WILC Recognizes Outstanding Tutors and Learners

Established by teachers involved with tutoring programs in Wisconsin prisons, the Wisconsin Institutions Literacy Council (WILC) promotes tutoring services, literacy and life skills through a learner-centered environment within Wisconsin correctional facilities. Each year Wisconsin Institutions Literacy Council recognizes the excellence of tutors and students who are working and learning in prisons and jails.

On Friday, March 27, 2015, at the regular meeting of the WILC board, Lori Phillips announced the winners of the 2015 WILC Literacy Awards. The winning entries were read aloud as the board recognized each of the winners’ challenges and achievements.

The Adult Literacy Learner of the Year was awarded to Damien Moss, an inmate at Stanley Correctional Institution nominated by Lori Koenig. The English Language Learner of the Year was awarded to Arian Guitierrez-Matias an inmate at Green Bay Institution, who was nominated by Jewel Volk. The Courage Award for Achievement in a Correctional Setting went to Mia Yang, a tutor at Taycheedah Correctional Institution nominated by Pat Lanari, TCI teacher and WILC board member, Mai Yang, TCI inmate tutor, and Gary Grueter, TCI Education Director (continued on page 2)
(continued from page 1)

Pat Lanari. Lastly, the Tutor of the Year was awarded to Martez Green, an inmate tutor from Racine Correctional Institution who was nominated by Linda Eberle.

Every year there are many dedicated learners and tutors submitted for the awards. The decisions were difficult due to the number of excellent nominees. A panel of WILC members Joyce Caldwell (RCI), Amy Phillips (OSCI), and Lori Phillips (GBCI), reviewed the nominations and selected the winners. Training the group of tutors to assist the teachers in the Wisconsin correctional facilities is one of main focuses of the Wisconsin Institutions Literacy Board.

Submitted by Laurie Crescio, WCI

Art Exhibit Connects Offenders and the Lake Shore Community

In the fall of 2011, the core of Lakeshore Technical College’s (LTC) Adult Inmate Education Advisory Group (Circuit Court Judge, District Attorney, Public Defender Supervisor, and Correctional Educator) unanimously agreed to continue their meetings along with their purpose and additionally endorse a more holistic Reentry Council. The result of this invitation to involve a broader array of expertise was the formation of a non-profit, Lake Shore Reentry, Inc. (LSR). One of the goals of LSR is to coordinate community resources to improve the prospects for offenders’ successful reentry into the community following their incarcerations.

A recent initiative of LSR is the Inmate Art Exhibit Series: Windows of Black & White. LTC Instructor Sharon Abel and Sheboygan County Corrections Sgt. M. Richter announced a call for entries; supplied those interested with sketchpads, folders, pencils, and jail safety pens that were donated specifically for this project; and collected the artwork along with the inmates/artists’ signed releases donating their drawings to charity. The art series enables offenders an opportunity to connect with the greater Lake Shore community and make contributions to positive projects which benefit others.

The LSR Inmate Art Exhibit Series includes the following schedule. The public is welcome to attend any or all of these events.
Thursday, July 9th between 4 and 7 PM  
**Garden Remembrances, Sharon S. Richardson Community Hospice**  
Sheboygan County Corrections Cpl. Roy Kluss connected Sharon Abel with Angelia Neumann of Sharon S. Richardson Community Hospice. Sharon Abel and Karen Mani who serve on the LSR Board were two of the many volunteers helping with this wonderful event focused on comfort for the grieving. At the art therapy station, LSR displayed weather resistant enlarged copies of inmate artwork on easels built and contributed by Sheriff’s Deputy Brad Abel.

**Month of July (On-going)**  
**Mead Public Library, Sheboygan, Wisconsin**  
Through LSR, inmates submitted artwork and written statements for a "Books are Gold" display at the front entrance of the Mead. In early August, it will be moved to LTC's Library at the main campus in Cleveland, Wisconsin. Plans are in progress with Eastern Shores Library System, fiscal agent for our local Inmate Library, for the pro-literacy/libraries themed inmate artwork to continue traveling to other area libraries thereafter.

**Thursday, August 6th from 5 to 8 PM**  
**Levitt AMP Sheboygan Music Series, John Michael Kohler Arts Center**  
LSR Inmate Art is to be featured at this outdoor community event on the city's new green space.

