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Correctional Education Association - Wisconsin

Make Plans to Attend the 2013 CEA-Wisconsin Training Day

Since 2004, CEA-Wisconsin has worked with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and Wisconsin Technical College System to plan workshops relating to teaching in state facilities and county jails and run a Silent Auction at the fall conference. This year will end CEA-Wisconsin's participation with the Wisconsin GED/HSED & Adult Literacy Conference.

Beginning in 2013, CEA-Wisconsin will focus its attention and energy on making the CEA-Wisconsin State Training Day the essential training event for Wisconsin correctional educators. With the launch of computer-based GED examinations in January 2014, 2013 will be an important year of preparation for correctional education. Attendance at the CEA-Wisconsin State Training Day at the Madison Concourse Hotel in Madison should be a top priority for all teachers and volunteers working in state facilities and county jails. Make it part of your annual training plans.

At the national level, CEA has been working for more than a year to prepare correctional educators for a successful launch of computer-based GED examinations in January 2014. Last year CEA undertook a national survey on the readiness of adult and juvenile, local, state and federal agencies for GED 2014 and has been working closely with the Council of Directors of Correctional Education headed by Susan Lockwood.

CEA has contracted with the National Institute of Corrections to fund the training of one person from each state plus five teacher trainers from large jails at the NIC Training Academy in early 2013. In addition, CEA will provide one day teacher training at the annual CEA Leadership Forum on March 17-19, 2013. Then, CEA-W will present the latest information from these resources at our May 2013 CEA-W State Training Day

Throughout 2013 CEA will be conducting GED training at every CEA national, regional and state conference. The CEA 2013 summer conference will be held at the Cleveland Renaissance Hotel from June 30-July 3 where CEA and GEDTS will provide a three-day official training for teachers and trainers.

More information will be coming out in the next few months, so start making your plans now. We hope to see you at the 2013 CEA-W State Training Day in May and possibly the 2013 CEA Conference in Cleveland.

Fair Shake Has Tips for Reentry Instructors

Educators who instruct reentry programs may be interested in two items that appeared In the October 23, 2012 issue of Fair Shake’s E-news. E-news reported that the American Bar Association and the National Institute of Justice have joined forces and released an interactive map showing the federal and state collateral consequences that await a person coming home from prison.

The map shows the consequences categorized by conviction, jurisdiction and consequence and will help all stakeholders understand limitations and hurdles based on the severity of an offense. The map may be accessed at <http://www.abacollateralconsequences.org/CollateralConsequences/map.jsp>.

Earlier this month, the MSN Careers website posted an article about employers and reentry: Half of employers surveyed have hired someone with a criminal record. CareerBuilder.com surveyed nearly 2300 employers who offered the following tips:

- Be upfront and honest about the conviction and stress what you learned from it - 68%
- Be willing to work your way up - 48%
- Stay positive - 46%
- Prepare while you're in prison (take classes, participate in vocational training, etc) - 39%
- Don't apply to jobs where your record would automatically disqualify you - 31%
- Volunteer - 31%
- Take freelance or temporary assignments - 26%
- Consider joining the military - 18%
- Start your own business - 16%
- Monitor what is said on social media - 13%

For more information visit Fair Shake’s website at www.fairshake.net.

Learn All About CEA-Wisconsin at: www.ceawisconsin.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: W6443 Old Highway Road Menasha, WI 54952 920-734-5902 jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com</p>
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RGCI Education Is a Well Kept Secret

Redgranite Correctional Institution (RGCI) Education Department is the best kept secret in the Department of Corrections. It is the only facility which has mandatory education for its population.

The staff is on the cutting edge of surpassing goals of high school diploma mastery with 73-100 graduates per year for the past three years. Graduation ceremonies are held twice per year with "Pomp and Circumstance", graduation gowns, guest speakers, and individual family support.

The staff is positive; they set high standards for their students and provide a positive learning environment which is supported by the education director, guidance counselor, and security staff. Rockview School's halls have been hand painted by volunteer inmates from the institution in an aquatic theme.

Classes that are offered at RGCI include: Adult Basic Education, remedial work, an HSED program including Health, Civics, and Employability, Computer Lab-Plato support, Rosetta Stone for English Language Learners, and a vocational program which includes Microsoft Office and American Government certification. Ten modules of the DOC Reentry program are available.

