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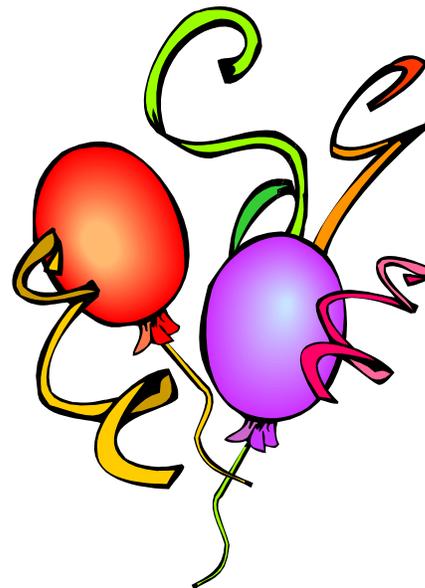
Inside this Issue

- 1** STATE CHAPTER CELEBRATES 25TH BIRTHDAY
- 2** CEA EXECUTIVE DIR. ADVOCATES FOR PERKINS ACT REAUTHORIZATION
- 4** 2011 FRIENDS OF CORRECTIONAL ED. AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT
- 5** CEA-WISCONSIN 2011 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT
- 6** WANTED: CREATIVE WRITINGS & DRAWINGS
- 7** CEA-WISCONSIN CREATIVITY CONTEST RULES
- 8** CEA-W CREATIVITY CONTEST SUBMISSION RELEASE FORM
- 9** CHANGES TO CEA-W BOARD
- 10** MYTHS AND FAQs ABOUT STUDENT AID FOR THE INCARCERATED
- 12** COALITION ADVOCATES FOR JUVENILE PROGRAMS
- 14** PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Correctional Education Association - Wisconsin

State Chapter Celebrates 25th Birthday

Twenty-five years ago this month, the Executive Board of the Wisconsin Chapter of CEA held its first meeting. Wisconsin became the first state to have its chapter sanctioned by the International CEA office. As a result of an effort spearheaded by former DOC Director of Education Bob Hable, the Wisconsin Chapter of CEA adopted a constitution and began its official functions.



So what has the state chapter been up to for the past 25 years? Here are some of the initiatives that CEA-W has taken.

- Coinciding with the formation its state chapter in 1986, Wisconsin selected its first Teacher of the Year to represent the state at the Region III Conference. Since then, CEA-W has sponsored a candidate to participate in the Region III selection process each year and seven Wisconsin teachers were selected the Region III Teacher of the Year and represented the Region at the International CEA Conference.
- In May 1986, the first issue of the CEA-W newsletter was published. Since then, 143 issues of the bi-monthly newsletter have been published.
- In order to meet some of the professional needs of correctional teachers, CEA-W has sponsored numerous professional growth opportunities including CEA-W State Conferences, Region III & IV CEA Conferences, an International CEA Conference, GED/HSED & Adult Literacy Conferences, Jail Instructor Training Days, Parenting Workshops, Teacher Training Days, Wisconsin Correctional Association Conferences, and UW credit courses.

(continued on page 6)

WELCOME TO
REGION III & IV
CEA CONFERENCE

CEA Executive Director Advocates for Perkins Act Reauthorization

One of the official goals of the Correctional Education Association is “to represent the collective interests of correctional education before the government, the press and the public on national as well as on state, provincial, and local levels.” To accomplish this goal, CEA officers are often called upon to give expert testimony at hearings on pending legislation. The decisions resulting from these hearings can have a profound impact on policies and funding which shape the future of correctional educational programming.

The following is a summary of the testimony given by CEA Executive Director Steve Steurer on April 1, 2011 at the US Department of Education Career and Technical Education meeting. Steve received a lot of information from CEA members who have requested to remain anonymous. These folks work for various government agencies and would have to ask for clearance when commenting on federal or state legislation. All the major career education organizations were represented at the meeting so it was a seminal moment for CEA to be able to influence the future reauthorization of the Perkins Act. Next month USDOE/OVAE is holding a similar meeting about the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act and Steve will bring testimony there as well. If any CEA members wishes to send ideas to be included in the testimony, please contact Steve at ssteurer@ceanational.org.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Community Conversation with National Organizations April 1, 2011

Stephen J. Steurer, Ph.D., Executive Director

The Correctional Education Association appreciates the inclusive and open approach of the US Department of Education. We are so grateful to be able to contribute to the conversation about career and technical education across the USA.