**Summer 2015 (On-going)**  
**Salvation Army**  
LTC Instructor Sharon Abel and Sheboygan County Jail Chaplain Rick Cawthon of Goods News Jail and Prison Ministry were asked by Pastors Daryl and Cherie Mangeri to speak at the Salvation Army on May 31st. During the service with friends of LSR in attendance, Sharon unveiled an enlarged copy (30"x40") of an 8"x10" original piece of inmate artwork that represents the mission of the Salvation Army. It along with two additional original works by other inmate artists is on display in a public hallway near the Salvation Army chapel. Alongside each is a coordinating statement by the artist and information about the upcoming exhibit at UW-Sheboygan Fine Arts Gallery.

**Thursday, September 17th from 5 to 8 PM**  
**University of Wisconsin Sheboygan Fine Arts Gallery**  
UW-Sheboygan Fine Arts Gallery Coordinator Dan Smith and Sharon Abel are partnering to plan a successful opening reception on September 17 to spotlight a two-month (September-October) exhibit of inmate art on the topic of Loss & Grief. Artwork will be displayed with information about the pieces including title, artist's name, media (which is pencil and paper, ink on paper, or pencil & ink on paper), statement by the artist, and contact information for community organizations which are responsive to the issues illustrated.

**More Welcome Home Kits Are Available**  
The Demeter Foundation has announced that it is expanding the availability of its Welcome Home Kits to 20 counties in Wisconsin DOC Regions 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. Formerly incarcerated women exiting the Wisconsin Women’s Correctional System within 60 days of re-entry to the community are eligible to apply.

The kits contain basic necessities to women including personal care supplies, socks, laundry bag and other items. There is a limit of one kit per person. Because there is a set amount of funding for each year, not all requests may be filled.

Go to [www.thedemeterfoundation.com](http://www.thedemeterfoundation.com) for a list of eligible counties and the application form. Parole Agents are urged send the Demeter Foundation requests for their clients. Advanced notices are appreciated. At the website you may also donate to the Demeter Foundation to make more kits available.
Prose and Cons Students and Area Poets Share Their Talents

In honor of National Poetry Month this past April, eight performers came to the library at Racine Correctional Institution (RCI) to present poetry, spoken word, and music to members of the Prose and Cons inmate creative writing group. The evening was divided equally between the visitors performing their work to the inmate writers, and the inmate writers sharing their creative talents with this talented group. This program was a collaboration between RCI librarian Kimberly Graba and Racine Public Library librarian Nicholas Demske.

In addition to working as a librarian at the Racine Public Library, Nick Demske is author of a self-titled collection of poetry, which was picked by Joyelle McSweeney for the 2010 Fence Modern Poets Series prize. He is also the author of a chapbook, *Skeetly Deetly Deet* (Strange Cage press, 2012) and a chapbook which was published by from Spork Press earlier this year. Nick was featured in 2011 as one of fifteen emerging poets to watch for by Poets and Writers magazine and his self-titled book was chosen as one of the 10 Best Books of Poetry in 2010 by a Believer Magazine reader survey. In 2011, he completed a month-and-a-half-long book tour that traveled over 10,000 miles across the whole of America. His work has been taught at Notre Dame, Columbia College, Illinois Wesleyan, Marquette, Emory, Cleveland State and dozens of other schools across the country. In Racine, he curates the BONK! performance series and occasionally blogs for thebonknessmonster.com.

One of the poets appearing at RCI with Nick Demske was Nicholas Moore. Nicholas is a singer, actor, dancer, and spoken word artist. Born in Racine, he has lived in Kenosha most of his life. Nicolas has been performing and sharing his art for over 12 years. He has traveled to many places around the country sharing art with various students, organizations, churches, random crowds at open mics, and the people who life find it necessary for him to connect with. Nicolas believes that life is to be lived and love is to be shared. His expression of art is a reflection of that message.

The group plans to visit RCI again in July for another collaborative, creative performance. The inmates in RCI’s Prose and Cons creative writing group also plan to once again share and perform their work. As long time member and award winning inmate writer Daniel Scheidell says, “If I can fly – I am free. If I am free – I can fly. I can write – of flying. I can write – of freedom. I am writing myself free!”

by: Kimberly Graba, RCI

Jason Garlynd Honored for Leadership of OCI Horticulture Program

Jason Garlynd of Oakhill Correctional Institute received the Public Health Madison & Dane County’s 2015 Leadership Award for his Vocational Horticulture Program.

Garlynd has led the Vocational Horticulture Program at Oakhill Correctional Institution for two decades. The Oakhill program is accredited by Madison College and meets Department of Workforce Development Horticulture Apprenticeship Program’s guidelines. Public Health Madison & Dane County noted the program provides technical skills necessary for “florculture, landscaping, community agriculture or indoor plant care,” making the volunteers more employable upon release from OCI.

