



July/August 2013  
Volume 28, Issue 1

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## Correctional Education Association - Wisconsin

### Fox Lake and Moraine Park Mark 40 Years of Partnership

In an era of frequent policy change and budget cuts, program longevity is often a scarce commodity. Rarely do education programs have a lifespan of ten years let alone four decades. But the Wisconsin Technical College System's (WTCS) certified vocational programs at Fox Lake Correctional Institution (FLCI) have achieved that milestone. They have remained the Department of Correction's (DOC) most successful vocational training programs for 40 years.

This year marks the fortieth anniversary of the most significant event in Wisconsin correctional education – the linking of Fox Lake Correctional Institution and Moraine Park Technical College (MPTC) in a partnership to provide state-of-the-art job training for correctional inmates.

Three main factors have enabled this to last: 1) a good original idea, 2) innovative staff dedicated to maintaining program quality, and 3) a delivery system which enhances program consistency.

#### WTCS Accreditation

In the spring of 1972, Burt Zien, a member of the Wisconsin Vocational, Technical and Adult Education Board (now WTCS) conceived the idea of VTAE accreditation of vocational courses in state institutions. Accreditation required upgrading faculty skills, programs, and equipment.

To achieve these ends, an umbrella committee, state-wide in knowledge, experience, prestige and influence was formed. The mission of the Interagency Committee on Corrections Education was simple and direct: "To design job training that meets the standards of the Wisconsin Board of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education, implement such training behind the walls and move the ex-offender off the street, off the welfare rolls, and onto the job." The Moraine Park District soon took the lead in working with the committee in fulfilling this mission.

In August 1972, FLCI was chosen for the pilot project. Over the next 40 years, it would remain the premier institution in the development and delivery of vocational programming.

By January 1973, the Custodial Services and Small Engines programs  
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were ready for State Board approval. The number of VTAE accredited programs continued to expand – adding Appliance Servicing, Auto Body, Auto Mechanics, Electronics Servicing, Machine Tool Operation, Mechanical Drafting, Retail Sales, and Production Welding in the next few years.

From the beginning, the education department at FLCI has functioned as a branch campus of Moraine Park. Curricula are approved by administration at the main campus. A coordinator is assigned to Fox Lake to ensure that programs meet MPTC standards. Records are kept at the FLCI office and the Moraine Park main campus. Diplomas and certificates are issued by MPTC with no reference to corrections. Also from the beginning, all teachers at FLCI have been required to meet the same certification requirements that apply to WTCS instructors throughout the state.

### Program Quality

To keep current with the skills required in today’s job market, instructors are encouraged to attend training workshops and courses offered at MPTC, or by manufacturers. Instructors teaching programs that are linked with an on-campus program are invited to advisory committee meetings twice a year. Here the Fox Lake instructors are exposed to the on-campus faculty and the employers that hire MPTC graduates. These meetings keep faculty members up to date on MPTC curriculum changes and industry trends as observed by the employers.

The maintenance of quality programs requires that, not only do teachers keep current, but also modern equipment must continually be introduced into the shops and classrooms.

Fox Lake, like other state agencies, is subject to budget cuts while being asked to serve a larger population. Teachers have been asked to increase class size and contact hours with less funding. Many have established contacts with private industry to obtain donations of equipment and materials to upgrade their programs.

Over the last five years Moraine Park has donated standalone computers, monitors, and LCD projectors upon rotation. While these computers are three years old, they provide some flexibility in the classroom. Instructors are able to have students view DVDs, or CDs with program related materials. They have also

<b>Executive Officers</b>		<p>The CEA-W News Review is published by the members of the Correctional Education Association-Wisconsin Chapter. The opinions herein are entirely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the executive officers, the Department of Corrections, or the body as a whole.</p> <p>It is our hope that this newsletter will be used to communicate information concerning activities, special events, new directions and policies of CEA-W and DOC.</p> <p>Articles for publication may be submitted to the CEA-W News Review Editor Jerry Bednarowski at:                  W6443 Old Highway Road                  Menasha, WI 54952                  920-734-5902  <a href="mailto:jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com">jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com</a></p>
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used the computers for PowerPoint presentations in the classroom that enhance the learning experience for the students. The Computer Drafting-Mechanical program has benefited from these donations by obtaining high quality and more powerful graphic computers from Moraine Park's Mechanical Design program. This allows students to run high end design software packages that are used in industry.

## **Program Evolution**

As technology and the job market have evolved, course content and program titles have changed. Today's lineup of programs includes diplomas for Automotive Maintenance Technician; Bricklaying/Masonry; Cabinetmaking/Millwork; Computer Drafting-Mechanical; Custodial Services; Machine Tool Operator; Motorcycle, Marine & Outdoor Power Products; Refrigeration, Air Conditioning & Heating Service Technician; and Welding. Certificates are awarded for Cabinetmaking/Millwork, Custodial Services, Greenhouse/Garden Center Specialist, Grounds Maintenance Specialist and Landscape Specialist.