I represent the Correctional Education Association, the only national organization working exclusively for the educational development of incarcerated youth and adults.

Despite the fact that the Workforce and Investment Act has not yet been re-authorized, we have much appreciated the opportunity to participate in a serious and open dialog. Likewise, correctional education

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: W6443 Old Highway Road Menasha, WI 54952 920-734-5902 jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com</p>
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has always had a role in the nation's career technology legislation. For correctional educators, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 is at least as important as the Workforce Investment Act. "Perkins II" mandated the creation of the "Office of Correctional Education" that is housed in the Office of Vocational and Adult Education. From the very beginning, the office has provided an important opportunity for coordination of correctional education with related programs in USDOE and other federal departments. We in the field have found this very crucial to our professional identity and development.

Secretary Dann-Messier, your leadership has gone a long way to realize the potential of the "correctional education office" function in OVAE. In addition to your personal support for the correctional education office, you assigned a member of your immediate staff to work largely on correctional education. Earlier this week we were very pleased to welcome Tarik Barrett who brought your message to correctional educators assembled at our annual CEA Leadership Forum in Annapolis. We were inspired to hear him recount the extensive work in correctional education under your leadership. In January, Secretary Arne Duncan met at the Department of Justice with Attorney General Eric Holder and other secretaries to discuss how each department could contribute to the Administration's prisoner reentry initiative. We were so proud to hear of that event that we have featured it on our CEA web site.

Correctional education encompasses many areas – adult education, career development, alternative education, special education, post secondary education, and more. Educators work in the nation's prisons, jails and juvenile facilities, as well as a community based settings for persons under criminal justice supervision. They coordinate with other programs to set the incarcerated and detained on a positive life course. A constant overriding focus in correctional education has always been preparation for employment success. You might say that we are not only in Career Development, but also the real pioneers in serious "career change." This is what characterizes us as "correctional" from others in the education profession.

Correctional education facilities typically offer academic and career/ technical education with a focus on the GED. CEA is currently working very closely with the GED Testing Service in its mission to create a new GED that measures academic, career and post secondary readiness.

Strong correctional education programs in prisons include career preparation classes. CTE programs are frequently offered in coordination with community or technical colleges. Very early in my correctional career in Maryland, I worked as a reading specialist emphasizing an integrated instructional approach to build academic and vocational success of students. We created a successful vocational preparation reading program. From this early experience I know that correctional schools can be centers of excellence and serve as demonstration laboratories for new and innovative instructional practices. My immediate supervisor at that time was another reading specialist named John Linton. He had the vision to support my efforts at innovation and coordination between academic and vocational programs. For the past decade he has been "our man in Washington," continuing to inspire and lead the field with new ideas. We appreciate how your leadership motivates and supports him and all of us in CEA.

Prisons education programs have demonstrated success in many areas – integrated academic and CTE instruction, programs of study with secondary and post secondary components, industry recognized credentialing, stackable credentials, learn work learn and apprenticeship models. We work side by side with prison industries and correctional management to encourage real world prison work assignments and "free venture programs" with private employers to provide jobs and opportunities for the future.

Today, we look forward to continued inclusion in the "Perkins community" and to ongoing partnerships with OVAE to create more correctional education success stories. We know that correctional educators will not be forgotten in the reauthorization process by our friends at the Department of Education. Thank you for including us today. Please do not hesitate to call on CEA to provide more specific input and support your efforts to grow and strengthen career technology education for all Americans. Like you, we desire to improve career and technical skills as well as to increase the number of students in the "second chance" category.

2011 Friends of Correctional Education 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 "Friends of Correctional Education Award."

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

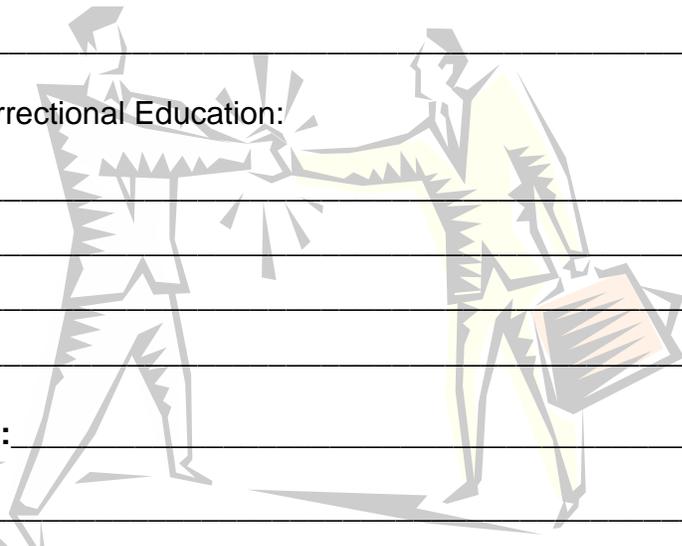
Friends of Correctional Education Entry Form

