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CEA-W

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Correctional Education Association - Wisconsin



Everyday Heroes: Prison teacher spreads written word

The following article by Kelley Bruss appeared in the December 26, 2002 edition of the Green Bay Press Gazette and is reprinted with permission.

Three years ago, some inmates at the Green Bay Correctional Institution were trying to study for high school equivalency diplomas without having even basic reading skills — and that didn't make sense to Mary Dahl.

Dahl, a teacher at the prison, brought in a program where inmates are trained as tutors and work one-on-one with inmates who can't read. The program is certified, and trainers and tutors are part of an organization called ProLiteracy Worldwide. About 60 inmates have been trained as tutors.

"That's what I like about Mrs. Dahl and some other teachers — they didn't give up," said tutor Derrick Sanders.

For her efforts with the reading program and other initiatives at the prison, Dahl is the Press-Gazette's 2002 Everyday Hero in the education category. Everyday Heroes are people whose deeds — both large and small — make Northeastern Wisconsin a better place to live.

Dahl "copes and faces the daily grind of meeting these men every day with these special needs and does it so graciously, bent on making a difference in their lives," said Carmelyn Gentrup, a fellow teacher who nominated Dahl for the recognition.

"She has more ideas, frankly, than I can keep up with," said Dahl's boss, Education Director Thomas Donovan. "She's doing what we ask her, plus, and I'm proud to have her."

About 25 people, most of them teachers, work in the education department at the prison. For inmates who didn't graduate from high school, the goal is to prepare them to earn a high school equivalency diploma. Dahl is determined to see her students succeed.

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HARIG NAMED RYOCF EDUCATION DIRECTOR

The Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility has named Ted Harig to be its new Education Director. Ted is replacing Lisa McClure who is becoming the Academic Coordinator for the Office of Education.

Ted started his career in 1977 as a Probation and Parole Agent. He worked in both Kenosha and Elkhorn in this position until 1991. In 1991, he became a Teacher at RCI. In 1992, he transferred to the Ellsworth Correctional Center as a Teacher and remained in that position until 1999 when he took a similar position at the Ethan Allen School. Later that year, he was appointed as the first Education Director at the Wisconsin Secure Program Facility. In 2001, he was appointed as the Education Director at Taycheedah Correctional Institution where he is currently employed.

Ted has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology and Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, and a Master of Arts Degree in Sociology from Wichita State University in Kansas. He has been involved in many community programs including being an instructor at the Gateway Technical College and being a School Board Member for many years with the Lake Geneva School System.

ACADEMIC COORDINATOR APPOINTED

DOC Education Director John Brueggemann has announced the appointment of Lisa McClure to the position of Academic Coordinator in the Office of Education. She formally started in this position on Monday, December 2nd.

Lisa replaced Peggy Meyers, who has moved on to be the Education Director at Stanley Correctional Institution. John's thanks go out to Peg for her many years of excellent and dedicated service and contributions to the Office and the Department's educational efforts.

Lisa brings a wealth of knowledge, skill, and insight to her new position and the Office. Lisa has a Bachelor's degree in Education and Master's in Guidance and Counseling. Her past experiences include teaching and guidance counseling. In her current capacity as Education Director at RYOCF, Lisa has been responsible for developing and implementing the facility education program from the ground up. She has direct experience managing a variety of educational programs, from vocational to special ed., and has worked with both adult and youth populations. She has been an active part of numerous educational committees and initiatives at the Department level and has assisted a number of sites in running their educational programs during Education Director vacancies. Lisa has recently graduated from the Department's Leadership Development Program.