## **Program Administration**

Much of the credit for the success of the FLCI/MPTC partnership must be given to those responsible for administrating the two agencies over the past four decades. Like the fundamental philosophy underlying the vocational training, the positions overseeing program operation have remained stable. During this time span only six individuals have served as Education Director at FLCI: John Plank (14 years), Tom Olson (6 years), Bob Garcia (6 years), Glenn Poler (5 years), and Holly Audley and Chris Eplett (since 2007).

Working with them as the Moraine Park Corrections Education Coordinator have been Ron Hall and Paul Morin (for the first 3 years) Howard Steinhilber (1976-1995), Katie Soles (1995-1998), John Phillips (1998-2007) and Chuck Brendel (2007-present).

## **Results**

Through all of the years and the changes, student training always remained high quality. As of May 31, 2013, MPTC had enrolled almost 17,400 unduplicated students at FLCI, awarded 4951 diplomas, and 474 certificates to graduates, making it the largest vocational training program in any Wisconsin institution as well as one of the largest in the nation.

# **Thank You from Wisconsin TOY**

I would like to thank Region III for honoring me during the Region III Conference in Mason City, Iowa, in April, and to the CEA-Wisconsin Board for hosting the TOY Luncheon at the CEA-Wisconsin two day Training Event in Madison in May. I was honored to hear CEA President David Webb introduce my background and career highlights at both events. The kind words and thoughtful gestures that were extended to me by so many people will not be forgotten.

The GED training, presented by Margaret Done, was a highlight for me at both conferences. I look forward to the exciting challenges that the new testing will bring to me and others in Correctional Education.

I have recently joined the CEA-Wisconsin Board as a Member at Large, representing the La Crosse County Jail and Western Technical College. I really enjoyed my Teacher of the Year activities and look forward to my responsibilities as a state board member.

Sincerely, Willa MacKenzie

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

# GED 2014 Training Tops 1500

The number of teachers that have received GED 2014 training is over 1500 and is still growing. That is according to information provided by CEA Executive Director Steve Steurer on the progress CEA has made with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) GED 2014 training grant. The GED 2014 training done at the CEA-Wisconsin Training Days has so far been the largest and Wisconsin trainer, Margaret Done, has participated in the training of almost one-third of the teachers trained nation-wide.

In December 2012 CEA and GED staff met at the GED Testing Office in Washington, D.C. to develop the training agenda and content for the NIC sponsored train-the-trainers. Thirty-nine people from 30 different states participated in the February 19, 2013 training held in Indianapolis under NIC funding. Additionally, three people from the Federal Bureau of Prisons and two from the Corrections Corporation of America went through the training. CEA was represented by Steve Steurer, Executive Director and John Dowdell, CEA Journal editor. The GED Testing Service (GEDTS) training was conducted by Marty Kehe of GEDTS and their lead GED 2014 consultants Bonnie Goonan and Susan Pittman-Shetler. Materials for this and many other trainings was provided by GEDTS free of charge.

The first follow-up training was held at the CEA Leadership Forum on March 19th in Columbia, Maryland. Training was conducted by Marty Kehe, Mark Roberts of Ohio Department of Corrections, Susan Lockwood and John Nally, both from the Indiana Department of Corrections. They trained approximately 190 teachers.

These trainings in other states followed:

- Late April – CEA sent Jean Perini of the Maryland Correctional Education program and Mark Roberts to Tacoma, Washington where approximately 125 CEA Region 6 teachers partook of the one day training. Since NIC was experienced a freeze on travel funds (sequestration), CEA of Washington paid the expenses for the two consultants and GEDTS donated the time of one of its staff and all the training materials.
- April 18 – CEA-Pennsylvania conducted its statewide conference and trained 195 teachers. Steve Steurer, Diana and Larry Beatty were the trainers.
- April 22-23 – Training was provided at the CEA Region 4 Conference in Mason City by Margaret Done. About 80 people were trained at the expense of CEA Region 4.
- May 7 – CEA of Wisconsin conducted its statewide annual conference and trained almost 400 teachers with Marty Kehe, Margaret Done and Steve Steurer providing the training
- May 9 – The Georgia Department of Correction conducted training for about 100 teachers at the Georgia DOC training center in Forsythe. Mark Roberts was the trainer.
- May 21 – CEA Region 1 held its annual conference at Cape Cod and conducted GED training for approximately 195 teachers. Susan Lockwood, John Nally, Mark Roberts and Steve Steurer conducted the training with the assistance of Marty Kehe of GEDTS.
- Mid-June – The Hawaii Department of Corrections asked CEA to assist in training its teachers. Pennsylvania trainers Diana and Larry Beatty trained approximately 25 teachers.
- June 30-July 3 – The Correctional Education Association held its annual national conference in Cleveland, Ohio. The GED training was conducted on Tuesday, July 2 for over 200 teachers, mostly from Ohio.
- October – There will be at least one additional CEA regional conference in Louisiana and CEA will offer GED training at that event.

