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Correctional Education Association - Wisconsin

Revisit, Recharge, Renew at the Region III & IV CEA Training Conference

The CEA-Wisconsin is pleased to host the 2015 Region III & IV CEA Training Conference. Make plans to join us to "Revisit, Recharge, Renew" at the beautiful Madison Concourse Hotel on May 4-5, 2015.

R³ = Revisit, Recharge, Renew conference participants will be coming from the Region III states of Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, and Michigan as well as Region IV that includes Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

The regional Teacher of the Year interviews will be conducted on Sunday May 3. *R³ = Revisit, Recharge, Renew* general sessions are scheduled for Monday, May 4 and Tuesday, May 5.

The Conference Planning Committee is working hard to make this conference an excellent professional development opportunity. They are assembling an interesting array of workshops focusing on reentry resources, brief intervention tools, professional development/support, math instructional methods, juveniles, workforce readiness, literacy, GED/HSED preparation, parenting and special education. They are developing special sessions specifically for county jail instructors, librarians and guidance counselors. Vendor displays, regional meetings and a silent auction will round out the conference activities.

The final schedule of workshops will be selected in the next few weeks. An updated workshop list will be posted on the www.ceawisconsin.org website shortly after the CEA-Wisconsin Board Meeting on February 10. Click on "R³ = Revisit, Recharge, Renew Training Day." The complete conference schedule will also be published in the March/April issue of this newsletter.

(continued on page 2)

**Registration Form & Conference
Schedule on Pages 10-11**

(continued from page 1)

In past years at CEA-Wisconsin Training Day, some participants elected to arrive early and enjoy the beautiful Madison Concourse Hotel and Governor’s Club. The Madison Concourse Hotel has agreed to offer rooms at conference rates for May 3, 4 & 5. You may choose from a single room for \$70 or a double room for \$110. A block of rooms will be held at these rates until April 8, 2015.

So mark your calendar and make plans to join us to “Revisit, Recharge, Renew” at this dynamic conference. Register today! Hope to see you in Madison in May!

RCI Participates in *The Big Read*

Racine Correctional Institution (RCI) was recently invited to collaborate with the University of Wisconsin-Parkside (UW-P) in *The Big Read*. As part of *The Big Read*, RCI received 22 copies of Ray Bradbury’s book *Fahrenheit 451*, both in English and in Spanish, for inmates to read. *The Big Read* is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest. It is designed to revitalize the role of literature in American culture and to encourage people to read for pleasure and enrichment. Many events were held at various locations in the Racine and Kenosha area throughout the event, which ran from September 22 through October 24, 2014..

In addition to receiving the donation of books, RCI inmates also participated in a special book discussion of *Fahrenheit 451* at RCI, led by UW-P librarians Melissa Olson and Anna Stadick. During the thought provoking discussion, inmates touched on such issues as freedom of information, censorship, the dangers of technology, and the rapidly disappearing sense of community in society. RCI inmates, as well as the librarian, Kimberly Graba, were engaged and enlightened by the reading and discussion of *Fahrenheit 451* and look forward to continued participation in the next *Big Read*.

“You don’t have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them.”
- Ray Bradbury

by: Kimberly Graba, RCI

Executive Officers		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. It is our hope that this newsletter will be used to communicate information concerning activities, special events, new directions and policies of CEA-Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. Articles for publication may be submitted to the CEA-W News Review Editor Jerry Bednarowski at: jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com
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Grow Academy Helps Youthful Offenders Learn Skills, Compassion

When Kate Elvidge watched adult offenders planting and weeding a community garden in Madison, she noticed a striking change in the attitudes of the men working there. “It was amazing to watch their whole demeanor change when they’re involved with something so tangible,” said Elvidge, regional director for juvenile corrections for the state Department of Corrections.

That experience was the catalyst for Grow Academy, a new agriculture-based program for juvenile offenders ages 14 to 18, located in Fitchburg. The Grow Academy uses an agri-science curriculum that includes growing food indoors and on a one-acre garden, caring for chickens, capturing rainfall, making compost and doing small construction projects such as building small greenhouses. There is also a restaurant portion in which offenders learn to cook and earn ServSafe certification to become restaurant workers.

