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Correctional Education Association - Wisconsin

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RGCI First to Implement Reentry Modules

Beginning in 2004 under the leadership of Redgranite Correctional Institution founding Warden Jeff Endicott, DOC staff members from around the state convened to develop the principles of the Reentry Initiative to reduce recidivism. Motivated DOC staff members from Adult, Juvenile, and Community Corrections were selected and met in Madison, Oshkosh, Fox Lake and other DOC sites to develop the objectives and curricula that would eventually become the ten reentry modules used around the state today. RGCI implemented and field tested the modules and related administrative policies before they were rolled out state-wide.

For inmates who don't have a high school diploma, school is mandatory at RGCI. If an inmate needs education, either ABE or HSED, and refuses to attend classes, he is placed in voluntary unassigned status and housed in a restricted housing unit with little freedom of movement. Only a few decline school, but once inmates agree to attend school, they almost universally find it enjoyable, take pride in their academic accomplishments, and graduate with their HSED's.

Graduation ceremonies are generally held every three months to honor the accomplishment of twenty to thirty HSED graduates, as well as any who have successfully completed all ten reentry modules, or the Microsoft Office Basics vocational program. The graduation ceremonies are usually quite moving and often include speeches by Waushara County Judge Guy
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Dutcher, some of the graduating inmates, and the visitors and family members of graduates. So far for 2010, RGCI has helped about 40 inmates earn their high school equivalency diplomas, which puts us on pace to meet last year’s total of about 100 graduates.

RGCI is proud to have a very busy and active library, chapel, hobby, and program schedule. We offer the following regular or ongoing programs, reentry modules, and classes to aid inmate rehabilitation and enrichment:

- Adult Basic Education and GED/HSED classes
- Microsoft Office Basics vocational program via Fox Valley Technical College – which includes 3-credit classes in written communication and American government
- Badger State Industries shop that employs inmates in wheelchair reconstruction and computer recycling
- All ten reentry modules offered continuously
- Award-winning Stock Market Simulation groups
- Domestic Violence education groups
- Anger Management groups
- Circles of Recovery/Victim Awareness/Restorative Justice
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Veterans Group
- Christian Choir
- Band
- Native American Drummers
- Read to Me (Fathers’ Reading Program)
- All major religious services, studies, and celebrations
- Holiday outreach programs to help keep inmates connected with their children and families
- Fundraisers including food sales and “inside the fence” runs or walks with registration fees donated to violence prevention or disaster relief organizations

by: Joanne Curry, RGCI

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>
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Correctional Education: It's Cost-Effective

"The term 'cost effective' is a mantle that rests well on correctional education," is the point that Mickey Kaiser asserts in his article "Correctional Education, Because It Works" that was published in the August 2010 issue of *Corrections Today* magazine.

Mickey observes, "Some families pass on the shackles of incarceration like heirlooms," but then goes on to cite research that shows correctional education is more effective than any other type of correctional program in breaking the intergenerational cycle of incarceration and, in the long run protecting the public's safety.

To back up point, Mickey quotes the conclusions of Audrey Bazos and Jessica Hausman from their 2004 study, *Correctional Education as a Crime Control Program*. "They reported that \$1 million spent on correctional education prevents 600 new crimes, while that same money invested in incarceration prevents 350 crimes." Their study indicates "every \$1 million spent on correctional education yields a savings of \$1.6 million in a state's re-incarceration costs." They conclude, "an expansion of educational opportunities may be corrections most viable alternative."

In Wisconsin specifically, Bazos and Hausman found a 20% reduction in recidivism in offenders who completed an educational program. They found that the cost of correctional education would break even with a 6% reduction in recidivism.

In his article, Mickey shows how the disproportionately high crime rates in major urban areas are linked to high school dropout rates. This not only has an effect on the life of the offender, but also his family and the community.

In Richard J. Coley and Paul E. Barton's 2006 study, *Locked Up and Locked Out – An Educational Perspective on the U.S. Prison Population*, they contend that the most effective way of reducing the chances of an offender's children falling into a life of criminal behavior is to educate the offender in the skills required "to return to society as self-supporting, responsible adults."

