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Correctional Education Association - Wisconsin

Classroom Lending Library Is a Hit at La Crosse County Jail

Do you know a student that has fallen out of the reading for pleasure habit? Are you looking for a way to re-engage students in reading? Would you like to generate enough interest in books with your student population to get a lending library going at your work site? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then Willa MacKenzie and Mandy Church-Hoffman, along with Wisconsin Literacy, have some good information for you.

They have developed a successful lending library of popular pleasure-reading books with accompanying discussion questions for the school classroom in the La Crosse County Jail. Mandy compiled the questions from many different sources and put them in a jail-friendly format. Willa developed the simple management structure for the program. As part of a July webinar sponsored by Wisconsin Literacy, Willa was invited to share information about how her students used the lending library in her jail classroom. The format was designed to give teachers and volunteers a look at how they might incorporate her processes into their classroom. They have teamed up with Wisconsin Literacy member agencies and now offer those resources online at the Wisconsin Literacy web site.

A direct link to the recorded webinar can be found at <https://attendee.gototraining.com/66d32/recording/858373591396994>.

The part that will be of most interest begins at the 18:44 mark. The following is an excerpt from the webinar:

A Day in My Typical Jail Classroom

As students walk into my jail classroom, they place their books in a return box so that I can look through them before putting them back on the shelf. The first 10 minutes of class, students check out books and get their comprehension questions. The posters for different genre are hanging above the comprehension questions. I keep folders, containing the questions, in large plastic file boxes. They are listed alphabetically by author, then by title or as they appear in their trilogy, etc. During this time it is not quiet. They are discussing titles and authors and the day in general as they take turns selecting a book. Once they have their book, they go over to the Book Sign-out Sheet and write down the book title, their name, and the day's date. They cross off their returned book and write the date that they

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returned it. This is also a time when I am interacting with students to find out what they need academically to begin their class session. I will hand out poetry worksheets at this time, if I am going to have them write more in their journals. Then class time begins.

The last 10 minutes of class, I write the journal topic of the day on the board and a math problem. Students stay seated and write in their journals, so that I can do any necessary housekeeping chores before they are dismissed. At this time, I might look in the file boxes for a set of comprehension questions for people who were not able to find their sheet of questions at the beginning of class.

There are several students in Willa's classes that are just beginning to read full length novels for the first time. It is interesting to watch the students choose their books. They look at titles, genre, and authors to select books that might hold an interest to them. They know that there will be comprehension questions with each title and so they make sure the book is one they will read and comprehend. It is important to offer a wide range of books, from graphic novels, to biographies, to dystopias, and to reality fiction. There are peer reviews posted on the wall above the bookshelf to encourage others to read a book that someone else has really enjoyed.

If you want to access the library directly, go to www.wisconsinliteracy.org and log-in with the user name: **WILC**; password: **wislitWILC1**. From there choose "Library for Tutors" from the menu on the left. The rest is self-explanatory. by: Willa MacKenzie, WTC/La Crosse County Jail

Mary Davies Accepts MPTC Position

Former CEA-Wisconsin President, CEA-W Board member, and CEA-W Teacher of the Year Mary Davies has resigned her teaching job at the Wisconsin Resources Center to accept a position with Moraine Park Technical College. Mary's new job will be a grant funded LTE position. She will be working to standardize curriculum between the MPTC campuses and the jails and prisons in its district. The job has a variety of duties including tracking programs in the prisons and working with staff to meet their needs.

The CEA-Wisconsin Board wishes to thank Mary for her many contributions to the organization's initiatives and wishes her continued success in her new opportunity.

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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

CEA-Wisconsin Showcase Award

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

In 2016, the CEA-Wisconsin Board will again be offering a \$500 grant to help defray the professional expenses for a CEA-Wisconsin member to present a workshop at the Region III CEA Conference, the International CEA Conference or another professional education or correctional conference. This is a wonderful opportunity to highlight the skills and talents of Wisconsin's correctional educators.

Last year's winner, Jackson Correctional Institution teacher Scott Carey used his grant to present a workshop at the 70th annual CEA Conference in Arlington, Virginia.

To be eligible for consideration, you must be an active CEA member, submit a proposal outlining the workshop you wish to present, and submit a statement of support from your supervisor. Your presentation may be on an existing program that has been effective, a new innovative program, creative classroom activities, unique instructional methods, or a special project. The CEA-Wisconsin Board will review the proposals received and select one to receive the \$500 grant.

