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Correctional Education Association - Wisconsin

Friends Help to Expand Offenders' Educational Horizons

Providing basic literacy or HSED instruction, aiding offenders in develop job search skills, helping offenders improve family relationships, promoting book clubs, or producing plays; volunteers have helped to expand the educational horizons of offenders in state and county facilities.

For the 17th consecutive year, the Wisconsin chapter of the Correctional Education Association is showing its appreciation by recognizing some of these volunteers with the Friends of Correctional Education award. Certificates to these award winners will be presented at special ceremonies held at the institutions involved. The 2005 award winners are:

Sister Johnella Bohmann

Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning you can find Sister Johnella Bohmann-RSM at the Milwaukee House of Corrections conducting adult basic education classes with groups of female inmates.

A teacher by profession, Sister Johnella has volunteered helping offenders for the past 15 years. She began her volunteer experience conducting classes with male offenders in the old county jail. When the new jail opened in 1992, she began working with female offenders. In 1999, the House of Corrections opened a 1000-bed addition creating four new dormitories to house women. When the ladies moved to the House of Corrections, she of course followed. The opening of the House of Corrections addition coincided with Sr. Johnella's retirement from the local technical college. Finding herself with a little more free time and recognizing the need, she expanded her volunteer commitment to three days per week.

As long as the students are eager to learn, they are invited to her classes. Students range in skill level from non-readers to those working on their GED. Sr. Johnella claims teaching here helps her to keep her skills sharp now that she is retired and says it gives her great joy to watch students make progress.

The Sisters of Mercy Church shares the same passion with Sister Johnella. Both are committed to helping women better their lives. The church assists by providing a grant to Sr. Johnella to purchase educational materials and classroom supplies. While the House of Corrections also assists with classroom resources, it is not uncommon for Sr. Johnella to shop on her own to find the right teaching tool for one of her students.

Continued on page 9

Two DOC Educators Honored

Each year the Virginia Hart Award honors “exemplary performances and contributions to the citizens of the state” by women in government. The award recognizes women whose contributions are substantial, but not necessarily well known.

Virginia Hart was Wisconsin’s first female cabinet officer, having served as Secretary of the Department of Regulation and Licensing, Chairperson of the Department of Industry, Labor & Human Relations Commission and Chairperson of the Labor and Industry Review Commission.

This year two correctional educators were among those who received Honorable Mention recognition. They are Holly Audley, Education Director at Southern Oaks Girls School, and Laurie Prochnow, teacher at Stanley Correctional Institution.

The following are testimonials quoted from the Virginia Hart Award program:

Holly Audley

It has been said that heroes and heroines are most often ordinary people whose accomplishments are extraordinary. Their achievement may consist of a single deed or may be made up of several smaller, incremental events that make a difference over time.

Holly Audley is an excellent example of this second type of “heroine,” one who makes an impact by simply doing all the incremental parts of her job *extremely* well. Holly has made a huge impact in the quality of programming received by individuals in the Division of Juvenile Corrections and, more specifically, in the lives of the young women who have been served at the Southern Oaks Girls School. She has served as Education Director at Southern Oaks over the past ten years with purpose, integrity, and honesty.

Holly has the skills and insight to motivate both staff and students to realize their potential. More often than not, Holly works in the background, the ultimate facilitator of events, activities, or projects. She brushes aside acknowledgements with modesty, redirecting them toward other staff at Southern Oaks.

Laurie Prochnow

Laurie Prochnow began her teaching career as an Adult Basic Education Teacher at the Taylor County Jail in Medford, Wisconsin. Understanding the immense impact she could have on Wisconsin’s incarcerated population, Laurie joined the Education staff at Stanley Correctional Institution (SCI) as a highly over-qualified Teaching Assistant. Within the walls of SCI, Laurie was able to reach a much larger population of students in great need of education. Within a year, Laurie promoted to Adult Basic Education Teacher at SCI.

Laurie is much more than a teacher. In all aspects of life, she goes above and beyond the call of duty. She gives selflessly to her students, fellow staff members, the institution, the community, and her family. In addition to teaching, Laurie is a member and active participant of Pro Literacy America (PLA) and also the Helping Hands Committee at SCI, which works to make a positive impact on the institution and community.