Unfortunately, Mickey found that a significant portion of inmates fail to meet their vocational and educational needs during their incarceration. A 2005 Wisconsin DOC report showed that 52% of inmates released from 1999-2004 failed to meet their vocational need and 27% did not meet their educational need. The majority failed to meet their need due to waiting lists or program unavailability.

In addition to increasing academic and vocational skills, correctional education programs have a "normalizing" effect on offenders. In his 1995 study *Prison Education Program Participation and Recidivism: A Test of the Normalization Hypothesis*, Miles D. Harer concluded that this "normalizing" effect of correctional education programs "increases prison safety, reduces recidivism, nurtures pro-social norms, and negates the effects of "prisonization."

You may read Mickey Kaiser's complete article in the August 2010 issue of *Corrections Today* magazine or may contact him at michael.kaiser@wisconsin.gov .

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

Three Volunteers Honored as “Friends of Correctional Education”

For the 22nd consecutive year, the Wisconsin Chapter of the Correctional Education Association is showing its appreciation to individuals and organizations who have helped to improve educational opportunities for offenders in Wisconsin correctional facilities. Since the Friends of Correctional Education Award was founded, the contributions of 83 individuals and organizations have been honored by the CEA-W Board.

This year, CEA-W is again recognizing some of these volunteers with the Friends of Correctional Education award. Those receiving this award may be volunteers who have contributed time and effort to an education program, community agency employees who have presented special workshops, business people who have donated funds or materials to make programs more effective, or advocates of correctional education.

Certificates for these Friends of Correctional Education award winners will be presented at special ceremonies held at the institutions involved. The 2010 award winners of the Friends of Correctional Education Award are:

Frances Bedore

Fran Bedore has been a volunteer at the Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility for more than two years. She says that after driving past the MSDF high-rise facility on Highway 43 day after day, she felt called to come in and do something to help the offenders.

As a retired school teacher, Fran's gift and passion is teaching. She initially came with another colleague, and together they taught GED preparation and facilitated book clubs for both male and female offenders. Fran continues holding book clubs for the eighth floor general population, although her friend has moved on to other volunteer commitments.

MSDF is extremely fortunate to have a volunteer of Fran's commitment and capacity who is happy to contribute to their facility. At a recent orientation for undergraduate volunteers from Marquette University, Fran noted that she too was an MU grad, class of 1961! She is still going strong and has set aside other volunteering opportunities to make herself available to MSDF.

Fran is looking into writing a curriculum for a book she would like to use in her book club.

Fran is a dedicated, caring person who is a pleasure to work with and is richly deserving of the Friends of Correctional Education Award.

Frances Bedore was nominated by Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility Education Director Dr. Charisse Sekyi and teacher Susan Butcher.

Karolee Behringer

For ten years, Karolee Behringer from Options in Reproductive Care of LaCrosse has driven 60 miles one-way, with no expenses being paid, to meet with students at the Prairie du Chien Correctional Institution. Karolee presents three highly informative sessions to each of the Parenting classes taught by Christine Ingham.

With a good dose of humor, Karolee teaches about the importance of good communication skills with children, spouses, and co-workers.

The importance of birth control and the many methods of birth control are taught by Karolee in her second session. She brings each method to class and discusses its effectiveness and performance in the body. The male students are quite impressed and interested as many of them have not discussed birth control with their partners or even knew of the available methods.

In the final session, Karolee reviews and discusses sexually transmitted infections, symptoms, and complications. This is a highly informative and personally valuable session for inmates as they prepare for return to their community.

Karolee easily answers questions and comments in each area of content. If one of the questions baffles her, once she returns to her office, Karolee will call with the answer. She is knowledgeable of her subject matter and is honest and respectful with the students. The students always look forward to her visits.

Karolee Behringer was nominated by Prairie du Chien Correctional Institution teacher Christine Ingham.

Ann Beverly

Ann Beverly is a retired teacher from the Menominee Falls School District. For the past three years, Ann has been volunteering in John Bollig's Language arts classes at the Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution.

Ann works with some of the most challenging students – functionally illiterate adult inmates. These are difficult, often reluctant students, but Ann brings her own brand of kindness and motherly concern, not to mention academic expertise, to win them over.