Your proposal should include:

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

Entries will be evaluated on:

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

The deadline for submission of your proposal is February 1, 2016. Submit your proposal to:

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



To join CEA go to: www.ceanational.org

CEA-Wisconsin Boards Elects to Award Two Scholarships

Due to the number of quality applicants for this year's CEA-Wisconsin Scholarship, the CEA-W Board decided to split the \$1000 scholarship and award two \$500 scholarships.

The CEA-W Scholarship Program is designed to assist a CEA-Wisconsin member who is furthering his/her education in the education or library services field or a member's spouse or dependent who is pursuing a university or technical college degree in any field. Since the scholarship was established in 2001, scholarships were awarded to nine CEA-W members and ten children of CEA-W members.

This year's scholarship winners are Amanda Boss, daughter of Pamela Richter-Boss, teacher at Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center and Jason Lederhaus, teacher at Wisconsin Resource Center.

The 2016 CEA-Wisconsin Scholarship will be announced in the May/June 2016 issue of this newsletter. CEA-Wisconsin members, their spouses or dependents are encouraged to apply.

Amanda Boss

Amanda Boss's first year at Winona State University showed her that education is so much more than classes, it is about the experiences you have. Last fall Amanda ran for Winona State Student Senate, winning the position of Freshman Representative. Through Student Senate she received a position working for a non-profit organization as a lobbyist for students at all of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. These positions gave her the opportunity to meet political leaders at all levels of Minnesota government. She has also made personal connections with someone from each of the state universities in Minnesota who she can contact to discuss mutual issues or concerns. Amanda says, "I am not only bettering myself, but I am able to better my university by learning what works and what does not work at the other state universities."

In addition to working for the non-profit and Student Senate, Amanda was given the opportunity to be a part of a statewide team to develop new policies and initiatives for all of the Minnesota State colleges and universities. She worked with students, faculty, and staff from colleges and universities all over the state to develop these new initiatives.

Amanda's educational goals are to continue to have these experiences while earning a degree in both Political Science and Public Administration. All of her experiences in the past year have pushed her to continue to follow her dreams in the area of government, finish college, and "start making a difference in the world."

Jason Lederhaus

Jason Lederhaus believes in the correctional educational field and understands the power it has to change individual's lives.

The Wisconsin Resource Center is a unique facility in that it resides in the Department of Health Services and serves a diverse Department of Correction population who are placed there for behavioral and mental health issues along with needing to build skills for their re-entry to society. Jason feels that a balance must be reached in the provision of services for these individuals. He sees a problem in spending a majority of the time on individual's mental health needs, which in turn can lower the priority of their educational and technological needs.

Jason believes, "When we focus too much attention on mental health education, we are doing them a disservice in their personal recovery and building a life for them. Upon release they have comfort in their

mental stability, but feel they have nothing to offer for life skills and employment. A shift needs to be maneuvered to provide a solid educational foundation and technological skills to be job ready when they are released along with the mental health education that in part fulfills our mission at WRC in promoting healing and personal recovery.”

Jason’s plan for providing WRC inmates with a solid educational foundation and technological competency to promote healing and personal recovery includes:

- 1) adding all disciplines, including Education, Therapeutic Services and Treatment Specialists to the initial orientation at WRC
- 2) completing the TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) along with TS-Assessment to determine the level of each individual
- 3) aligning a schedule that promotes mental health well-being along with an academic foundation

Jason is convinced that the WRC education staff we can get every individual to at least a 6.0 reading and math level before departure, with the hopes of reaching 8.0 across the board. Jason believes, “In empowering the student with a solid educational experience, we can then move onto building a technological competency that will make them more marketable with any entry-level employer. . . We have the capabilities to utilize our current staff and re-organize our budget for the immediate to show that we are serious about what we provide to our residents.”

Education Directors Switch Institutions

Three experienced correctional educators were named to fill vacant education director positions at Jackson Correctional Institution, Waupun Correctional Institution, and Wisconsin Resource Center.

David Prochnow was named to the Education Director position at Waupun Correctional Institution. David most recently held the position of Education Director at KMCI and has been instrumental in Kettle Moraine’s annual Job and Resource Fair as well as the DOC Evidenced-Based Cognitive Behavioral Cross Divisional Team.