<p>Executive Officers</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">President</td> <td>Peggy Meyers, DAI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>President Elect</td> <td>Betty Volquardsen, OCI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretary</td> <td>Barb Rasmussen, RCI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer</td> <td>Mike Breszee, WCI</td> </tr> </table> <p>Executive Board</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Maximum Security</td> <td>Ray Schlesinger, WCI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Medium Security</td> <td>Conrad Reedy, KMCI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Minimum Security</td> <td>Vacant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Juvenile</td> <td>Chris Natzke, EAS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>State Agency</td> <td>John Brueggemann, DAI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Local Education Agency</td> <td>John Phillips, MPTC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Member at Large</td> <td>Jerry Bednarowski, WRC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Member at Large</td> <td>Kevin Tripp, PDCCI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community Correction</td> <td>Jan Brylow, MSC</td> </tr> </table> <p>News Review Staff</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Editor</td> <td>Jerry Bednarowski, WRC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Computer Entry/Layout & Design</td> <td>Sandy Sterr, WRC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Printing</td> <td>University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Proofreading</td> <td>Mary Knox, WRC</td> </tr> </table>	President	Peggy Meyers, DAI	President Elect	Betty Volquardsen, OCI	Secretary	Barb Rasmussen, RCI	Treasurer	Mike Breszee, WCI	Maximum Security	Ray Schlesinger, WCI	Medium Security	Conrad Reedy, KMCI	Minimum Security	Vacant	Juvenile	Chris Natzke, EAS	State Agency	John Brueggemann, DAI	Local Education Agency	John Phillips, MPTC	Member at Large	Jerry Bednarowski, WRC	Member at Large	Kevin Tripp, PDCCI	Community Correction	Jan Brylow, MSC	Editor	Jerry Bednarowski, WRC	Computer Entry/Layout & Design	Sandy Sterr, WRC	Printing	University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh	Proofreading	Mary Knox, WRC	<p>The CEA-W News Review is published by the members of the Correctional Education Association Wisconsin Chapter.</p> <p>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 the CEA-W and DOC.</p> <p>Reports or articles for publication may be submitted to CEA-W News Review Editor at: The Wisconsin Resource Center, PO Box 16, Winnebago, WI 54985-0016</p>
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“She is so focused on helping men read,” Gentrup said. “She’ll go to great lengths to find what an individual needs to be successful.”

Dahl said she simply tries to meet obvious needs. “We were getting gifted people that didn’t need any help and people that couldn’t read at all, all in the same class,” Dahl said.

It was clear something had to be done. But she knew the job would require more one-on-one time than teachers had.

To be trained as tutors, inmates must have a high school diploma or equivalent and also must have completed some vocational training. The 40-hour tutor training is offered twice a year at the prison. Once inmates complete that, they’re matched with students and can work as tutors for up to two years.

Besides instruction skills, tutor training includes lessons in empathy and understanding.

“I can’t deal with a tutor that says (to a student), ‘You’re 46 years old. You should know this,’” Dahl said. That lesson has hit home. “As tutors, it became a learning tool for us to be sensitive to other people’s needs,” said Karshra Armstrong, a tutor for about a year.

Dahl loves to see men learning to read. But she isn’t the only one who gets excited about it. “To me, it’s a whole lot of little steps that they do that are very rewarding,” tutor Alfonso McCormick said. “This is one of the most positive and rewarding jobs in a penitentiary,” tutor Reginald McDaniel said. “Helping someone else and you learn while they learn.”

Smith Wiggins reads chapter books now — a vast improvement over what he could do when Armstrong started tutoring him. “When I first came in this class, I didn’t even know how to read the easy stuff,” Wiggins said.

Armstrong has been demanding, not allowing Wiggins to guess or slide past words he doesn’t know. “That’s what I like about him,” Wiggins said. “He always makes sure I get it right.”

Dennis Sprague has worked at the prison 15 years, 12 as a guard and three as a teacher. As another adult basic-education and special-education teacher, he works closely with Dahl. “She’s so knowledgeable,” Sprague said. “And she’s just fun to do it with. She knows so much. I can ask her anything.” Donovan said Dahl understands the importance of teamwork. “Without the teachers working together, this becomes a deathly place, not in terms of life but in terms of spirit,” he said.

Dahl enjoys her job and is committed to helping students make academic and life changes. “Yes, all these men are criminals,” she said. “But they’ve been judged in the courts. They come into this program because they know we’re actually going to do something for them.” That attitude is visible to her students.

“I think she looks at us more as humans than inmates,” Sanders said. The reading tutor program is just one piece of Dahl’s work. She’s also taken over the parenting program and organized a Father’s Fair in which presenters from around the state gave information and advice to inmates.

“She sees a need and she’s going to take care of it,” Gentrup said. But Dahl said credit belongs to the tutors. “The success of this program is primarily based on the men,” she said. “I just give them the skills and the materials. “It’s their success that makes the difference.”