Every year OCI’s Vocational Horticulture Program distributes more than 12,000 seedlings to the Dane County Community. All fresh produce harvested is donated to local food pantries or served to the inmates of Oakhill.
Public Health Madison & Dane County recognizes Garlynd and the Oakhill program as effective because it reinforces health and mindfulness among the incarcerated by “[connecting] their work to feeding others.” The organization praised the program’s ability to change the inmates through learning to garden, “impacting their ability to find and maintain jobs, heal from multiple forms of trauma, and re-enter communities where ties have been lost.”

The Public Health Madison & Dane County 2015 award ceremony took place at Olbrich Botanical Gardens on May 6. Garlynd said he was humbled by the recognition and accepted the award on behalf of all the administrators and inmates of Oakhill who have supported the program.

In his acceptance speech, Garlynd said, “Contributing to increased production of food both inside the institution gates as well as out in the community is one of the reasons I find my job at Oakhill so satisfying and rewarding. Who better to carry the message of social rejuvenation through food security and soil health back into the community then the inmates themselves?”

Garlynd also thanked his wife and three sons for their continued support of his work within the Department of Corrections.

Garlynd concluded his speech by quoting Aldo Leopold, “We shall never achieve harmony with Land, any more then we shall achieve absolute justice and liberty for People. In these higher aspirations, what is important, is not to achieve, but to strive.”

taken from DOC Intranet Website

Clinton Bryant Named New OSCI Education Director

Oshkosh Correctional Institution has announced the appointment of Clinton Bryant to the position of Education Director, effective July 26, 2015.

Clinton began his employment with the Department of Corrections on February 14, 2000 as a Teacher Assistant at OSCI. He promoted to Teacher on May 21, 2000 at OSCI and remained in that job until he accepted a promotion to the Wisconsin Resource Center as an Institution Unit Supervisor on January 2, 2011. He then accepted a promotion to Education Director at RedGranite Correctional Institution on April 8, 2012.

Through Clinton’s work experience within the DOC, he has gained familiarity with a number of aspects of the Education Department, including: supervising program services and activities, working in multidisciplinary settings, policy development, health and safety reviews, developing programs, reviewing instructional methods, and coordinating training/resources for staff. These skills will assist him with his management of the Education Department at OSCI and his responsibilities and involvement with many DOC/DAI committees. In addition, Clinton will be involved with the major initiatives with Fox Valley Technical College as these efforts to continue to develop and expand educational initiatives for the entire department.

Clinton has demonstrated strong leadership and team building skills throughout his career and he is a welcomed addition and a valuable asset to OSCI.

Learn All About CEA-Wisconsin at: www.ceawisconsin.org
**Dostoevsky Behind Bars**

**Named Award Finalist**

The documentary *Dostoevsky Behind Bars* which featured Oakhill Correctional Institution was recently named a 2015 Media for a Just Society Award Finalist by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD).

The NCCD’s Media for a Just Society Awards (http://nccdglobal.org/newsroom/media-for-a-just-society-awards) are the only awards designed to provide national recognition of media whose work furthers public understanding of social justice issues. The 2015 Media for a Just Society Awards ceremony will take place at the SFJAZZ Center in San Francisco on November 12, 2015. The event is attended by a diverse array of guests from national foundations and corporations, the legal community, media, the tech sector, government agencies, and community-based agencies.

*Dostoevsky Behind Bars* features educators in the UW Madison Slavic Languages and Literature Department who teach the inmate students about World Literature. The project built upon a half a decade of successful not-for-credit literature and creative writing classes facilitated by undergraduate students and community volunteers. Inmate participation in the eight week course is strictly voluntary.

The great nineteenth-century Russian author, Fyodor Dostoevsky, spent four years in a Siberian prison camp. Although he had already published a highly-acclaimed story titled "Poor Folk" before his arrest, he developed his mature voice and many of the themes of his later novels while incarcerated.

The documentary was produced, directed, and edited by Marc Kornblatt, a fourth grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary School who started visiting the inmates at Oakhill as a volunteer in the literature class. The experience inspired him to make *Dostoevsky Behind Bars* with a budget of approximately $9,000, most of which was covered by foundations and grants. William Roach was the cinematographer. He is a videographer for ESPN and who provides stunning and invaluable footage in the documentary.

Institution staff collaborated with Marc Kornblatt of Refuge Films beginning in 2013 to create the documentary of inmates involved in the UW Literature program. Over the course of several months, Kornblatt followed the World Literature and Fiction Reading group filming the documentary about how the UW Slavic Department became involved in educational programming at Oakhill. The documentary captures the complexity of what takes place from all participant's perspectives including the administration, whose objectives are often different from the volunteers', the academic involvement of Professor Judith Kornblatt who secured the grant, the inspirational viewpoints of the inmates, and that of the volunteer graduate students who struggle to overcome the particular challenges they face in teaching in the correctional setting.