Name: _____

Contribution to Correctional Education: _____

Nominator's Name: _____

Institution: _____



Deadline: July 1, 2011

Submit your entry to:

Mike Breszee

CEA-W Awards and Recognition Committee

N7571 Deer Path Rd.

Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Phone: (920) 921-3572

Email: mbreszee@charter.net

Correctional Education Association- Wisconsin 2011 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 July 1, 2011. 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, and 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

(continued from page 1)

- To recognize the significant impact of these volunteers and businesses who contribute their time, energy, and resources to supplement educational programs in institutions, the Friends of Correctional Education Award was established in 1989. Thus far, the contributions of 83 individuals and organizations have been recognized by the CEA-W Board.
- To help promote professional development among its members and their families, CEA-W established an annual scholarship. Each year since 2000, \$500 scholarships were made available to CEA members or family members.
- With the development of the internet, CEA-W was able to expand its professional network. In October 2000, CEAW established its own website, www.ceawisconsin.org which is linked to the national CEA website.
- To help teachers encourage incarcerated students to develop their writing and art skills, in 2000, CEA-W began a creativity project. Each year, a committee of CEA-W members promotes the initiative, selects entries, and publishes an anthology of student writings and artwork.
- Throughout its existence, the CEA-W Executive Board has continually promoted innovation and excellence in correctional education. To recognize some of those teachers at the forefront of program development, in 2001, CEA-W created the Showcase Award.
- In 2004 the Parenting Special Interest Group was established. It began publishing a bi-monthly newsletter, edited a Guide to Successful Parenting Programs in Corrections, developed a Recommended Parenting Curriculum, and published information on the national CEA Forum.

So over the past 25 years, CEAW has been busy, and hopefully, correctional educators throughout Wisconsin and beyond have benefitted.

To mark our 25th anniversary, CEA-W is honored to again host the Region III & IV CEA Conference. We hope that all participants will find the conference to be informative and enjoyable. We hope to continue to serve our members on into the next quarter century.

To join CEA go to: www.ceanational.org

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 1, 2011.

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.

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 Nesemann at WRC.

See pages 7 and 8 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. Plagiarism, copying someone else's work and claiming it as your own, is against the law and is not acceptable!
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 July 30, 2011. Winners will receive publications by January 2012. 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, 2011. 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.

SUBMISSIONS RELEASE FORM

Correctional Education Association-Wisconsin

“Creativity Contest 2011”

Libby Kraft
Wisconsin Resource Center
PO Box 16
Winnebago, WI 54985-0016
920-426-4310 ext. 4410

I hereby give 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 2011. 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 July 30, 2011

Changes to CEA-Wisconsin Board

To better reflect the distribution of educators working in corrections, CEA-W Board made a change in the composition of its Board. The Maximum Security Representative position has been combined with the Minimum Security Representative position to create a Maximum/Minimum Security position. Current Maximum Security Representative Mike Breszee, a teacher at Waupun Correctional Institution, has assumed that position.

To provide flexibility in recruiting Board members, the CEA-W Board created a new At-Large position. Dave Chapman, guidance counselor at Waupun Correctional Institution, was appointed to fill the new position.

The Board also filled the vacant Medium Security Representative position by appointing Jean Bently-Jones, teacher at New Lisbon Correctional Institution, to fill that position.

Jean Bently-Jones

Jean earned a Master of Science Degree in Training and Development and is licensed to teach Business Education in the states of Wisconsin and Minnesota. After working in the public school system, at the university and technical college levels, and on-line, she is currently employed as the Vocational Computer Applications Instructor at New Lisbon Correctional Institution and is the institution's TEMS administrator.

Jean's additional professional experiences have included coordinating and delivering educational programs for the American Red Cross and the United States Army, Chief Election Inspector for the Village of Kendall and the Town of Medary, Village Trustee, and Future Business Leaders of America Adviser. Professional memberships include CEA, the National Business Education Association, and the American Association of University Women.