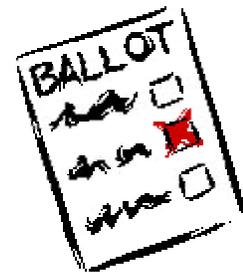


CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!

During March, the Correctional Education Association-Wisconsin will be conducting its annual election for Executive Board Members.

Nominations are being accepted for the following offices:

**Minimum Security
Juvenile Facilities
Local Education Agency
Community Corrections
Member-At-Large**



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

Conrad Reedy
Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution
PO Box 31
Plymouth, WI 53071
Phone: (414) 526-3244 ext. 303

Nominations must be received by March 1, 2003. Newly elected members will assume their offices at the April 2003 Executive Board Meeting.

DeNeal Ericksen Joins CEA-W Board

DeNeal Ericksen has joined the CEA-W Executive Board as the Minimum Security Representative.

DeNeal began her state career in 1992 as Industries Supervisor at Racine Correctional Institution. From 1992 to December, 1998 as Industries Supervisor she started Badger State Industries shops at R.E. Ellsworth Correctional Center, Taycheedah Correctional Institution and Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility, in addition to RCI.

In January, 1999 DeNeal accepted the Vocational Teacher position at RYOCF where she taught the Microcomputer Specialist Certification program. In July of 2002, she transferred to REECC as the Office Assistant Technical Diploma Program teacher.

DeNeal also teaches at least two classes a semester at Gateway Technical College in the computer network area.



Correctional Education Association-Wisconsin

2003 Scholarship Program

For the fourth year, CEA-W is sponsoring a \$500.00 scholarship

Purpose: The CEA-W Scholarship Award Program is designed to assist CEA-W members (or their spouses/dependents) who are pursuing a university or technical college degree in educational or library field.

Amount: For the year 2003, CEA-W has endowed one scholarship of \$500. The recipient 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 in education or library science.
- 📖 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 to be obtained from the Scholarship Committee Chair, provide all required attachments, and submit the entire package to the address below no later than March 3, 2003. Incomplete application packages will not be accepted for consideration.

Selection: Scholarship recipients will be selected by the CEA-W Scholarship Committee with approval by the CEA-W Executive Board of Directors. Criteria for selection will include academic record; financial need; school, community, or association activities; and the applicant's statement of interest in and commitment to the field of education and criminal justice. Recipients will be notified in writing.

For more information or to obtain an application form contact:



John Phillips
CEA-W Scholarship Committee
Moraine Park Technical College
Fond du Lac, WI 53936
920-924-3330
jphillips@moraine.tec.wi.us

Stock-Picking Game Sparks Inmates' Interest in the Economy

Teams from four DOC sites - Ethan Allen School, Prairie du Chein Correctional Institution, Redgranite Correctional Institution and Taycheedah Correctional Institution were among the more than 2000 teams that participated in the Wisconsin Stock Market Simulation Competition.

The following is an article written by Kathleen Gallagher on TCI's participation that appeared in the December 28, 2002 edition of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. It is reprinted here with their permission.

Imagine being locked in a small cell every night with no Internet access and a slim chance of finding a newspaper with an intact business section. Now pick three stocks whose prices will skyrocket over the next 10 weeks. That's the challenge 15 teams of inmates at four Wisconsin prisons faced this fall when they played Economics Wisconsin's Stock Market Simulation. The inmates were part of a 10-week pilot program to bring the stock-picking game - played by more than 2,000 teams of state students in grades 4 through 12 - into the state's prison system.

The result: None of the prison teams did well enough to rank among the top 50 in the state, but many of the inmates say they gained a better understanding of how the economy works. "I didn't realize how much spending and buying affects the economy overall," says Maria Michna, an inmate at Taycheedah Correctional Institution. It took Michna's team 47 trades to turn an imaginary \$100,000 into \$91,667.25 during the 10 weeks ended Dec. 13. But even that disappointing result was fodder for a lesson about the economy.



