educator. She is currently preparing to open a career technical high school in Milwaukee, Wisconsin (September 2009) and she is happily writing while continuing her work in education until *called* to some other honorable duty.

## **Website Adds Up-to-Date Articles**

Corrections Programs, LLC has announced a new addition to their website designed to give users a quick look at news specific to corrections.

By clicking on [www.correctionalprograms.com/company.html](http://www.correctionalprograms.com/company.html), users will see an assortment of up-to-date articles from around the nation, dealing with issues in corrections. New articles are added to the collection on a regular basis.

Ricky McIntosh has spent over 25 years working in state and federal corrections. As President of Corrections Programs, LLC, he has decided to use his website for more than a medium to sell products. He wants to use the website to pass-on educational ideas and concepts from around the country.

As budgets are getting smaller one of the first items being reduced are training budgets. Ricky McIntosh hopes the Corrections Programs, LLC website addition may in some small way assist educators to research information for program implementation and policy changes.

## **Bill Cosby Donates Books**

As you may have read in CEA's national newsletter, *News & Notes*, CEA Executive Director Steve Steurer announced that Bill Cosby has set aside 10,000 copies of his new book *Come On People* to distribute to the nation's adult prison inmates. Dr. Cosby hopes to positively affect offenders' thinking and future behavior. Dr. Cosby has long been the champion of responsible parents, vibrant families and strong communities. In his book, Dr. Cosby talks about personal responsibility and the need for a strong family and community; messages that dovetail with the purpose of correctional education

To make maximum impact of the donation, instead of simply sending each state a few boxes of books to disseminate, it was decided to encourage educators create innovative ways to influence the minds of incarcerated adults with *Come On People*. To find out details of how to submit a proposal to obtain up to 200 books for your project, go to the May/June 2009 issue of the *Parenting Connection* newsletter on the [www.ceawisconsin.org](http://www.ceawisconsin.org) website.

# Abel Receives Governor's 2009 Financial Literacy Award

Lakeshore Technical College Adult Basic Education Instructor Sharon Abel is one of six individual recipients honored with the statewide Governor's Financial Literacy Award 2009. The award recognizes excellence in promoting financial literacy among Wisconsin citizens. The winners were selected by Governor Doyle's Council on Financial Literacy. The evaluation of nominees was based on four criteria: innovative implementation, demonstrated measurable results, collaboration with partners, and scope.

Sharon Abel was nominated for the Governor's Financial Literacy Award by Lisa Anne Arneson, Certified Consumer Credit and Housing Counselor of the Family Service Association, for successfully facilitating the learning of financial/economic concepts by her students – adult inmates at the Sheboygan County Detention Center. Abel's work in this field is based on her participation in the National Institute of Financial & Economic Literacy, her extensive review of professional literature on the subject, and her active response to the longitudinal follow-up study she conducted with inmates/students regarding participation in financial literacy learning activities and influence of such on attitude, decisions, and behavior. Arneson had this to say about Abel and her work:

*Over the past year alone, we have pulled credit reports for and assisted in the preparation of financial goals for over 140 inmates/students. Being that Ms. Abel is totally committed to giving her students a foundation of resources, these inmates will now know where they can go to get help with their finances upon release.*

*Sharon, through her commitment to financial literacy, has helped discover that three inmates have been victims of identity theft during their incarcerations. Two of which were their parents who were using their identities without permission. Ms. Abel has also helped place five of her past students into housing. These one-time inmates of the county jail facility now have a stable place to live and they can focus on their schooling to becoming more productive members of society.*

*If we can so much as give one person the tools to make a difference in his/her life, we had a good day. Sharon does this day in and day out tirelessly with all who have the pleasure of coming in contact with her. Her students have a respect for her that reaches an all time high. However, they achieve not because of the respect for her but because of the respect she gives them.*

*Her classroom is a two-way street with a few U turns. Given time most find their direction largely because of her continued guidance.*

First Lady Jessica Doyle and Department of Financial Institutions Secretary Lorrie Keating-Heinemann presented the 2009 Governor's Financial Literacy Awards to six individuals and ten organizations on Wednesday, March 18, at a ceremony at the Executive Residence in Madison.

"I congratulate the individuals and organizations for their contributions to financial literacy," said Governor Jim Doyle. "They are enhancing Wisconsin's economy by making people more knowledgeable about their own money. We all benefit from that."