David holds a B.S. in Secondary Education from the UW-Stevens Point and a Master’s of Education in Professional Development from University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

Randy Scott was named to the Education Director position at Jackson Correctional Institution. Randy has prior experience as an Education Director at both Racine Correctional Institution and most recently at Columbia Correctional Institution where he has served as the Education Director since July, 2011. Randy has also worked as an ABE Teacher at New Lisbon Correctional Institution.

Randy has a B.S. in Broadfield Social Science Education from the UW-La Crosse and a Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership from Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wisconsin. He was certified as an Instructional Administrator by the Wisconsin Technical College System in 2010.

Emily Propson was selected for the Education Director position at the Wisconsin Resource Center. Emily holds a B.S. in Political Science from UW-Oshkosh and a M.S. in Administrative Leadership with an emphasis in Adult and Continuing Education from UW-Milwaukee. Emily completed her graduate internship at OSCI as a prerelease program teacher. Emily has been employed with the state for just over 5 years and has taught at FLCI, WCI and WRC. She was the Education Director at JCI from December 2014 to August 2015.

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

Inmate Art Exhibit Explored Loss, Grief

UW-Sheboygan Gallery Director Dan Smith, LTC Instructor Sharon Abel, more than 30 Sheboygan County Detention Center inmates and some local professional artists joined to create an exhibit that was on display from September 3 through October 30 at the University of Wisconsin-Sheboygan Fine Arts Gallery. The exhibit, "Loss and Grief: Featuring Drawings from Local Inmates," focused on the artists' personal interpretation of the theme.

LOSS & GRIEF

Featuring Drawings by Local Inmates



Gallery Director Dan Smith described the exhibit as "art with a social conscience." Instructor Sharon Abel added the observation, "Through art, the inmates communicate their humanity and spirituality."

Kali Thiel, a Sheboygan Press Media reporter interviewed two of the participating artists for the following article that appeared on in the *Sheboygan Press* on September 12, 2015:

It took getting locked up for Thomas Glasgow Jr. to find freedom. It's not the kind of freedom that allows him to run to the store whenever he wants or spend a Friday evening enjoying a good meal with close friends — he has none of those types of luxuries at the moment.

Instead, the 28-year-old's freedom is a mental release, which he said he found in 2008 when he took up drawing during a stint in prison. Now serving a sentence in jail at the Sheboygan County Detention Center, Glasgow continues to find release through drawing. "I just love everything about art," he said. "It was an escape — a way for me to vent, express my feelings, just get lost in thought."

One of Glasgow's drawings, along with drawings done by more than 30 other local inmates and some from non-incarcerated, professional artists, was on display from September 3 through October 30 at the University of Wisconsin-Sheboygan Fine Arts Gallery.

'Loss and grief'

The exhibit was called "Loss and Grief: Featuring Drawings from Local Inmates," and all drawings in the exhibit focused on the theme, in whatever way the artists chose to interpret it.

Glasgow says his drawing was inspired by the feelings of loss that came from a breakup with his girlfriend. It includes a face — half skull and half an image of his ex-girlfriend. Near it are praying hands with Psalm 34:18 written below, and curving around the hands are metal bars representing his imprisonment.

In his artist statement, Glasgow says, "We all have pain and eventually lose someone or something that means so much. I express my pain and loss of a person who meant the world to me, with pencil and paper." Below his words is the text of Psalm 34:18: "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

Another artist, Ricardo Hibbler, drew a piece inspired by his grandmother who passed away unexpectedly last Thanksgiving. "She was just an amazing woman," Hibbler said. "She has a very deep, everlasting impact on my life."

In his artist statement, Hibbler describes his grandmother as "caring," "positive," "influential" and "the backbone of our family, spiritual and true." "I miss her, but she's in a better place with no pain, no suffering, and she's finally in the kingdom of God," Hibbler said.

Educating the community

The Loss and Grief exhibit was sponsored by Lake Shore Reentry, a volunteer organization whose goals are to engage in community outreach and to advocate for the needs of pre- and post-release inmates and their families and service providers.

"I think it helps to humanize the (incarcerated) population to see their artwork," said LSR Board Vice President Sharon Abel, who is also in her 25th year teaching adult basic skills education to inmates through her position at Lakeshore Technical College. "I'd prefer to be able to invite the community in to meet my students. This is a more efficient way to connect the communities."

In addition to displaying inmates' artwork, a goal of the exhibit was to educate the public about resources available to those who are perhaps struggling with issues pertaining to the theme.

On Hibbler's artist statement card, for example, was listed details of the Cup of Hope grief support group through the Sharon S. Richardson Community Hospice.