An evening Financial Literacy program, whose format is the template for the Department of Corrections, is also available as well as an Advanced Investment class, which provides hands-on experience through the Stock Market Simulation Game. Participants in the game have been earned the top bidding award for the last several years and have been able to keep the trophy displayed in the window of the education suite. The students have participated in the game twice a year since 2006 resulting in four first place ratings, two second place ratings, and two third place ratings. Competition is with other correctional facilities in Wisconsin who participate in the contest.

A Pro-Literacy tutor program through the Wisconsin Literacy Council program provides a trained tutor to work individually with students in the classroom or on the unit. Rockview School has been the site of the pilot program for the Incarcerated Individual Program which ran it to its completion in 2012. With the future rollout of computer based testing in 2014, Redgranite Correctional Education Department is planning to incorporate Gregg Keyboarding in the computer lab to assist in the transition. A staff educator currently administers ACT testing to qualifying students.

Credit must also be given to the library which supports all education staff and students. The library is open seven days a week from 7:30 A.M. through 9:00 P.M. Inmates are able to read magazines, newspapers, and circulation books and have Law Library which provides computerized Lexis/Nexus.

by: Ann Egan, RGCI

Congratulations to Rodney Bahr

At a ceremony at the Portage Elks Lodge on Thursday September 27, 2012, Rodney Bahr received the Outstanding Support Award from the Columbia County Sheriff's Department.

This award presented by Columbia County Sheriff Dennis Richards is intended for an individual who is not employed by the Sheriff's Office, but who, in his/her profession, has supported the Columbia County Sheriff's Office in an extraordinary effort.

Rodney is a Madison College instructor at the Portage campus who provides GED/HSED instruction to inmates of the Columbia County Jail. His efforts have resulted in many inmates achieving their GED or HSED credentials. The staff and faculty of the Madison College-Portage campus wish to add their congratulations to Rodney for his extraordinary efforts and achievements at the Columbia County Jail.

FVTC Provides Education Services at Waushara County Jail

Waushara County Jail is one of Fox Valley Technical College's jail sites. FVTC provides Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes in the Outagamie, Winnebago, Waupaca and Waushara county jails. Waushara County Jail is located in rural Wautoma. ABE classes are held at the jail for a total of 5 hours per week.

Up until last year, Waushara County housed not only county inmates, but also state inmates. Since the transfer of state inmates to state institutions, the Waushara County/FVTC Jail Literacy Program has changed dramatically, meeting fewer hours per week and serving fewer students.

The revolving door of a county jail makes it more difficult to have students complete a GED/HSED. Although FVTC has an Outreach Site located approximately 3 blocks from the jail, once students are released from jail the tendency is to NOT follow up on educational goals.

Typically the male classes have about eight students per session. The main focus is on GED/HSED prep, although enrichment students are welcomed to attend. Students complete and submit an application form. Upon review, the students are then given the guidelines for participation. Students must agree to attend class every session. No absences are allowed. If a student is truly ill, he/she can be excused; however, 100% attendance is required.

The female population is more transient. Typically two to three students attend class. More often than not, the women are enrichment students, having already obtained a high school credential of some sort.

GED Testing is offered once per month. Fortunately for the inmates testing fees are paid by Waushara County Jail. Students are given multiple Official GED Practice tests to ensure their successful passing scores. Since 2007, approximately 150 inmates have taken one or more tests and approximately 30 inmates have completed his/her GED/HSED.

Students attending class have access to a class library. This library includes multiple copies of books so that, if desired, an entire cell block can read and discuss a book. One favorite is *The Glass Castle: A Memoir* by Jeannette Walls. Men and women alike are touched Jeannette's story of living life in an extremely dysfunctional family. Other favorite authors include: James Patterson, Jodi Picoult, J.K. Rowling, and David Brown, just to mention a few. This library is made possible through donations from the classroom instructor and others that she has "in the loop."

Laurie Jarvis has been the instructor at the Waushara County Jail for several years. Laurie represents Community Corrections on the CEA-Wisconsin Board of Directors. She has presented at several Jail Break sessions. She truly enjoys teaching at the Waushara County Jail and sometimes likes to surprise people she meets by saying that she is off to jail!

by: Laurie Jarvis, FVTC/Waushara County Jail

Mark Your Calendar

Region III & IV CEA Conference
April 22-23, 2013
Clarion Inn in Mason City, Iowa

68th Annual International CEA Conference
June 30-July 3, 2013
Renaissance Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio

Correctional Education Association 2013 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Purpose:

The Correctional Education Association of Wisconsin (CEA-W), in cooperation with the International Correctional Education Association, has established the TEACHER OF THE YEAR award to recognize outstanding educational contributions by a teacher in a correctional facility.