The diversion and treatment program, launched in June on the five-acre site of the old SPRITE Academy, has already been recognized by the National Institute of Corrections for its environmentally friendly approach. So far, 12 Wisconsin teens have gone through the four-month residential program.

The Grow Academy has a program manager, a full-time teacher, a social worker and seven youth counselors. According to Elvidge, funding comes from the roughly \$300 a day that offenders’ home counties are charged for juvenile programming.

In addition, the Grow Academy contracts with the UW-Extension and Community GroundWorks, a Madison nonprofit, to help with the agricultural components of the program. Chefs from the Madison Originals restaurant group offer cooking instruction. Offenders with four weeks of good behavior are rewarded with a free restaurant meal at a Madison Originals restaurant for themselves and their families.

The final month of the four-month program is spent in an internship tailored to the interests of the offender. One young man is installing wood floors for a local company — an interest that was piqued by working on a small construction project at the Grow Academy.

The goal of the program is to give young offenders training and experience that could lead to jobs, and ultimately, a way to stay out of trouble.

“One of the program’s graduates who earned ServSafe certification helps his mother run her own restaurant,” Elvidge said.

Like all juvenile correctional programs in Wisconsin, the Grow Academy includes for-credit classes that help offenders earn a high-school degree. The farm and restaurant activities weave in academic subjects including math, science and reading.

The hands-on approach appears to work better than a typical classroom setting for these young offenders, she said. “They’re in the dirt with their hands, and they’re seeing immediate results.”

In addition, the program provides counseling and treatment. Therapy dogs from the Baraboo-based nonprofit Dogs On Call make regular visits. “Kids love animals — everyone does,” Elvidge said. “It’s a human thing. They learn empathy.”

reprinted with permission from the Wisconsin State Journal, January 4, 2015

CCI Teachers Have Wealth of Experience

The Wisconsin CEA Board of Directors met on Monday, December 8, 2014 at Columbia Correctional Institution. Much of the day was spent planning the details of the May 4 & 5, 2015, Regional Conference and Training Event, *R³ = Revisit, Recharge, Renew*. The board is looking forward to a great turnout of attendees from across the state and region and especially to those of you willing to share your expertise with others as workshop presenters.



The board invited the entire education department to join them for lunch which was provided by the CCI kitchen. This afforded a nice opportunity to meet the staff and thank them for their hard work. Relaxed conversations allowed everyone to share stories and ideas.

CCI has a total of 10 teacher positions, with 9 of those positions filled. Three teachers are full time vocational instructors offering diploma programs in Custodial Services, Building Services, and Printing. CCI is also a special education site. The individual teachers have fascinating backgrounds. Two of the teachers have lived in and taught in foreign countries, two teachers have taught outside of the state of Wisconsin, and several teachers have experience in public schools. One teacher is currently an elected city councilman, too. The CCI teachers have a combined total of over 90 years of DOC teaching experience!!!

Thank you to CCI for their hospitality ... and a special thank you to the CCI kitchen staff for their hard work in preparing a special lunch. It was greatly appreciated by the CEA board members

Warden Michael Dittmann	Education Director Randy Scott
Opened May 1986	Maximum Security
Inmate population – 822	Lifers – 16%

Fair Shake’s Year in Review

Fair Shake was very busy in 2014! Here is a list of the large projects Fair Shake worked on last year:

Fair Shake’s Year in Review:

- Presented Fair Shake’s technology tools at a White House Workshop on Using Technology in Reentry
- Increased Fair Shake’s Resource Directory to over 15,000 entries and their Reentry Packet to nearly 90 pages
- Heard from inmates in 3 different states who are using the Fair Shake Reentry Packet as a text book for reentry classes
- Connected directly with over 6000 inmates and 450 reentry professionals and educators around the country

- Officially launched their software application, including the Computer Basics tutorial
- Forged a collaborative relationship with the Ray Brook Reentry Initiative at FCI Ray Brook in upstate New York

This shows Fair Shake is growing and they are planning to increase their engagement in 2015! To increase their capacity, they have added another person to their team. Joining Founder and Director Sue Kastensen and Alex Wikstrom is Kristen Adams.