"Inmates are neighbors before they are incarcerated and they are neighbors when they get released," Abel said. "This is a way for them to contribute and call attention to the vast array of resources available to those who are hurting."

Glasgow won't have the privilege of seeing people's faces when they view his art. He's hoping his drawing will have a positive effect on them, though. "I hope people see the emotion and see the struggle that some of us go through in our lives and that we are all human, no matter what," Glasgow said. "I just really hope they see the pain and the struggle that I'm trying to get off my chest through this pencil and this paper."

County Jail Directory Being Updated

Correctional Education Association-Wisconsin's *Directory of Education Programs in Wisconsin's County Jails and Juvenile Detention Centers* is in the process of its annual update. Teachers, program directors and volunteers working in jails and detention centers have been asked to update the information on their county's education programs for the *Directory*. When update is completed in early November, it will be emailed to each person listed in it and will be posted on the www.ceawisconsin.org website.

CEA-Wisconsin hopes this *Directory* will enable teachers and volunteers to contact their colleagues working in other facilities to ask questions, share ideas, and pool resources. If you have not sent in your information yet, or if you have any questions about the *Directory*, contact Jerry Bednarowski at jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com.

Hair Salon Opens at REECC

On Tuesday, June 16, Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center celebrated the Grand Opening of the Fresh Start Salon. It was a great day! Sgt. LaRose, Diane Burczyk, maintenance staff and inmate workers did an outstanding job in making this full-service hair salon happen.

What used to be a maintenance storage room, the Fresh Start Beauty Salon has transformed this previously dark and dingy room into a brightly decorated, fully functional hair salon. The beautifully painted walls, in white, mauve, and teal; provide an opportunity for the women at REECC to feel beautiful and confident.

In addition, the beauty salon provides women who have graduated from Taycheedah Correctional Institution's Cosmetology program an opportunity to use and expand their cosmetology skills and knowledge with practical application.

taken from DocNet

Public Experiences Solitary Confinement

A life-size replica of a solitary confinement cell, complete with the sounds of solitary, made a visit to the Communication Arts Center at University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley from October 5-9. The cell modeled on a cell at Waupun Correctional Institution came to UW-Fox Valley to allow the public to briefly experience solitary confinement and raise their awareness of the issues associated with the use of solitary confinement.



To contrast the stark conditions of solitary confinement, CEA-Wisconsin provided an exhibit of artwork and creative writing done by inmates in Wisconsin facilities. The display of approximately 25 paintings created by inmates in Ken VanMieghem's classes at the Wisconsin Resource Center and creative writings done by inmates throughout the state as part of CEA-Wisconsin's Creativity Contest illustrated how the human spirit can continue to exist in harsh environments.

The events, hosted by Esther, were meant to bring attention to the use of solitary confinement in the state's prison system. Esther is a grassroots and non-profit interfaith social-justice organization. Esther aims to bring together people of faith and communities of faith in the Fox Valley region of Wisconsin together to build community and to identify and act on issues of injustice. Faith communities covenanting with Esther are united based on shared values such as equality and human dignity.

Three conversations about mental illness and solitary confinement in Wisconsin were held by Esther at UW-Fox Valley in conjunction with the exhibit:

- On Monday, October 5, a community forum focused on mental illness and incarceration. The forum's goal was to look at how people with mental illness are being incarcerated and how they are affected by solitary confinement, but it also highlighted what's working well locally. Speakers included Paula Verrett of the National Alliance on Mental Illness Fox Valley; John Wallschlaeger, a crisis intervention trainer and mental health pioneer; and Outagamie County Judge Gregory Gill, who oversees the Outagamie County mental health court.
- At a luncheon on Tuesday, October 6, about 25 Fox Valley religious leaders met to experience the cell, discuss the use of solitary confinement, and talk about possible steps they can take to change the system.
- On Tuesday evening, a community forum focused on solitary confinement and prison reform. It looked at how Wisconsin applies the use of solitary confinement and what can be done to change the system. The Rev. Jerry Hancock, director of the Prison Ministry Project at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Madison, was the featured speaker.

One of the event's organizers, Stephanie Gyldenvand said the cell received mixed reactions, depending on a person's experience. Many come out wondering why the corrections system treats people this way, and some family members are angry after experiencing what a loved one has gone through, she said.