Who Is Eligible:

To be eligible, the teacher must:

- spend at least 51% of his/her work time in classroom instruction
- have taught in correctional facilities a minimum of two years
- have demonstrated leadership qualities and be active in promoting improvements in correctional education
- have demonstrated devotion to the teaching profession as evidenced by a willingness to work beyond his/her job description
- have been an active member of CEA for the past one year

Teachers who were nominated previous years, but were not selected as the CEA-W TEACHER OF THE YEAR may be re-nominated. CEA-W Board members are not eligible for nomination.

Nomination Process:

Anyone may submit a nomination for TEACHER OF THE YEAR. The nomination may be a colleague or the teacher him or herself. The nomination deadline is **January 1, 2013**.

Qualities To Be Considered:

- Teaching excellence
- Classroom and program innovation
- Professional development activities
- Ability to serve as a representative for correctional education in the state of Wisconsin

Awards:

The CEA-W TEACHER OF THE YEAR will receive a plaque attesting to his or her achievement. He/she will be furnished expenses to compete against winners from five other Midwestern States at the Region III & IV CEA Conference in Mason City, Iowa on April 22-23, 2013. If the Wisconsin Teacher of the Year is selected as the Region III Teacher of the Year, he/she will be furnished expenses to attend the 68th Annual CEA International Conference to be held in Cleveland, Ohio on June 30-July 1, 2013.

HURRY!!! Phone, fax, or mail your nomination by **January 1, 2013** to:

Margaret Done
CEA-W Awards & Recognition Committee
Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center
21425A Spring Street
Union Grove, WI 53182
Phone: 262-878-6000 ext. 5017
Email: margaret.done@wisconsin.gov

CEA-Wisconsin Showcase Award

Would you like to present a workshop on your program, classroom activities, or special area of interest? The Wisconsin chapter of the Correctional Education Association would like to help.

The CEA-W Board is offering a \$250 grant to help defray the professional expenses for a CEA-Wisconsin member to present a workshop at the CEA-Wisconsin Training Day at the Concourse Hotel in Madison, Wisconsin in May 2013, the Region III & IV CEA Conference in Mason City, Iowa on April 22-23, 2013, the 68th International CEA Conference in Cleveland, Ohio on June 30-July 1, 2013, or any other professional education or correctional conference.

To be eligible for consideration, you must be an active CEA member, submit a proposal outlining the workshop you wish to present, and submit a statement of support from your supervisor. Your presentation may be on an existing program that has been effective, a new innovative program, creative classroom activities, unique instructional methods, or a special project.

The CEA-W Board will review the proposals received and select the proposal to receive the \$250 grant.

Your proposal should include:

- ❖ Title of presentation
- ❖ Intended audience
- ❖ Presentation description (200 words or less)

Entries will be evaluated on:

- ❖ Relevance to the needs of correctional students
- ❖ Creativity
- ❖ Effectiveness of program or techniques
- ❖ Potential to be used in other settings
- ❖ Interest to conference attendees

The deadline for submission of your proposal is January 1, 2013. Submit your proposal to:

Holly Audley, Office of Secretary Reentry Unit-EBP Manager
CEA-W Awards & Recognition Committee
3099 East Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53704
Phone: 608-240-5022
Email: holly.audley@wisconsin.gov

Join CEA Now and Receive a Rebate

The Correctional Education Association of Wisconsin is offering a \$10.00 membership rebate from now until November 30, 2012. You can renew in person at the GED/HSED & Adult Literacy Conference, by mail or via the internet at www.ceanational.org. Simply pay the full membership price by November 30, 2012, scan a copy of the completed membership form and email it to Ray Schlesinger at Raphael.Schlesinger@Wisconsin.gov or mail the form to Ray Schlesinger, 824 Christianson Ave., Madison, WI 53714. Ray will then send you a check for \$10.00. Please share this with your colleagues.

Now is a great time to join or renew your membership. You will receive the rebate, the CEA-Wisconsin newsletter, the Journal of Correctional Education, the Journal's archives, and be eligible to apply for the CEA-Wisconsin Scholarship Award, Showcase Award and Teacher of the Year. CEA-W is planning a training day for May 6, 2013 which will be essential to all correctional educators to get the latest on the new 2014 GED tests. Please join or renew today.

by: Mary Stierna, CEA-W President

Where Are They Now?