Fair Shake is positioned to have a unique opportunity to influence the climate of reentry. The contacts they've made through the list above have all come to them without solicitation. An analysis of their website's traffic shows that many states use their website tools. Fair Shake would like to reach out to more incarcerated individuals in those states as well as the reentry professionals who allow Fair Shake to present their information in the institutions. But until now Fair Shake did not have the human power to make it happen. With Kristen on board, Fair Shake can grow substantially while keeping their expenses very low. Fair Shake is lean, responsive, creative and flexible.

If you would like to help Fair Shake reach out to more inmates, their families, their future employers, and their communities to reduce the recidivism rate, please visit www.fairshake.net and consider making a donation.

taken from the December 2014 Fair Shake newsletter
reprinted with permission

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 must be received by **March 1, 2015**. Newly elected members will assume their offices at the May 2015 Executive Board Meeting. Nominations are to be sent to:

Peggy Meyers, Education Director - ABE
Wisconsin Technical College System
Office of Student Development & Assessment
4622 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53707
Phone: 608-267-9684
Email: peggy.meyers@wtcsystem.edu

Learn All About CEA-Wisconsin at:
www.ceawisconsin.org

An Eye-Opening Experience

Dr. Susan May has been President of Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) since 2008 and has worked in several capacities with the college for 32 years. She oversees educational programming for approximately 45,000 students each year at campuses in Appleton, Oshkosh, Chilton, Clintonville, Wautoma, Waupaca, as well as through contracts or seminars for over 2,000 employers, and through specialized programming delivered in all 50 states. FVTC certified instructors also provide educational programming at Oshkosh Correctional Institution, Columbia Correctional Institution, Redgranite Correctional Institution, Federal Correctional Institution - Oxford, and the Outagamie, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago County Jails.

On her blog, Dr. May wrote about an eye-opening experience she had at the Oshkosh Correctional Institution:

One of the most interesting aspects of my job involves getting to know a very wide range of community and business partners that we work with here in the region. One of these partners for several decades has been the Oshkosh Correctional Institution (OSCI), which we continue to collaborate with in an instructional capacity. David Hines, the education director for OSCI, recently invited me to visit the institution along with our VPs Chris Matheny and Patti Jorgensen. We spent the morning touring and learning more about this area correctional facility.



Aerial View of Oshkosh Correctional Institution

Here are just a few of the things I learned about OSCI that I was unaware of before this visit and that I think you will also find fascinating:

- *OSCI is now the largest correctional facility in Wisconsin with over 2,000 male inmates at any given time. This facility began as a 300-bed medium security prison in the mid-1980s, but I had no idea it had expanded to this extent over the years.*
- *OSCI has a female warden, Judy Smith, whom we had the pleasure of getting to know on our tour. I found out Judy is one of the longest-serving wardens within the correctional system today. Come to find out Judy and I were in the same UW-Stout graduating class of 1978! It is such a small world.*
- *A significant portion of OSCI's inmate population is there due to drug or alcohol-related issues and many others have mental health challenges.*
- *OSCI has an incredible food service preparation and distribution operation that serves 7,000 meals per day!*
- *As another major operation, OSCI handles the laundry service for all of Wisconsin's correctional facilities.*
- *OSCI has a segregation unit (sort of today's version of solitary confinement) where inmates with behavioral issues are placed. For those there on good behavior and willing to do something productive, a segregation school is offered. Here we met four young men in a very controlled environment who were working with an instructor on their GED. This was the most unique learning environment that I have ever seen.*

- *The facility hosts a very specialized educational program and related work program where about 20 inmates, day in and day out, transcribe publications such as textbooks and children's books into Braille to be used by the blind. Absolutely amazing work.*
- *We also toured another unique space in the facility ... a vermiculture facility ... which involves the production of worm castings as an excellent organic fertilizer that is then used in the gardens and grounds of the facility.*

For decades FVTC has worked with OSCI in a number of ways, including certifying their instructional staff of about 20 teachers whom we had the chance to meet, and transcribing much of the coursework that is provided at the facility. Today about 350 of the 2000+ inmates are given the privilege to participate in an educational program, but there are more opportunities that we can be exploring together to expand this participation. For the inmates who eventually return to the outside world, having a skill set to be gainfully employed will be a key component of preventing recidivism and supporting their social reintegration.