In her spare time, Jean volunteers and performs community service in local neighborhoods and with the public libraries. She was an Artist Co-Chair for Art Fair on the Green, and is the current Vice President of the Friends of the 400 State Trail, Inc.

Jean is looking forward to effectively representing the CEA-W membership and working towards furthering CEA-W's educational goals.

Dave Chapman

Dave has been the Guidance Counselor at Waupun Correctional Institution since November 2009. Prior to that, he was the Guidance Counselor at Fox Lake Correctional Institution from November 2001 to November 2007. Presently, Dave is the primary Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) and primary GED examiner at WCI.

Professionally, Dave has also been the Dean of Students/Manager of Residence Life at the Wisconsin School for the Visually Handicapped in Janesville and taught daily living skills and the use of optical aids for blind and/or visually impaired adults.

Dave has worked in positions related to the employment of offenders/inmates. From 2007 to 2009, he was an Employment Coordinator for the Division of Community Corrections. This position allowed him to assist offenders in utilizing the education or vocational training they received while incarcerated. He has seen first hand how the education an offender receives through DOC or WTCS directly impacts his or her ability to gain employment.

Dave has been a CEA member for the last ten years. He strongly believes that CEA-W provides an active voice for correctional education professionals.

Myths and FAQs about Student Aid for Incarcerated Individuals

Federal Student Aid, an office of the U.S. Department of Education, plays a central and essential role in America's postsecondary education community. A core mission of Federal Student Aid Office is to ensure that all eligible individuals benefit from federal financial assistance – grants, loans and work-study programs – for education beyond high school. Here is some information that may be helpful to incarcerated individuals.

MYTH: A person with a criminal record is not eligible to receive federal student.

FACT: Individuals who are currently incarcerated – that is, serving a criminal sentence in a federal, state, or local correctional institution – have some limited eligibility for federal student aid.

- An individual incarcerated in a federal or state institution is ineligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant or federal student loans. Although an individual incarcerated in a federal or state prison is eligible to receive a Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) and Federal Work-Study (FWS), he or she is unlikely to receive either FSEOG or FWS due to the FSEOG award priority, which is that the grant must be given to those students who also will receive a Federal Pell Grant, and due to the logistical difficulties of performing an FWS job while incarcerated.
- Those incarcerated in correctional institutions other than federal or state institutions are eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, FSEOG, and FWS but not for federal student loans. Also, it is unlikely that incarcerated individuals in correctional institutions other than federal or state institutions will receive FSEOG or FWS due to school funding limitations and to the logistical difficulties of performing an FWS job while incarcerated.
- It is important to note that, upon your release, most eligibility limitations (other than those noted below) will be removed. In addition, you may apply for aid in anticipation of being released so that your aid is processed in time for you to start school.
- Incarcerated individuals may not receive federal consolidation loans.
- You may be able to have your federal student loans deferred while you are incarcerated, but you must apply for a deferment and meet its eligibility requirements. To apply for deferment, contact the servicer of your loan(s). To find out what kind(s) of loan(s) you have, and/or to find contact information for your loan servicer, call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or visit www.nsls.ed.gov.

FACT: In general, restrictions on federal student aid eligibility are removed for formerly incarcerated individuals, including those on probation, on parole, or in a halfway house.

- However, if your incarceration was for a drug-related offense or if you are subject to an involuntary civil commitment for a sexual offense, your eligibility may be limited as indicated in the two bullets below.
- A student convicted for the possession or sale of illegal drugs may have eligibility suspended if the offense occurred while the student was receiving federal student aid (grants, loans, or work-study). When you complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSASM), you will be asked whether you had a drug conviction for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid. If the answer is yes, you will be provided a special worksheet to help you determine whether your conviction affects your eligibility for federal student aid. You may preview the worksheet in the FAFSA Information section at www.studentaid.ed.gov/pubs.
- If you have been convicted of a forcible or nonforcible sexual offense, and you are subject to an involuntary civil commitment upon completion of a period of incarceration for that offense, you are ineligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant.

Here are the Federal Student Aid Office's responses to some frequently asked questions.

1. Am I eligible for federal student aid while incarcerated?

Individuals who are currently incarcerated have limited eligibility for federal student aid. Individuals incarcerated in federal or state institutions are eligible only for Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG) and Federal Work-Study. Those incarcerated in local institutions are eligible for Pell Grants, FSEOG and Federal Work-Study. However, upon your release, you are eligible for all types of aid – grants, loans and work-study. For more information, contact your institution's education coordinator or the financial aid administrator at the school where you plan to enroll.