Ann gets no remuneration except an occasional “thank you” from an inmate and the satisfaction of knowing that she is making a difference.

Ann is a woman of integrity and courage and is well deserving of the Friends of Correctional Education award.

Ann Beverly was nominated by Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution teacher John Bollig.

Changes Made to Composition of CEA-Wisconsin Board

To better represent the diversity of correctional educators in the state of Wisconsin, the CEA-Wisconsin Board made an adjustment to the manner in which Board positions are allotted. Because fewer educators are employed in maximum and minimum institutions, the Board has decided to combine the previous Maximum Security Representative and Minimum Security Representative into one Maximum/Minimum Security Representative position. This will allow for the creation of an additional At-Large position on the Board.

Mike Breszee will continue on the Board as the Maximum/Minimum Security Representative. Anyone interested in serving as the new At-Large Representative on the CEA-Wisconsin Board may contact Peter Garetson at peter.garetson@wisconsin.go or Laurie Jarvis at jarvis@fvtc.edu by November 1, 2010.

Also, in order to make the Board position titles more descriptive of the educators they represent, the Community Corrections Representative title has been renamed Jail/Detention Facility Representative. Laurie Jarvis will continue to serve in this position.

CEA-Wisconsin Scholarships Help Students Pursue Their Goals

For the eleventh year CEA-Wisconsin is awarding scholarships to its members and their dependents. Again this year, CEA-W is awarding two \$500 scholarships. The CEAW Scholarship Award Program is designed to assist CEA-W members or their spouses or dependents who are pursuing university or technical college degrees. This year's scholarships go to sons of two CEA-Wisconsin members.

Wesley Chapman

Wesley is the son of David Chapman who is the Guidance Counselor at the Waupun Correctional Institution. This fall, Wesley will be starting his freshman year at UW-Whitewater.

Wesley plans to set high academic goals for himself in college, while keeping them reasonable and reachable. During his high school years, Wesley has improved academically each year while being involved with WIAA sports. He learned to efficiently use his time and balance numerous demands along with his school work.

Growing up in a small town has given Wesley an opportunity to participate in many school and community activities. He takes pride in giving back to the community in any way that he can. This included volunteer work raking leaves and mowing lawns, helping with the community athletics program, umpiring Little League Baseball and Girls Softball games, and refereeing flag football games.

Wesley's goal is to reach the highest level of his educational potential. With both of his parents working in education-related fields, he was raised on the value of education. They have always taken an interest in his accomplishments and instilled a motivation to learn and become knowledgeable about the world.

Wesley has chosen to attend UW-Whitewater because of its reputation as having one of the best business programs in the state.

Justin Mohelnitzky

Justin is the son of Tom Mohelnitzky, a teacher at the Wisconsin Resource Center. Justin will be entering his senior year at UW-Madison this fall.

Justin's goal as a student and professional is to be a passionate, caring, hard worker. As a student, Justin's goal is to learn as much as possible and to take away valuable lessons from each opportunity. He would like to eventually further his education beyond a bachelor degree in nursing.

He feels that nursing will allow him the opportunity to impact people's lives in times of crisis and need. He hopes to break stereotypes as an Asian, male nurse and become a leader and optimistic motivator within the hospital.

Throughout high school and college, Justin has been involved in many volunteer activities, as well as working to help pay for his education. He has been a volunteer with Athletes Committed to Educating Students, Aurora Health Care, Think First Program, and Muir Woods Mentors. He has also tutored mentally disabled students and is a Certified Red Cross Lay Instructor.

Among the student organizations Justin has participated in high school and college are: Student Counsel, German Club, Forensics, Choir, Art Club, Students Against Drunk Driving, Bionics, O'Neil Honor Society, Recreation Sports, and Health Occupations Students of America.

Upon graduating from the UW-Madison School of Nursing and becoming an RN, Justin believes he will be better equipped to help others by giving back to the community.

The CEA-Wisconsin Board is pleased to name Wesley Chapman and Justin Mohelnitzky the winners of this year's \$500 scholarships. We hope these scholarships help Wesley and Justin reach their goals.