I hope this gives you some idea of my "eye-opening" visit. We are most grateful to our hosts, Warden Judy Smith, Deputy Warden Bob Hable, and Education Director David Hines, for the time spent with us and the insights they shared.

VCU Launches Journal on Prison Education and Reentry

Coinciding with International Prison Education Day on October 13, 2014, the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Education launched a new international periodical, the *Journal of Prison Education and Reentry* (JPER). JPER is an international, peer reviewed, open access periodical that publishes articles relevant to prison education and prisoner reentry.

"This journal is an important expression of international collaboration between a number of nations," said Leila Christenbury, Ed.D., chair of the Department of Teaching and Learning, which co-produces the journal with the University of Bergen, Norway. "And in particular in the United States, with over 7.3 million individuals incarcerated, on probation, or on parole, the needs of this population are pressing. Using the power of education, especially literacy-related projects, reentry can be achieved, and the *Journal of Prison Education and Reentry* will be an important voice in the field."

The online nature of JPER allows a much broader audience to access the current research on prison education and reentry, even for distant institutions and small communities. The audience for this periodical includes prison educators, scholars, counselors, administrators, policymakers, alternative educators and others interested in prisons, reentry, community and reform. Recognizing the interdependence of researchers and practitioners, JPER will showcase published articles from both groups.

JPER accepts manuscripts from multidisciplinary fields including education, criminology, psychology, arts and humanities, linguistics, law, anthropology, sociology, philosophy, culture studies, public policy, spirituality and religion, and mental/behavioral health. JPER will publish practitioner written work on instructional design; action research; innovations in art, humanities, literacy, civics, vocational, language, technical, health, reentry and continuing education programs; unique experiences and on projects involving families and the community; personal reflections; showcases for class projects; and professional development issues.

Those interested in submitting a paper for the *Journal of Prison Education and Reentry* may go to jper.uib.no or contact Ginger Walker at gmwalker@vcu.edu.

To join CEA go to: www.ceanational.org

Report Highlights Need for Juvenile Justice System Reform

The United States leads the industrialized world in the rate at which it puts young people in prison, according to a report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Since 1996, Wisconsin law has required that 17-year-olds be automatically sent to the adult justice system rather than the juvenile justice system, a fact of which Jim Moeser, Deputy Director of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families says a lot of people, including a lot of state legislators, are not aware. "It's a surprising number of people who think that judges still have some discretion in this stuff, and they don't," he said. "It's '17-year-old - you're an adult' and you can't be sent back to juvenile court."

Advocates for these teens say the law hasn't worked well and should be repealed. Moeser said the old "law and order, lock 'em up" approach to juvenile justice has never worked. He said more humane and effective responses to delinquency need to be developed. Moeser says they don't get the same level of services in the adult system as they can get in the juvenile system to get them back on track.

About 1,000 juveniles now are in jail in Wisconsin. Moeser says there are viable alternatives to locking kids up. "Additional supervision programs that can be created at the local level," he said. "There are programs that work with kids who have mental health issues, and wraparound-style programs, coordinated service teams – really trying to address a lot of the underlying issues and work with the family to keep the youth in the community as much as possible."

The vast majority of kids locked up in the U.S., according to the report, are being held for nonviolent offenses. Moeser said, "We just think all kids really should have a second chance. The juvenile system just does a much better job identifying the underlying issues and addressing them."

"We're hoping to convince the governor and the legislature to include it in the budget this coming year and provide some additional funds to counties to invest," Moeser says. "We know that it's an investment that pays off in the long run, so we're hoping that through the process this spring, we can get that change made, to probably take effect in 2016."