For more information about the Governor's Financial Literacy Awards and the National Institute of Financial & Economic Literacy contact David Mancl, Director, Office of Financial Literacy, at (608) 261-9540 or [david.mancl@dfi.state.wi.us](mailto:david.mancl@dfi.state.wi.us).

# Nominations are More than Honors

In the past few years, I have been the recipient of several awards – most recently from Governor Doyle’s Council on Financial Literacy. All very nice, but none of it possible without first being nominated! A shout out to Cpl. Roy Kluss and Sheriff Michael Helmke of Sheboygan County, Kevin Mueller of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, and Lisa Anne Arneson of Family Service Association for bringing my name to one selection committee after another.

There are many teachers throughout the pre-K to adult education systems who are conducting marvelous learning activities with their students every day; they could just as easily be applauded for their efforts. I am very fortunate to have co-workers from partnering agencies who have nominated me for awards – honors resulting in local, state, and national recognition of Lakeshore Technical College’s Adult Inmate Education program in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin. I encourage you to search for opportunities to recognize your colleagues and counterparts for their outstanding work. An award nomination validates the employee and employer, strengthens partnerships, expands the professional network, and provides opportunities for positive publicity.

Over the years, I have nominated various people for service and professional awards; I must say it is extremely gratifying to see a co-worker, particularly one whose name you personally brought forth, be the recipient of public honor.

If you have thinking about nominating a colleague for an award, consider the Correctional Education Association, the American Jail Association, the American Correctional Association, and get it done! If you have never considered doing so, please start looking for a way to make it happen!

by: Sharon Abel, Lakeshore Technical College  
Sheboygan County Detention Center

## Wanted: Creative Writings and Drawings

Once again, CEA-Wisconsin invites incarcerated writers and artists to submit their works for the ninth annual edition of the CEA-W Creativity Contest. Each year CEA-W publishes original prose, poetry, and ink drawings from Wisconsin’s jail, prison, and juvenile facility populations. All levels of writers and artists are encouraged to offer submissions. Authors and artists whose works are selected will each receive two free copies of the booklet when it is published in January.

Encourage your learners to express themselves in drawings (black ink on 8½ by 11 white paper) and writings up to 1000 words including poems, letters, essays, and short stories. Winners are selected from all levels, so urge beginning writers to give it a try. The deadline for entries is August 3, 2009.

Please ask entrants to read the contest rules and fill out the submission form legibly. Entries can be sent to Libby Kraft at the WRC address on the submission form. Other members of the Creativity Contest Committee are Mary Stierna (WRC), Sharon Neseemann (WRC), Lisa Packard (MSDF), Jane Schirger (RGCI), Mark Terpening (CCI), Jason Brost (SOGS), Linda Lentz (JCBC), Pandora Lobacz (LHS), Susan Casper (OSCI), and Ray Schlesinger (OCI).

The booklets are typeset by inmates at OSCI and printed by inmates at CCI. This publication reflects the professional commitment of CEA-W members to promote literacy. Each CEA-W member gets a free copy of the booklet. If you want to join the committee, contact Sharon Neseemann at WRC.

See pages 16 & 17 for contest rules and the Submission Release Form.