Horticulture Program Helps Students Secure Rewarding Employment

At any time, about 38 inmates at the Oshkosh Correctional Institution receive classroom instruction and valuable hands-on experience in the Horticulture program. Currently, Horticulture teacher Greg Rasse instructs and supervises 14 students, 16 workers, and 8 apprentices.

The one-year vocational program certified by Fox Valley Technical College has classes in Basic Horticulture, Soils & Fertilizers, Landscape Plants & their Maintenance, Turf Management, and Equipment Operations. General related classes required in the Horticulture program are Vocational Math, Communications, and Small Business Management.

Students completing all of the required classes earn a Technical Diploma from Fox Valley Technical College. Successful completion of this program assists graduates in securing rewarding employment when they return to society and join the workforce.

Currently eight Horticulture graduates that have worked for at least one year within the department are enrolled in the Wisconsin Horticulture Apprentice Program.

OSCI Horticulture inmate workers maintain the classroom, workshop, greenhouses, gardens, flowerbeds and interior tropical plants. Since 1998, the OSCI Horticulture Department has produced over 300,000 pounds of garden produce. About half went to the institution kitchen and the rest was distributed to local food pantries.

Horticulture inmate workers and students design, plant and care for numerous flowerbeds within the institution and also aid the OSCI Maintenance Department with grounds maintenance. Assistance is also provided to the Vermiculture program.

The greenhouse maintains a diverse selection of tropical plants that are placed in staff offices and common areas. The department serves as a Horticulture resource for staff and other State facilities.

The Horticulture Department generates self-sustaining funds by growing annual and perennial plants to sell to state agencies, as well as to visitors and staff. Seasonal sales include cut flowers, dried arrangements and holiday plants, centerpieces, and wreaths.

Creativity Contest Booklet Coming Soon

Members of the CEA-W Creativity Contest met at the Wisconsin Resource Center on August 13th to judge the approximately 200 entries submitted this year. Entries were received from all over the state with submissions from all custody levels, and included entries from juvenile institutions and county jails. The committee was impressed with the quality of the work submitted!

The entries are currently at Oshkosh Correctional Institution for typing and layout, and will then be sent to Columbia Correctional Institution for printing. We hope to have the books ready for distribution by late 2010 or early 2011.

Members of the Creativity Contest Committee are Jason Brost, Lisa Packard, Susan Casper, Jane Schirger, Libby Kraft, Mary Stierna, Sharon Nesemann, Laurie Jarvis, Pandora Lobacz and Linda Lentz.

The Top-Nine Reasons to Increase Correctional Education Programs

In the recent American Correctional Association *Corrections Today* magazine is an article that can help you to explain to legislators, media and the public why investing in correctional education is so important for everyone. The article called *Top Nine Reasons to Support Correctional Education Programs* is authored by Stephen J. Steurer, CEA Executive Director; John Linton, Director of Office of Correctional Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education for the U.S. Department of Education; John Nally, Director of Education for the Indiana Department of Correction; and Susan Lockwood, Juvenile Education Coordinator for the Indiana Department of Correction.

These nine reasons cited in research are the most important that criminal justice decision-makers should consider when planning correctional programs and budgets in these tight economic times:

1. Education is an excellent reentry tool
2. Inmates understand the importance of education for their own success in life
3. Education has deep roots in America prison history
4. Academic education and vocational education reduce recidivism and support employability after release
5. Education is much more effective in reducing future crime than building prisons
6. From a humanistic viewpoint, education is the right thing to do
7. Education is the foundation for the success in other important program areas
8. The true impact on recidivism may be seriously underestimated
9. Education is effective as a population control tool

You may read the entire article in the August issue of *Corrections Today* magazine.

2010 GED/HSED & Adult Literacy Conferences **“Achieving Credentials for Success”** **October 12-14, 2010** **Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton, WI**

Again this year, the Correctional Education Association-Wisconsin has joined the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Technical College System to plan the GED/HSED & Adult Literacy Conferences.