Each year CEA-Wisconsin sponsors two \$500 scholarships. One scholarship is goes to a CEA-W member and the other designated for a family member of a CEA-W member to assist them in pursuing a degree at an accredited university or technical college.

In the next few issues of this newsletter, we will follow-up on some of the past recipients of the CEA-Wisconsin scholarships.

2005 Recipient – Nikki Cerney, teacher at Wisconsin Resource Center

"The CEA scholarship was greatly appreciated and utilized well during my time in graduate school at UW-Oshkosh. I completed my program with a Master of Science Degree in Education at UW-Oshkosh in May, 2006. Two short weeks later I gave birth to identical twin boys that are now six years old! I continue to work at WRC as a special education teacher and enjoy co-facilitating our new IMR program for students with mental health issues in addition to academic classes."

2007 Recipient – Sarah (Jarvis) Pietkauskis, daughter of Laurie Jarvis, teacher at Waushara County Jail

"The scholarship helped me continue to work toward my goal of becoming a teacher. Since receiving the scholarship, I graduated from UW-Platteville in December 2010. After graduation, I moved to Iowa to be close to my fiancé and worked at a daycare. In the summer of 2011, I applied for teaching jobs and received a long term subbing job. I subbed for about two weeks when a second grade teaching job opened up at my school! I applied for the job, had an interview, got the job and got married all in the same week! I have been teaching second grade in Montello, WI ever since.

2008 Recipient – Pamela Richter-Boss, formerly a teacher at Southern Oaks Girls School

"The CEAW Scholarship was a great support in furthering my doctoral course work in the area of Special Education via Walden University. I am currently working on a book concept for successful instructional strategies for adults with learning disabilities and attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder. I continue to find my teaching at the Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility very rewarding!"

2010 Recipient – Justin Mohelnitzky, son of Tom Mohelnitzky, teacher at Wisconsin Resource Center

Justin used the scholarship money for educational expenses while attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing. He currently is employed as a nurse at Froedert Hospital in Milwaukee on the spinal cord injury ward and is engaged to be married in October, 2013.

2011 Recipient – Tare Bonte, daughter of Sherry Berg, Program Officer at Dunn County Jail

"I recently transferred to UW-River Falls from Green Bay to study biology with the same end goal of physical therapy. I am hoping to join the rodeo team in the spring semester at River Falls. I used the scholarship towards purchasing books at UW-Green Bay."

Reminder: CEA-Wisconsin Creativity Contest Entries Are Due December 1

Contest rules and a submission form are in the September/October 2012 issue of the CEA-Wisconsin newsletter at www.ceawisconsin.org. For more information, contact Libby Kraft at elizabeth.kraft@wisconsin.gov.

Recidivism Rate Shows Steady Decline

Last month, DOC Secretary Gary H. Hamblin released the first in a series of performance measurement reports on Department recidivism rates, produced by the Department's cross-divisional Research and Policy Unit staff. Secretary Hamblin said, "This report, *Recidivism after Release from Prison*, sets the foundation for a consistent and defensible standard on how the Department defines and calculates recidivism rates. The scope of this analysis is impressive, tracking almost 125,000 offenders released from the Wisconsin prison system over a period of 20 years. Even more impressive are the results. Data shows that release from prison recidivism rates have steadily decreased since 1993."

Although Secretary Hamblin acknowledged that there are many reasons for this trend, he believed, "...one of the major factors in this success is directly related to the ongoing work and dedication of our staff across all facets of the Department, our collaborations with criminal justice and community partners, and our collective commitment to keep Wisconsin safe by reducing recidivism."

Analyses of recidivism data revealed that the rate decreased by 28.5% (or 12.9 percentage points) from 1993, when the recidivism rate was the highest at 45.3%, to 2007, when it was 32.4%. Furthermore, as recidivism rates decreased, the number of releases from prison dramatically increased, tripling between 1990 and 2009. An offender released in 1993 was 1.4 times more likely to recidivate within three years than an offender released in 2007. The *Recidivism after Release from Prison* report goes on to break down the recidivism trends by gender, age at release, and time to recidivism event.