At \$25 a trade, Michna's team spent \$1,175 on trading costs - an expense teacher Tim Lanari made sure all his students knew how to calculate. "Most of these inmates come from low-income families, and they consistently tend to use high-cost choices like rent-to-own and check advance places," says Lanari, who teaches vocational math and financial management classes at Taycheedah. "One of our hopes is that they'll have some exposure to ways they can make better financial choices when they leave here."

That's an admirable goal. But isn't it overly optimistic to think inmates serving time for felonies such as armed robbery, child abuse, forgery and murder are going to translate lessons learned from a speculative romp with a stock market game into real life when their stint is up? Wrong question, say educators and administrators familiar with how the stock-picking game works. "To me this Stock Market Simulation is the beginning of financial literacy education in the prison system - that's where I'd like to see it go," says Jim Guenther, president of the Wisconsin Council on Economic Education, known as Economics Wisconsin. "So many of the people who are involved in the correctional system are there for economic reasons - and if they had a better understanding of the market economy, I think they'd function better."

Guenther throws out the statistics - more than half of all prison inmates are minorities, and half of all minorities don't have bank accounts. "The more they can learn to stay away from the check cashing places, use a commercial bank or credit union, and learn the appropriate way to use a credit card - if we can increase their understanding of our economy and how it works, they're going to be better able to cope when they're released from prison," Guenther says.

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How does a stock-picking contest teach students to make better financial choices? Teachers whose students participate in the game must take a four-hour class taught by college professors at one of eight Economics Wisconsin education centers around the state. They learn to use the stock market to interest students in learning how a market economy works.

That's the kind of response Lanari, the Taycheedah teacher, has seen in just 10 weeks of coaching stock-picking teams. The inmates in his class have been paying more attention to current events and realizing how jobs are related to company news. "Most of them, being at the lower end of the economic scale, have never even considered something like this," Lanari says. "They're tuning in to the world - and they have a lot of time to tune in."

Debi Christie, one of the Taycheedah inmates, has been reading research reports provided by Robert W. Baird & Co., the business sections of two newspapers and company prospectuses. She also has access to stock research reports on computer disks donated to the program by Morningstar Inc. The inmates don't have access to cable, but Christie has found several shows on public TV, such as "By the Numbers," that explain the financial markets.

The Taycheedah inmates were much more motivated than Roberta Filicky-Peneski expected when the stockbroker from Baird's Sheboygan office spoke at one of their classes. "They realistically are probably far away from stock market investing - they are probably closer to saving and budgeting," Filicky-Peneski says. "However, I really think that when they hear the news, they understand what's going on and some of the basics of how the economy works."

John Brueggemann, Director of the state Department of Corrections education office, is pleased with the game's results so far. "We have this incredibly difficult population to teach - people who've failed at education for years," Brueggemann says. "If we can find something that stimulates their interest in learning and education, it's worth its weight in gold."

Brueggemann is already talking about expanding the game in the spring semester. He just has to find more teachers at the correctional system's 18 state prisons willing to take Economics Wisconsin's four-hour training session. "I'm anxious to see this grow," Brueggemann says.

Lanari, the Taycheedah teacher, plans to increase the number of teams he has playing the game in spring to three from two. He says he's convinced the game provides a positive diversion, makes inmates feel better about themselves, and builds bridges to information that may help them when they leave prison. Besides, inmates such as Christie will tell you, the game is just plain fun.

We made decisions that would probably make professional stockbrokers cringe, but that is what makes this simulation so much fun," she says.



CEA Membership Application

Please print your name and address carefully. List your name and address, as you would like them published in the annual Directory of Correctional Educators.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip/Postal Code _____

Mail to:

CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
4380 Forbes Blvd, Lanham, MD 20706

Phone: (800) 783-1232
Fax: (302) 918-1900

Referred By: _____
Membership #: _____

We Accept VISA or MasterCard

Card No. _____

Expiration Date: _____

Type of Membership:

- Individual \$50 year
- Institutional/Library \$85 year
- Student/Volunteer/Retiree \$30 year
- Clerical/Support Staff \$20 year

For More Information Contact:

Barb Rasmussen, CEAW Secretary

Phone: (262) 886-3214 Ext. 520

Email: barbara.rasmussen@doc.state.wi.us

check here if you are a Federal Bureau of Prisons Employee

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