2. Am I eligible for loan consolidation while I am incarcerated?

No; incarcerated individuals may not receive federal consolidation loans.

3. Can my student loans be deferred while I am incarcerated?

You may be able to have your loans deferred, but you must apply for a deferment and meet the eligibility requirements for the deferment. The chart below explains the steps to take to apply for deferment.

Federal Perkins Loans	Direct Loans or Direct PLUS Loans	FFEL Loans (includes FFEL PLUS Loans)
Contact the school that made your loan or the school's servicing agent.	Contact the Direct Loan Servicing Center at 1-800-848-0979 or online at www.dl.ed.gov .	Contact the lender or agency holding your loan. For the phone number of the agency in your state, call 1-800-4-FED-AID.

4. I was recently released from prison. Am I eligible for federal student aid?

Once released, you are eligible to receive all types of federal student aid, including grants, loans and work-study. However, your eligibility may be limited if you have been convicted of a drug-related offense.

5. Am I eligible for aid if I am currently on probation or residing in a halfway house?

Yes; once you are no longer incarcerated, you are fully eligible to receive federal student aid, unless you have a drug conviction and have not completed the necessary steps to regain eligibility. (See question 6.)

6. What types of convictions will affect my eligibility for federal student aid?

A student convicted of the possession or sale of illegal drugs may have eligibility suspended if the offense occurred while the student was receiving federal student aid (grants, loans or work-study). Complete the Student Aid Eligibility worksheet (the worksheet can be downloaded at www.studentaid.ed.gov, use the search term "drug worksheet") to determine if your conviction affects your eligibility for aid. As an alternative to waiting until the end of the period of federal student aid ineligibility, you can complete an acceptable drug rehabilitation program to regain eligibility for federal student aid. For additional assistance, please call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID. If you cannot access a toll-free number, call FSAIC at 319-337-5665. TTY users (for the hearing impaired) can call 1-800-730-8913.

7. How do I apply for federal student aid?

To apply for federal student aid, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSASM). Contact your institution's education coordinator or the financial aid administrator at the school you plan to attend for more information.

8. What address do I provide when applying for federal student aid?

When applying for federal student aid while incarcerated, use your current institution's mailing address. However, once released, you must update your permanent mailing address by using FAFSA on the WebSM (www.fafsa.ed.gov) or by calling 1-800-4-FED-AID.

9. How can I get assistance applying for federal student aid?

If you have any additional questions about federal student aid, application procedures or other federal student aid topics, contact your institution's education coordinator or call 1-800-4-FED-AID.

10. How can I receive publications about federal student aid?

To receive a FAFSA or any Federal Student Aid publications, contact your institution's education coordinator or call 1-800-4-FED-AID, or visit www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov to read publications online.

For More Information

To learn about applying for federal student aid, visit www.studentaid.ed.gov.

Coalition Advocates for Juvenile Programs

The Correctional Education Association has joined with 21 advocacy groups to form the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition. The coalition is fighting for critical funding for juvenile programs. On behalf of CEA, Executive Director Steve Steurer was one of the first to sign onto the following letter raising concerns with the President's FY2012 Budget Proposal for juvenile justice programs, and offering up an alternate solution that will keep youth safe and provide states the supports and incentives they need to make needed improvements to their juvenile justice systems.

Please consider sending this letter to your senator and forwarding this request to your colleagues who work with juveniles.

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we urge you to oppose the proposed reorganization of funding for federal juvenile justice grant programs outlined in the President's FY12 budget. The proposed restructuring would seriously undermine federal juvenile justice law and have dangerous consequences for our nation's most vulnerable youth.

First enacted in 1974, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) provides critical federal funding to states to comply with a set of core requirements designed to minimize the detention and incarceration of young people in juvenile and adult facilities, to protect youth in the system, to prevent juvenile crime and to promote public safety. Title II of the law authorizes State Formula Funds for all states in order to ensure that states have the resources to comply with the JJDPA and to build effective state systems. The President's proposed budget would combine Title II funds with funding for the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant to create a new "Juvenile Justice System Incentives Grant," to be awarded to a select number of states on a competitive basis. The restructured program would only receive \$120 million – down \$10 million from the current level of combined total of Title II and JABG funding – and would only be available to states that are already in compliance with the JJDPA.