Moeser points out part of the problem is that Wisconsin's 72 counties all have separate corrections systems, in addition to the state system, and that should change. "Get more coordinated and more best-practice information out there and improve the on-the-ground work that's being done by people interacting with kids," he stresses. "I think we know a lot. We know a lot about what works. It's really a matter of getting it going and providing incentives for that to happen."

Moeser says treating 17-year-olds as adults isn't good for the youth, or for Wisconsin communities. He says each year there is more research about how to deal effectively with delinquent children. "We know more than ever about what works," he says. "Juvenile arrest rates continue to go down, which is good news – the community is as safe as it's been, by and large. I think we're improving and getting better, and seeing some positive results, and just need to keep that on track."

Moeser, who has worked for decades in the area of juvenile justice in Wisconsin, senses there's change in the wind. "There's just a growing sort of bipartisan sense that the a whole notion of building prisons and locking people up is not a great investment, and we're starting to see that more and more on both sides of the aisle," he states. "There's a receptivity to some reforms that I think could be positive for young adults as well as juveniles."

The Annie E. Casey Foundation report and additional information are online at www.aecf.org.

2014 Annual Treasurer's Report

Where does the Wisconsin chapter of CEA get the money to fund the services it provides to correctional educators? How does CEA-Wisconsin spend its money? In the spirit of transparency, CEA-W Treasurer Ray Schlesinger has submitted this Annual Report for publication in this newsletter.

As you can see, the largest source of revenue for CEA-W and its largest expense is the CEA-W Training Day. The CEA-W Board's goal for the Training Day is to have the registration and vendor fees cover most of the expenses, but often CEA-W does not "break even" and ends up covering some additional Training Day expenses from other revenue sources.

The other major source of revenue is the Silent Auctions CEA-W conducts at the CEA-W Training Day. The Silent Auctions fund the majority of CEA-W's initiatives, including printing and postage relating to the *CEA-Wisconsin* and *Parenting Connection* newsletters and Creativity Contest booklet, Teacher of the Year expenses, other awards, scholarships, and member dues rebates. CEA dues that members pay go to supporting National and Regional CEA operations. Usually CEA-Wisconsin does not receive any cut from the membership dues revenue.

If you have any questions or comments relating to this *2014 Annual Treasurer's Report*, contact Ray at raphael.schlesinger@wisconsin.gov.

Revenues	Silent auction proceeds	\$1,015.00
	Credit union account dividends	52.80
	Pass-through CEA national memberships received	890.00
	Merchandise sales	1,160.60
	Vendor fees	975.00
	Pulling It All Together Training Day registrations	3,990.00
	Extra Training Day meals purchased	48.00
	Sponsorships	<u>350.00</u>
		\$8,481.40
Expenses	Membership dues rebates	410.00
	Conference expenses for members	1,020.65
	Facility rental and food service	2,653.98
	Registration refunds	245.00
	Scholarship	1,000.00
	Teachers of the Year award	250.00
	Gifts for Region III Teachers of the Year	10.95
	Postage	280.49
	Plaques	20.00
	Website	20.00
	Exhibitor fee	275.00
	Check printing	20.40
	Paper stock and office supplies	308.01
	Printing	687.65
	Embossed poly envelopes	560.04
	Silent auction expenses	35.99
	Membership recruitment	49.91
	Pass-through memberships forwarded to CEA national	<u>890.00</u>
		\$8,737.97
Assets	Cash deposits at credit unions	\$13,716.24
	Certificate of deposit	<u>7,072.23</u>
		\$20,788.47

Registration Form

Region III & IV CEA Training Conference

May 4-5, 2015

The Madison Concourse Hotel

Madison, WI

Registration Information	
Name (as you want it to appear on nametag):	Title:
Mailing Address:	Organization:
City:	e-mail:
State & Zip:	Phone:

Please register by April 4, 2015

Registration Fees

Registration includes breakfast, lunch, and snacks for both days		
CEA Members – One Day	\$50.00	\$
CEA Members – Two Days	\$80.00	\$
Non - CEA Members – One Day	\$115.00	\$
Non - CEA Members – Two Days	\$145.00	\$
Guest Meal	\$15.00	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian meal <input type="checkbox"/> Special accommodations: _____		

Payment Information

A \$10 administrative fee will be charged for cancellations after April 4, 2015.