Many of the 39 teachers trained in Indianapolis went back to train in their own state. CEA has not yet sent out a survey to see how many other teachers have received training as a result. The training in Indianapolis in February was video and audio-taped and is being edited into a two hour tape covering primarily the math and writing teaching strategies which will be available through CEA and on the GEDTS website. The training content covering the GED design and knowledge domains is currently available in pdf and Powerpoint presentations from the GEDTS website or CEA.

## **Western Technical College Awarded Reentry Grant**

One of the recent developments that John Linton, Director of the Office of Correctional Education, highlighted in his workshop at the 68<sup>th</sup> CEA International Conference and Training Event was the awarding of the Department of Education "Promoting Reentry Success through Continuity of Educational Opportunities" grants.

In March, 2013 the Department of Education awarded discretionary grants to three of more than 75 organizations and institutions which competed for awards under the grant program. These grants were made possible as a result of a cooperative agreement between the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs and the Department of Education. The three recipients are: Western Technical College, La Crosse, WI; Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit, Lancaster, PA; and Barton County Community College, Great Bend, KS.

The Office of Vocational and Adult Education will support these programs with technical assistance, will conduct a program evaluation to determine the impact of the services provided, and will disseminate technical assistance resources broadly to entities implementing reentry education programs.

At the heart of the projects will be the new Reentry Education Model, released last year by the U.S. Department of Education. Grant recipients will build upon the model, which offers evidence-based approaches to support individuals leaving prison to successfully transition back into the community through schooling and career advancement.

Among the suggested improvements for correctional education contained in the Model are: establishing an integrated reentry program that offers and incorporates education services, workforce training, and job search support during intake and prerelease processes and links education to employment services; targeting job support to labor market demands that do not have criminal history restrictions; using technology to increase program access and data to measure performance and outcomes; and conducting thorough program evaluations to further share lessons learned and best practices.

Updates will be included in future issues of this newsletter as Western Technical College and the LaCrosse County Jail work to implement the new Reentry Education Model.

## **Demeter Foundation Urges Women to Remember "I Am a Person First!"**

The Demeter Foundation is celebrating over a decade of advocating and educating for the humane treatment and civil rights of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women and their families in Wisconsin.

With a goal to reduce recidivism and gain self-empowerment, healing and strength, the Demeter Foundation provides programs for recently released women who are currently in the Dane County area and its immediate surrounding counties. Programs are at "no cost" to formerly incarcerated women who have been back in the community for less than one year.

The Demeter Foundation has developed programs that will provide education, job readiness, peer support, self-worth and strength – all based on the empowering concepts of the Divine Feminine. Classes and workshops include:

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- Wellness Recovery Action Plan workshops (WRAP) for women who have a mental health diagnosis, PTSD and/or AODA issues
- Creative writing, job readiness, resume writing, nutrition, stress reduction classes
- Assistance with goal plans and attending meetings with parole officers
- Civil rights and humane treatment advocacy
- Resources to locate health care, Independent Living Skills programs, and information about Social Security Disability Benefits
- Trauma-informed care and positive peer support
- Outings to area events such as educational presentations and the farmers' market where they learn how to use a Quest card for healthy, fresh food
- A "Welcome Home Kit" with personal basics, clothing, bedding, etc
- A prescription eyeglass program for women who cannot afford glasses

But most important of all, the Demeter Foundation provides someone to talk to, cry with, and provide support to encourage the ex-offender to keep going. The Demeter Foundation believes that incarcerated women have the capability to survive under the most challenging circumstances and urges them to always remember "I am a Person First!"

Visit the Demeter Foundation website at: [www.thedemeterfoundation.com](http://www.thedemeterfoundation.com) or contact Alice Pauser, Co-Founder at 608-298-3563 for more information.

## **Center for Self Sufficiency Awarded Grant to Assist Former Female Offenders**

The Milwaukee Center for Self-Sufficiency announced on June 12, 2013 that it has received a U.S. Department of Labor grant, Strategies Targeting Characteristics Common to Female Ex-Offenders. The Center is one of eight organizations across the county to receive awards of about \$1.5 million each.

The grants are designed to help former inmates overcome trauma associated with issues such as physical abuse, sexual abuse and substance abuse. The programs that receive the money are expected to use it to help people develop job skills and learn new ones.