# CEA-Wisconsin – Creativity Contest Rules

1. Entries are limited to writers who are incarcerated in prisons, juvenile facilities, and county jails located in Wisconsin. People in alternative correctional programs such as bracelet monitoring, probation, and parole are not eligible.
2. **All entries must be the original work of the entrant.**
3. Submission emphasis will be placed on those enrolled in educational programs. Special needs students who have received high school diplomas but have skill levels at the basic education level are encouraged to apply.
4. Artwork must be black ink on white paper and allow for at least a one-inch margin around a standard 8.5 x 11" page. Wider and darker lines allow for better reproduction. Photocopies are allowed, but the teacher or representative must see the original work at the time of submission.
5. Writing is judged on voice, organization, and creativity. Any form of writing is acceptable: poems, essays, short stories, letters, etc. Writing can be as short as one paragraph, but should not exceed 1,000 words. Entries must be typed, double-spaced, with a maximum of 2 pages.
6. Only one submission for each category, art and writing, will be accepted from each entrant.
7. The enclosed release form must accompany the entry. The instructor is responsible for explaining that the work will undergo the usual editing process which any publication undergoes. All writing technicalities (punctuation, grammar) will be corrected. Instructors are advised not to correct students' work. Assistance in writing should include suggestions for expanding ideas, development of themes, and organization. Over-correcting by instructors interferes with the voice of the writer. Entries may be reviewed locally by the Education Director or by DOC Central Office for appropriateness and security consideration as needs and policies dictate.
8. Entries must be signed by the Education Department contact person and received at the address on the release form by August 3, 2009. Winners will receive publications by January 2010. **No submissions will be returned.** Writers whose work is not accepted will not be notified.
9. The writer should include an address where he/she can be contacted in December, 2009. The institutional address can be listed, provided the student agrees to contact the instructor in December about contest results. For jail programs, booklets will be sent to the institutional address in care of the Education Department Contact Person, as listed on the form, for distribution to winners.
10. Writers retain copyright to their work. CEA-W has first publication rights and rights to the collection of work. Winners will receive two (2) copies of the book. No payment for published work will be provided.
11. Students may have their essays published anonymously. The release form, however, must contain the student's real name and signature. This information will be used by contest coordinator only and kept confidential. Write "anonymous" or use initials (no pseudonyms, please) on the writing submitted, and staple the two together.
12. Illegible submission forms or entries may be disqualified.

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# SUBMISSIONS RELEASE FORM

## Correctional Education Association - Wisconsin

### “Creativity Contest 2009”

**Libby Kraft**  
**Wisconsin Resource Center**  
**PO Box 16**  
**Winnebago, Wisconsin 54985-0016**  
**(920) 426-4310 ex. 4410**

I hereby give the CEA–W permission to publish the following work(s), if selected for the contest publication. **These works are my original, unpublished writings and/or artwork.** I understand that the selections may be minimally edited. I further understand that after publication all rights will return to me, however, original works will not be returned. The titles of the works submitted (maximum two) are listed below:

**A. Title(s): *May submit only one (1) of each category.***

**Writing:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Art:** \_\_\_\_\_

**B. CEA–W will send each person whose work was selected two copies of the book. Please print clearly your full name and mailing address as of December 2009. Illegible submission forms may result in disqualified entries.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Full Name)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Inmate Number)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Mailing address – Street Address)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Institution where currently residing)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Mailing address -- City, State, Zip)*

**Check here if this is a juvenile facility.**

**C. On the line below, please print the way you would like your name to appear in the book if selected. You may only use your institution name, first name with last initial, initials only, or anonymous. No aliases.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(PRINT your name, initials, or anonymous)*

**D. Sign and date. By signing I verify that these works are my original, unpublished writings and/or artwork.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Signature)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Date)*

**E. Education Department Contact Person. (For county jails, the contact person will be responsible for distributing booklets to winning authors.)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Signature)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Facility)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Print Name)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Contact Info -- Phone or Email)*

Please circle one: **Jr/Sr High School (DJC)**    **ABE**    **Intermediate**    **HSED**    **Post High School**

**NOTE:** This form must accompany all submissions. Incomplete or incorrect submissions forms may disqualify the entry. Submissions must be sent to Libby Kraft, WRC, by August 3, 2009.

# President's Message

Warmer weather and longer days are finally here. This spring is especially exciting for CEA-Wisconsin.

In early May, our Wisconsin Teacher of the Year, DeNeal Erickson, will be competing for the title of Region III Teacher of the Year. We wish her the best of luck! In July, all the Regional Teachers of the Year will be honored at the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual CEA Conference in Madison. The Teacher of the Year Gala is a highlight of the conference and is a truly special event.

The conference planning committees are working hard to make the conference truly memorable. This is a chance for Wisconsin to shine, to demonstrate all the wonderful things that we do in correctional education. It is also a wonderful opportunity to talk to other professionals who work in other states, to learn how other states operate their schools and to hear about the programs that they run. There were over 70 workshop ideas submitted, from all over the country.

So please join us in Madison in July. Help us to celebrate the great Regional Teachers of the Year! In the meantime, celebrate the nice weather, spring sports, graduations, and I will see you in July.

Mary Stierna

**CEA-Wisconsin News Review**  
**Sharon Neemann, CEA-W Secretary**  
**Wisconsin Resource Center**  
**P.O. Box 16**  
**Winnebago, WI 54985**