Registration questions: Phone: (920) 324-5571 ext.1305 or e-mail: Raphael.Schlesinger@wisconsin.gov

Send payment with registration form to:

Ray Schlesinger
CEA-Wisconsin Treasurer
824 Christianson Avenue
Madison, WI 53714-1105

Payment options:

Check(s): payable to CEA-W for conference price
 Purchase order no.: _____
 Sorry, we are unable to accept credit cards or P-cards
 Check if you at a Wisconsin Department of Corrections Employee _____

Lodging Information for the Madison Concourse Hotel

It is the responsibility of each registrant to make their lodging arrangements. To reserve rooms call The Madison Concourse Hotel at 1-800-356-8293 and say you are attending the Region III & IV CEA Training Conference. Website: www.concoursehotel.com. Please have tax exempt documentation with you upon registration. There is a \$5 parking fee per day.

Hotel rooms are available at the following rates:

- Single occupancy: \$70.00/night
- Double occupancy: \$110.00/night

R³ = Revisit, Recharge, Renew Schedule

Sunday, May 3

- 3:00-5:00pm Teacher of the Year Interviews
- 3:00-6:00pm Pre-Registration

Monday, May 4

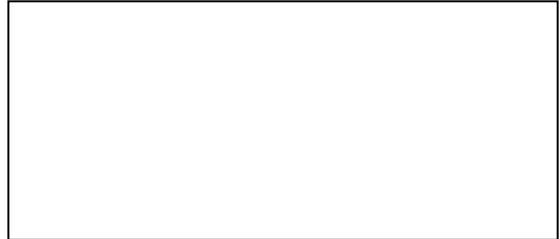
- 7:30-9:00 Registration / Continental Breakfast
- 9:00-9:15 Opening/Welcome
- 9:15-10:00 Keynote
- 10:00-10:15 Break
- 10:15-11:30 Session 1 Workshops
- 11:30-12:00 Vendor Break
- 12:00-1:00 Teacher of the Year Luncheon
- 1:15-2:30 Session 2 Workshops
- 2:30-2:45 Break
- 2:45-4:00 Session 3 Workshops
- 4:00-4:30 Regional Meetings
- 4:30-6:00 Networking Social

Tuesday, May 5

- 7:00-8:00 Registration / Full Breakfast
- 8:00-8:30 Opening / Welcome
- 8:30-9:45 Session 4 Workshops
- 9:45-10:00 Break
- 10:00-11:15 Session 5 Workshops
- 11:30-12:30 Luncheon
- 12:45-2:00 Session 6 Workshops
- 2:00-2:15 Break
- 2:15-3:30 Session 7 Workshops

Silent Auction Hours: Monday 8:00-4:00, Tuesday 8:00-11:30. Items may be picked-up on Tuesday after 12:30.

Sharon Neemann, CEA-W Secretary
Wisconsin Resource Center
P.O. Box 16
Winnebago, WI 54985



President's Message

For me, the most important priority of the CEA-Wisconsin Board of Directors is providing professional development opportunities specifically designed for correctional educators. As you read in this newsletter about the general plans we have for the upcoming training conference, the board is working on finalizing all of the specific details necessary for you to experience meaningful and relevant workshops.

Your feedback is a critical piece in selecting topics. We try to hold our board meetings at many different correctional facilities, like Lincoln Hills School, Waupun Correctional Institution, Eau Claire County Jail, Columbia Correctional Institution and Waushara County Jail. It provides us a chance to hear directly from the teachers about their challenges and success. Now, more than ever, I am convinced of how significant this training is. The focus of my doctoral studies at UW-Stout in Career and Technical Education has changed from what educational opportunities do inmates need to what educational opportunities do correctional educators need. I will be attending the conference with the intent to “**Revisit, Recharge, Renew**” with you!

Laura
lreisinger@lvcv.org

Make Your Plans to Attend
Region III & IV CEA Training Conference