This proposed restructuring of federal juvenile justice funding to the states and territories will not only decrease overall funding to juvenile justice programs but also jeopardize ongoing state efforts to achieve and sustain compliance with the JJDPA. The restructuring undermines the historic purpose and intent of the JJDPA, which provides core protections for children in the juvenile justice system that:

- Protect children from the dangers of adult jails and lockups;*
- Keep status offenders out of locked custody; and*
- Increase fairness by requiring states to take steps to reduce racial and ethnic disparities.*

We believe that the minimum protections for youth in the juvenile justice system are the core of the JJDPA and providing these protections should be a standard and priority for all states that is supported at the federal level. Therefore, all states should be able to receive federal support to achieve and sustain these protections. Converting the Title II funding mechanism into a competitive grant program sends the wrong message to states about the importance of the JJDPA and would leave many states with little incentive or support to maintain core protections for youth.

Further, the proposed Juvenile Justice System Incentive Grant program is not consistent with similar Administration "Race to the Top" initiatives. For example, the Department of Education's "Race to the Top" initiative allocates roughly 1 percent of federal education funding to incentivize states to exceed federal requirements but distributes the remaining funds to all states to ensure compliance with federal law. Conversely, the Juvenile Justice System Incentive Grant program combines all federal funding for juvenile justice programs into a single competitive grant program. The proposal abandons existing federal funding streams that are essential to the implementation of federal law and leaves the states without a dedicated revenue source to help them achieve and sustain compliance with the JJDPA.

We are deeply concerned with this restructuring and believe that a different approach – one that is more consistent with what the Administration has proposed with federal education funding – would effectively distribute funds in a way that continues federal support of states' efforts to comply with the JJDPa while also incentivizing states to do more.

To that end, we propose a two-tier system that would provide 90-95% (\$108-114 million) of the funds to the states to continue and strengthen Title II State Formula Funds to support state compliance with the JJDPa and 5-10% (\$6-12 million) of the funds to support the new Incentive Grant Program. This two-tier approach would realize the goals of the Administration's proposed new fund while also ensuring sufficient funding for implementing and sustaining the core requirements of the JJDPa. We also urge the restoration of the \$10 million eliminated by President's budget proposal. Currently, about 20 percent of states are out of compliance with the JJDPa; without these revisions that number would most certainly increase, putting greater numbers of children at risk.

The President's FY12 budget proposal has negative consequences for youth in the juvenile justice system and the community at large. The proposal moves away from the targeted federal involvement that has provided critical national leadership to states in preventing youth from entering the justice system. We urge you to reject the Administration's proposed changes to juvenile justice funding and instead adopt the two-tier funding approach outlined above.

*Thank you for taking our concerns into consideration.
Sincerely,*

*Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth
Campaign for Youth Justice (CFYJ)
Center for Children's Law and Policy (CCLP)
Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants
(CURE)
Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ)
Correctional Education Association (CEA)
Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators
Justice Policy Institute (JPA)
Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA)
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)*

*Legal Action Center
National Disability Rights Network
National Juvenile Justice Network
The Sentencing Project
School Social Work Association of America
(SSWAA)
South Carolina Re-entry Initiative (SCRI)
Therapeutic Communities of America (TCA)
United Church of Christ/ Justice and Witness
Ministries
Violence Prevention Coalition
Youth Law Center*

66th Annual International CEA Conference

July 17-20, 2011

**Charleston Marriott Town Center & Charleston Embassy Suites
Charleston, West Virginia**

It's time to register for the **66th Annual CEA Conference, Soaring to New Heights**. The Charleston conference is coming along very nicely. The West Virginia folks, under the leadership of Fran Warsing, are doing a great job of planning an excellent professional development opportunity for attendees.

Conference participants will be coming from throughout the United States and several other countries. An attendance near 400 people is optimistically expected, along with a good number of exhibitors and sponsors. **For more information** contact:

Conference Co-Chair, Dr. Fran Warsing at fwarsing@access.k12.wv.us
Jacob Green at jgreen@access.k12.wv.us
DeWayne Duncan at ddduncan@access.k12.wv.us

President's Message

Greetings,

If you are reading this from the beautiful Elkhart Lake – welcome and I'm glad you could join us for the Region 3 & 4 Conference. I appreciate your willingness to join us. I know these are difficult times for many people to find the time and money to attend a conference.

For those of you reading this from home or work – we hope to see you next time! I understand it's not always possible to attend every conference. Hopefully you will find a valuable piece of information within this newsletter that will motivate or enlighten you – and be sure to watch for our next newsletter highlighting the great presentations at the conference!

Margaret

margaret.done@wisconsin.gov

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