The film has been featured in several venues in 2014 to include Louisville’s International Festival of Film, the Philadelphia Independent Film Festival, and was presented Wisconsin Film Festival’s Golden Badger Award.

The 53 minute film has also been featured on the Public Television program *Director's Cut*. The film reflects very positively on the institution and the literature program alike.

Is there another Dostoevsky among the inmates? Perhaps. Regardless, it has become abundantly clear through the Oakhill volunteer classes that the exposure to this kind of learning is mutually beneficial for both the teachers and the students. All become more humanized, humane, able to express themselves, and tolerant of others.

taken from DOC Intranet Website
Book Club Sparks Discussion of Emotional Issues

ABE Teacher Terry Butler and Librarian Brenda Peterson have teamed up to run a Book Study Group at Stanley Correctional Institution. This intellectual study group serves the general population of inmates, many of whom are not currently enrolled within the schools education programs.

Ms. Butler searches for well-written books which tell good stories and provide diverse perspectives on a variety of life ambitions. Some of the novels teach personal responsibility, how to claim one’s own destiny, or how to reach a deeper understanding about personal experiences within our world.

After the book is selected, Ms. Peterson as Librarian works at acquiring multiple copies of the selected title through the Interlibrary Loan System. This process takes approximately 2-3 weeks. When the larger number of books has been received; the readers are called to the library to check them out using the regular institution rules for the Interlibrary Loan System.

The inmates in the study group are then given approximately two to three weeks to read the selected title. On the last training day of the month the group meets for 90 minutes of discussion. At the beginning of each study, the basic rules for discussion are clearly explained to all. The discussion operates with shared leadership; all are open and free to contribute to the discussion. Participants are also reminded to offer mutual respect to the others speaking and to keep their discussion to the selected book as much as possible.

These discussions bring forth many emotional issues, spark memories of personal triumphs and tragedies for those involved. The members share in discussion of the characters, the events, the challenges presented within the book. Here are some of their comments:

“What I learned from this book club is that even in this environment a group of men can find peace, joy, and be excited about literature. I also learned about others ideas, opinions, beliefs, and life experiences from the books and group discussions.”

“I liked the fact that you can have a different opinion and not be ridiculed or harshly scrutinized for it. Also it starts and nurtures positive relationships between inmates --- relationships that probably would not have started had it not been for the book club.”

“The book I enjoyed most was ‘The House on Mango Street.’ This book, written in the theme of a poem, made me recall vivid memories of my childhood and the neighborhood I grew up in.”

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<th>SCI Book Study Group’s Most Recent Books:</th>
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<td>The Things They Carried</td>
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<td>Man’s Search for Meaning</td>
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<td>Tortilla Curtain</td>
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<td>The Fire Next Time</td>
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<td>Farenheit 451</td>
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<td>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</td>
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taken from DOC Intranet Website
Technology Career Training Provides “Beneficial” Skills to Inmates

Throughout Southeastern Wisconsin, 73 inmates enrolled in summer college courses provided by the Technology Career Training Project. The program is funded through a $454,214 grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility, Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution, Taycheedah Correctional Institution, and Oakhill Correctional Institution are all participating in the project. The classes are open to any inmates who will be released into Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine, Waukesha, and Walworth counties between September 30, 2015 and September 30, 2018.

The students are enrolled in six courses, Student Success, Computer Literacy, Work Place Success, Occupational Math, Team Building, and Blue Print Reading, and can earn between 12-15 college credits.

Margaret Carpenter, director of the technical grant, said the programs purpose is to help inmates “acquire skills for increasing their technological knowledge so they can move into fields like computer numerical control (CNC), masonry, computer aided design (CAD), and other career areas where the knowledge of technology is a necessity.”

“I’m excited about this grant because I think that this is one component we probably need more resources in,” Carpenter said. “Research shows if inmates acquire skills for being able to hold down jobs where they can make a living wage, they are very much less likely to reoffend.”

Carpenter hopes the institutions will be able to continue offering the program after the grants completed on August 30. She said, “If these four institutions continue beyond the grant, we can justify and track the results so we can hopefully apply for the state itself to adopt such a format and fund it.”

Upon release from prison, the inmates will be tracked for five years to study the effectiveness of the Technology Career Training Project. The Department of Workforce Development will assist tracking the lives of the students as they re-enter the workforce.

The classes focus on building successful habits, which often go beyond the work environment.