Coincidentally, the Wisconsin DOC has recently announced a "culture shift" in its use of solitary confinement in prisons, eliminating it as punishment for minor rule infractions and cutting the time inmates spend in isolation for more serious offenses. As part of a legal settlement with the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism, DOC officials say in most cases, the state prison system will no longer discipline inmates for self-harm or suicide attempts by sentencing them to time in solitary confinement. And mitigating factors such as mental illness will be considered in meeting out punishment.

On Sunday, December 6th, Esther will hold its *11th Anniversary Banquet: Building the Beloved Community* at the Grand Meridian in Appleton. The keynote speaker will be Douglas Walker, criminal justice reform coordinator, United Methodist Church. The artwork which was displayed at the UW-Fox Valley event will be part of a silent auction, with the proceeds going to support Esther's projects. The public is welcome to attend. More information about Esther's banquet may be found at <http://esther-foxvalley.org/>.

DAI Announces Mandatory Education Policy

Famous literary figure, Victor Hugo, once stated, "He who opens a school door, closes a prison." The Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) and Division of Adult Institutions (DAI) are committed to preparing inmates for their eventual release to the community. Evidence based research shows that a high school diploma or equivalency degree is one of the key elements to finding and maintaining employment in the community and also that possessing lucrative employment improves the chances that inmates will not return to prison. Therefore, the DOC makes it a priority to do everything possible to encourage inmates who have not achieved a high school diploma or equivalent to do so during their time of incarceration.

A newly created policy, DAI 309.55.04 Mandatory Education, will become effective on November 1, 2015. Inmates who are actively attending General Educational Development (GED) or High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) courses, or who are on the waiting list to attend those courses, shall be considered to be in compliance with the policy requirements.

taken from DOC Intranet

Funding Dispute Blocks the Move of 17-Year-Olds Back to Juvenile System

According to Gilman Halsted of Wisconsin Public Radio, Wisconsin lawmakers will make their fourth attempt during the past four years to shift first-time, nonviolent 17-year-old offenders out of the state's adult court system and into the county-run juvenile system.

Wisconsin is one of only nine states that automatically treat 17-year-olds as adults when they commit a crime. But that policy could change if a Republican-backed bill wins enough support to pass the Legislature.

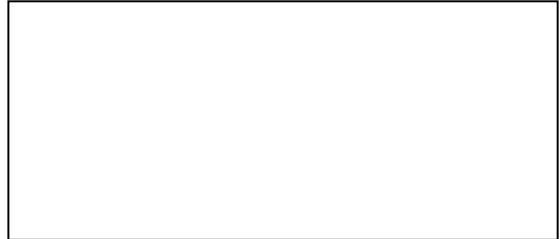
The stumbling block is the funding. Kyle Christianson of the Wisconsin Counties Association said counties agree it's a good policy, but they oppose the price tag for local governments. "Simply moving them from the adult to juvenile system without the money to provide services really doesn't accomplish the goal, which is to make sure that these individuals do not reoffend," Christianson said.

Bill sponsors say juvenile arrests are down by 46%, and spending money to keep nonviolent 17-year-olds out of prison will reduce the chances they will reoffend and save money in the long term.

County officials estimate it will cost them \$15 million to handle the influx of 17-year-old offenders, but one of the bill's three sponsors, state Sen. Jerry Petrowski, R-Marathon, said some estimates show it would cost only \$5 million.

Jim Moeser of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families said research over the past 20 years has confirmed that nonviolent teen offenders have been shown to be much less likely to reoffend if they are dealt with in the juvenile system. He predicted that for every 1,000 cases returned to the juvenile system, the state could save \$5.8 million in reduced law enforcement costs.

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



President's Message

"Through art, the inmates communicate their humanity and spirituality." – Sharon Abel

Usually I have to go looking for an inspirational quote to start writing this column – but not this time. While their names may not be recognizable, their quotes are just as profound. What we all have in common was expressed by a UK researcher, Paul Willis: "...an interest in a human creativity which is capable of transcending position and context." Even though he was referring to something else, I can't think of a better description of correctional education.

This issue is full of articles, affirming the life-changing power that education and learning can have. Whether it is reading for pleasure, drawing, understanding fractions or knowing how to insert a formula in a spreadsheet – the very act of learning is an opportunity for growth and a chance to gain the understanding that Glasgow is hoping for.

"I hope people see the emotion and see the struggle that some of us go through in our lives and that we are all human, no matter what." – Thomas Glasgow

Laura
lreisinger@lvcv.org