This report is the first in a series of recidivism reports that the Wisconsin DOC will publish on a regular basis. The next recidivism report will include release from incarceration recidivism rates broken down by: race, release type, length of stay in prison, number of prior episodes of incarceration, estimated risk level, recidivism offense type, and recidivist offense sentence type (prison vs. probation). Following that, reports will be published documenting recidivism rates for offenders admitted to any form of Wisconsin DOC supervision and offenders discharged from Wisconsin DOC supervision. Finally, a report examining factors that affect recidivism rates will be published. This report will examine which factors lead to success, which factors lead to failure (recidivism), and, of these factors, which contribute the most to success or failure.

The entire *Recidivism after Release from Prison* report may be obtained by contacting Holly Audley, Office of Secretary Reentry Unit-EBP Manager at holly.audley@wisconsin.gov.

Are You Employed by DOC and Confused about Your Membership?

Does attending the annual CEA-Wisconsin Training Day as an employee of the Department of Corrections at member rates mean you are a CEA member? It depends . . . If you completed the CEA Membership Form and paid any of the membership rates listed below, you are a member.

- Individual (\$65/year)
- Lifetime (\$1000 - \$100 per year for 10 years)
- Student/Volunteer/Retiree (\$45/year)
- Associate Membership (Jail Employees), \$35/year)
- Clerical/Instructional/Support Staff (\$35/year)
- International (\$55/year)

If you are a member, in addition to reduced conference rates, you receive these CEA Publications:

The Journal of Correctional Education
CEA News & Notes newsletter
The Directory of Correctional Educators

Regional newsletter
 State newsletter
 CEA-W Creativity Contest booklet
 Special Interest Group newsletter

You also receive:

Regional membership
 State charter membership
 Membership in the CEA Special Interest Groups and Affiliate Organizations
 Voting privileges
 Insurance benefits (auto, liability, health)
 Membership certificate
 Membership card

For the past two years, the DOC Office of Program Services has purchased Institution Memberships for most DOC facilities. These Institution Memberships entitle each institution to select some of its education staff to attend the CEA-Wisconsin Training Day, CEA Regional Conference, Annual International CEA Conference or any other CEA event at the reduced member rate. These Institution Memberships do not mean that the person attending the CEA-Wisconsin Training Day is a CEA member and they do not include voting privileges. The Correctional Education Association publications that are part of the Institution Memberships are sent to the DOC Office of Program Services.

To be eligible for the CEA-Wisconsin Teacher of the Year, Scholarship or Showcase awards, the applicant must be a CEA member. Also you must be a member to serve on the CEA-Wisconsin Board or Creativity Contest Committee.

So if you are not a member, join now and become eligible for all of CEA's awards, publications and other benefits. If you have any questions, contact any of the CEA-Wisconsin Board members.

Call for Nominations

During March, Correctional Education Association-Wisconsin will be conducting its annual election for Executive Board Members. Nominations are being accepted for the following offices:

- ✓ **Juvenile Facilities Member**
- ✓ **Local Education Agency Member**
- ✓ **Jail/Detention Center Member**
- ✓ **Member-At-Large**
- ✓ **Member-At-Large**

Any CEA-Wisconsin member is eligible to run for office. All officers and board members serve two-year terms. Nominations are to be sent to:

Jean Bently-Jones
New Lisbon Correctional Institution
2000 Progress Road
New Lisbon, WI 53950-2000
Phone: 608-564-5200 x3143
Email: jean.bentlyjones@wisconsin.gov

Nominations must be received by **February 1, 2013**. Newly elected members will assume their offices at the May 2013 Executive Board Meeting.

President's Message

This is a great time to be a CEA member! The newsletter highlights many of our awards that members can receive. Nominate a fellow member for the Teacher of the Year, or apply for the Showcase Award and present your great ideas at a conference! You can also read about past Scholarship Award recipients in this current newsletter. Consider becoming a CEA-Wisconsin board member.

There are many benefits to being an individual member. Plus, if you join or renew now, before 11/30/12, you will get a \$10.00 rebate.

The CEA-Wisconsin Creativity Contest is under way. Please encourage your students to enter the contest. The deadline for entries is December 1, 2012. The contest rules and submission forms are on the CEA-Wisconsin website, and in the September/October issue of this newsletter.

Thank you for being a CEA member! Have a happy and safe Holiday season.

Mary
mary.stierna@wisconsin.gov

To join CEA go to: www.ceanational.org

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