Jonathan, an inmate at OCI, said, “We interact with the other inmates so we can build on integrity and on communication skills. We work on projects with each other so we can know how to work in a group. We learn how to identify what other people’s beliefs are or what they assume about things so we can collaborate and see what works best for all of us.” Jonathan is interested in the Occupational Math course to strengthen his mathematics. Upon release he intends to pursue a degree in diesel technology. He said, “When I’m released back into my community, I’ll be knowledgeable of what they are going to be teaching.”

Jasen, another student, said, “It’s really beneficial. I can really take and apply to anything in my life.” Jasen also intends to pursue his education once he is released. He said, “Before coming to the grant, I didn’t plan on going to school when I got out. Now, doing this, it’s given me the motivation to want to go to school. I get released in six months and I’ve already talked to my parents about enrolling at MATC.”

Michael, said how the project affected him, “When I was in school I was skipping school. There ain’t no skipping school here. It’s helping me because I’m becoming a better person, I’m getting good scores, and I haven’t got any bad scores.” Michael added, “I’m thankful, not that I’m in prison, but at least I’m in prison and can utilize something that can benefit me.”

taken from DOC Intranet Website
CNC Program Creates New Opportunities for Inmates

Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch, Department of Corrections Secretary Ed Wall, and Department of Workforce Development Secretary Reggie Nelson attended a ceremony at Racine Correctional Institution (RCI) recognizing eight graduates of the new computer numerical control (CNC) program on June 23. The graduates received CNC Certification from Gateway Technical College, who partnered with the DOC and DWD to provide the 13-credit accelerated program to inmates — equipping them with in-demand skills to provide for themselves and their families upon their release.

Wall said, “We can never rest on our laurels and think we’re doing enough. We’re never doing enough until we get to the point where everyone who leaves prison has the skills and abilities they can turn into jobs to keep them from coming back.”

Kleefisch emphasized the need for CNC operators in the labor market. She told the students their skills are “essential to move Wisconsin’s manufacturing industry forward.”

RCI utilized the DOC’s mobile lab as the classroom. The mobile lab is a 44-foot trailer equipped with state-of-the-art equipment, used to provide a hands-on experience for inmates training to become CNC operators.

Beginning in January, students learned how to operate machine tools, computer operations, entry-level CNC programming, CNC set up, CNC operation, print reading and occupational math. Graduates completed courses in Applied Mathematics, CNC Machining Technology, Fundamentals of Blueprint Reading and Shop, and Fundamentals of CNC Machine Application.

All students manufactured an advanced slip-fit bearing for their final project. “Some people cannot produce this kind of product after being on the job for many years,” said instructor Kevin Fulsom. “I’ve gotten them to be able to do it within the six months they’ve been in the class.”

“It’s a big deal, changed my life tremendously,” said Jozie Johnson, a newly certified CNC machinist. “I’ve been trying to get into this field for years and this thing just landed in my lap. I’m grateful Mr. Fulsom was able to come and help us and do this for us. Everybody is ecstatic about this.”

Newson noted the starting wage for CNC operators ranges from $17 to $22 an hour in Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha counties. DWD labor market economists have projected strong demand for CNC operators, with statewide job growth of 24% over the decade ending in 2020, approximately 230 jobs per year on average.

Jonathan Luna, another graduate, plans to enter into an apprenticeship program to continue his education. Luna gave advice to his fellow inmates, “To anyone who’s eligible to take the program, take the program. It’s a fantastic program. It’s a wonderful opportunity.”

Wall praised the inmates for their work. “I can’t thank you guys enough for taking this step forward and stepping out of the box. You could’ve just sat there and done your time and marked days on a calendar.” Wall added, “We are so proud of you. We thank you for your dedication and encourage you to take it forward.”

The CNC program is funded through the DWD Wisconsin Fast Forward grant and is anticipated to serve approximately 24-32 individuals over the next two years.

taken from DOC Intranet Website
Sharon Nesemann, CEA-W Secretary
Wisconsin Resource Center
P.O. Box 16
Winnebago, WI 54985

President’s Message
Wow – what a jam-packed newsletter. It never ceases to amaze me all of the ways that learning can take place – from Technology Career Training and CNC Certifications to book clubs and poetry; from an award winning horticulture program to the Inmate Art Exhibit Series – there is something for everyone.

I always feel like I am “preaching to the choir” so I am asking you to forward a copy of this newsletter to one other person – it is a great way to show the many different kinds of educational initiatives going on in Wisconsin Correctional Institutions.

Also, it might be time for you to write about the program you are involved with. Articles for publication may be submitted to the CEA-W News Review Editor Jerry Bednarowski at: jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com. We would love to hear from you!

Laura
lreisinger@lvcv.org

To join CEA go to: www.ceanational.org