Over 50 different workshop sessions are scheduled for those who teach or volunteer in ABE, ESL, or GED/HSED programs or are GED examiners or administrators. CEA-W Board members Jerry Bednarowski and Mary Stierna have worked with the Planning Committee to include several sessions specifically highlighting concerns and programs of interest to educators working in correctional settings:

The GED/HSED examiners and administrators portion of the conference is scheduled for October 12-13. The Adult Literacy part is on October 13-14.

As always, exhibit hall vendors will have the best and most current goods and services that meet professional educators' needs.

CEA-W will again conduct a Silent Auction at the conference. The Silent Auction will include inmate-made items donated by Wisconsin correctional institutions, items contributed by Wisconsin Technical College

System schools, and items donated by Appleton area businesses. Stop in and make a bid.

The Wisconsin Association for Career and Technical Education is serving as managing partner for the conference. You will find more information, an online registration form, and an online housing form at their website: www.wacteonline.org

CEA Media Drive: Maximize Your Education Resource Budget!

CEA's new CEA Media Drive will help your classroom stand out! Imagine teaching a program with everything at your fingertips – lesson plans, video lessons and Powerpoint slides. Just open a folder on the drive and you're ready to get started! CEA and National Institute for Corrections have partnered to bring you the best of 21st Century inmate educational and staff training programming in a secure, computer hard drive that transcends typical correctional institution policies restricting internet access

The CEA Media Drive contains many of the most popular video programs originally featured on CEA's Transforming Lives Network. There are literally hundreds of hours of videos along with printable teacher guides and student materials packed into handy hard drives hardly larger than a cell phone. You can buy two different sets of videos, inmate education programs and staff training from the National Institute for Corrections. The hard drive can be connected to any classroom computer, local area network or institutional networks. The basic price for each set is \$500 and they come with free technical assistance.

Programs

Staff Training

1. Staff Supervision Training for Corrections Professionals.
2. Building Agency Success: Developing an Effective FTO/OJT Training Program
3. Locking Up H1N1: CDC and Criminal Justice Join Forces
4. From The Battlefield to the Homefront: Welcoming Employees Back to Work
5. PMR: Public & Media Relations and Workforce Development.
6. Women and Work: Gender Responsivity and Workforce Development.
7. Effective Training Design and Development
8. Innovative Reentry Strategies: The Emerging Role of Correctional Industries
9. Corrections Budgets In Free Fall: Finding Opportunities in Turbulent Times
10. Essential Skills for New Supervisors
11. No More "My Way or The Highway" Embracing the 21st Century Workforce
12. Thinking for a Change (NIC)

Re-Entry

1. Thinking for a Change (NIC)
2. The Path to Success - Bob Dunwoody
3. Pam Hogan Productions - including Interpersonal Relationships, Communicating Responsibly, Money Management, Applying for Jobs in the Technology Age and more.
4. Parenting from the Inside
5. MRSA - What You Need To Know
6. AVON Foundation - Breast Cancer Awareness
7. Public Health Training Network
8. Women and Tobacco - CDC
9. You Can Quit - Rod Hickman
10. Smokeless Not Harmless

For more information contact CEA at 800-783-1232 or SSteurer@ceanational.com

President's Message

There is nothing more magical to me than the smell of Fall in the air. It holds the promise of colorful leaves, cozy sweaters, apples, pumpkins and goblins trick – or – treating at the door. I can't forget new school supplies on that list. The promise of new pencils, pens and folders is still magical for me, even though I am teaching all year round.

As I found my school supply bargains, I began to think about what I valued about my job. I began to think about how much I value my ability to be creative, to stay on my toes with learners at a variety of levels and how my job has been enhanced by my membership in CEA.

CEA has provided me the ability to get to know other teachers, just like me; people who "get it." I don't need to explain to my fellow correctional educators what I do or how my day is, because my day is like theirs. CEA has provided me the chance to attend great conferences, hear ideas from around the world and let others know the great things happening here in Wisconsin.

I'm appreciative for the other things CEA has available as a part of my membership as well: professional development classes, scholarships, legislative advocacy, insurance – the list could go on and on.....

I'd love to hear from you – What do you value about your CEA membership? Is there anything we can do to make your CEA-W membership better?

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