These grant awards represent the second year of a new initiative to serve adult and youth ex-offenders through strategies targeted to characteristics common to female ex-offenders. While female ex-offenders are the focus of the grants, they may serve male ex-offenders as well.

"We are honored to have been selected as one of only eight organizations nationally to receive funding to further our work in the area of workforce development as it pertains to former offenders," said Angela Turner, President and CEO for the Milwaukee Center. "Several of the programs are focused on working with former offenders to deliver effective services and community resources to assist them with a successful transition to mainstream society and self-sufficiency."

Approximately \$12 million in total funding has been awarded to grantees that will utilize integrated strategies that include empowerment and self-development, workforce development, education, and case management strategies. Grantees must also collaborate with many organizations to support the success of their projects, including establishing partnerships with state & local criminal justice agencies, American Job Centers & workforce investment boards, mental health providers, alcohol & drug abuse treatment centers, and child & family services agencies that administer child support and enforcement programs.

"The unique design feature of the sector-based skills training the Center uses is that, in contrast to traditional programs in which participants receive training and then are helped to find employment,

offenders are instead trained to qualify for jobs that are pre-committed by existing employers in high-demand industries,” said Turner. “They are then enrolled in a paid training program consisting of classroom training (work-readiness and skill-based) and placed on a work crew within its own construction business in which offenders learn skills and earn state occupational certifications and, upon attaining a given level of skill, are placed into crews that do siding, roofing, finished carpentry and demo work for a developer/general contractor.”

Based in Milwaukee and founded in 1997, the Center for Self-Sufficiency is a nonprofit organization that promotes high-impact programs and partnerships that increase the self-sufficiency of individuals, families, organizations and communities. Under the leadership of President and CEO Angela Turner, the Center partners with federal agencies, states, local governments and school districts, as well as community and faith-based organizations to develop effective service delivery models in the areas of healthy relationships/marriage, teen pregnancy prevention, offender reentry, mentoring children of prisoners, green jobs and organizational capacity building.

## **Public and Prison Libraries: Important, Often Overlooked, Partners In Reentry**

Public and prison libraries are becoming aware of how they can better help people returning from prison to integrate more successfully into their communities. Libraries, both prison and public, can play vital roles in linking prisoners and those who’ve left prison with the knowledge to surmount information gaps.

In Colorado, the State Library’s Institutional Library Development (ILD) unit and the Colorado Department of Corrections work closely to provide library services based on a public library model. Diane Walden, ILD coordinator, believes “it’s vital to apply the core values of librarianship, employ trained staff, budget for materials, and provide services that meet the offenders’ needs.” She says the natural result of applying the public library model in correctional facilities is a focus on reentry, “which is the best return on investment our libraries can provide taxpayers.”

Walden emphasizes that “using the public library model teaches offenders that all libraries are a safe haven, a place to spend time with people who share your interests, and a public good to be supported.”

But corrections officials supervising parole and probation, librarians, and the returning prisoners themselves often give libraries little thought. Prison libraries need to preach to inmates, “Go to your local public library upon your release.” So should parole and probation officers.

Dora B. Schriro, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Correction, believes that public and prison libraries “can make a crucial difference in the lives of inmates and ex-offenders. Reading helps keep the population in contact with their community, improves their comprehension, enhances critical thinking, and widens their horizon. Similarly, learning to use leisure time in productive and pro-social ways is also important towards improving long term outcomes notably, recidivism.”

Interest is growing in promoting greater cooperation between prison and public libraries. Public libraries often apply for Library Services and Technology Act grants to help fund their programs. Public library systems might consider applying for Second Chance Act grants administered by the Department of Justice to develop programs aimed at helping ex-prisoners to reintegrate into their communities. Likewise, correctional and non-profit officials whose agencies and organizations are applying for Second Chance Act grants should consider seeking out the public library as a partner when developing their proposals.

by: Stephen Lilienthal

published in the March 2013 Library Journal under the title “Prison and Libraries: Public Service Inside and Out.”

# President's Message

I want to take the time to thank the CEA-W Board of Directors for all the work that they do. The CEA-W "Embracing Change" Training Days was a huge success thanks to the planning and effort of the CEA-W Board. We have a great group of people on the Board and I am honored to work with each of you.

I also want to thank the workshop presenters at the "Embracing Change" Training Days. And a special thank you to Margaret Done for presenting a full day on the 2014 GED. The evaluations from attendees were very positive and the Board appreciates the ideas shared with us. Thank you to the DOC for the support and for allowing teachers, librarians, and testers to attend.

Look for the Creativity Contest to be announced in the next newsletter. Enjoy the rest of the summer.

**Mary**

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