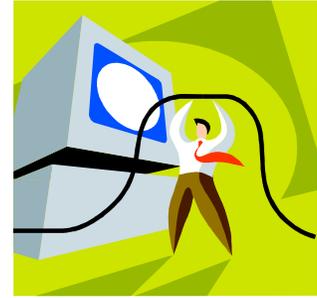
DOC Secretary Matt Frank with Virginia Hart Award Honorable Mention recipients Laurie Prochnow, SCI; Holly Audley, SOGS; and Judy Blazek, DCC

Online Courses

Three courses for professional development are available online:

- ❖ Foundations of Correctional Education
- ❖ Teaching and Learning in the Correctional Environment
- ❖ Leadership in Correctional Education

For details check the CEA website: www.ceanational.org



What Is a SIG ?

A SIG is a Special Interest Group. As one of the benefits of membership in the Correctional Education Association, you are entitled to free membership in one of the organizations 17 SIGs. You may join additional SIGs at a cost of \$5 each per year.

A SIG can be a valuable resource for all who wish to remain current in the field. They allow members to communicate and share information, often using listservs established by CEA.

How does one post to the listserv? Visit <http://www.ceanational.org/ceajoin.htm> and follow the instructions for subscribing to the list. Once you are subscribed, you can send and receive emails from the list. Questions can be posted to gain input from others. Articles or information of interest to other members may be posted as well.

At the International CEA Conference in Des Moines, Parenting became the newest Special Interest Group approved by the Executive Board. Because it is a new SIG, members are allowed to join without having to pay an additional \$5. Because a listserv has not yet been created for the Parenting SIG, you may become part of the Parenting SIG email list by contacting jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com.

Other Special Interest Groups you may join are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| ❖ Research, Evaluation & Training | ❖ Literacy |
| ❖ Community Corrections | ❖ Prison Arts |
| ❖ Vocational Education | ❖ Librarians |
| ❖ Special Education | ❖ International |
| ❖ Juvenile Education | ❖ Counselors |
| ❖ Post-Secondary | ❖ Legislative |
| ❖ Female Offenders | ❖ Jails |
| ❖ Friends of CEA | ❖ ESL |

New CEA Office

The national headquarters of the Correctional Education Association has moved. The new address is:

Correctional Education Association, Inc.
 8182 Lark Brown Road, Suite 202
 Elkridge, Maryland 21075
 Phone: 800-783-1232



Creativity Contest Committee Readies Publication

The Creativity Contest Committee met at KMCI on August 5, 2005 to read the writing entries and to judge the artwork for this year's publication. There were 231 entries submitted this year. Entries arrived from institutions of all security levels, adult and juvenile facilities, as well as the Marathon County Jail, Chippewa Valley Treatment Center, and Outagamie County Jail.

All winning entrants will receive two copies of the publication. The as yet untitled publication will be distributed by January.

Below are the Creativity Contest Committee members:



Standing: Jane Schirger, Elaine Miller, Libby Kraft, Mary Stierna, Mark Terpening, Lisa Packard

Seated: Sharon Neseemann, Conrad Reedy, Peter Garetson, Ray Schlesinger, Michelle McCaughtry, Linda Lentz

by: Mary Stierna, WRC

Wanted: Literacy SIG Chair

The Chair of the Literacy Special Interest Group has become vacant. Rhea Bowman, CEA President's Council Chair and coordinator of the Special Interest Groups is looking for an energetic person to fill this vacancy.

If you are interested, please send Rhea a brief resume and a brief description of your vision for working with the SIG membership and vitalizing the group. This can be a great opportunity for someone wishing to become more active in CEA.

Send your information to bowman_rhea@asdk12.org

*CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION*



**Inside Out:
Focus on the Future**

Region III / IV Conference

May 10—12, 2006

Chula Vista Resort

Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

Join Us in May

Flying Pig to Host 2nd Prison Art Exhibit

For the second year, offenders at the Wisconsin Resource Center (WRC) in Winnebago, WI are partnering with the Flying Pig Gallery & Greenspace in Algoma to raise funds for the Kewaunee County Violence Intervention Project. The goal of the partnership is to provide financial support and hope for individuals coping with personal crises.



The Prison Art Exhibit will kick-off with a reception on the evening of Saturday, October 8, 2005 at the Flying Pig located two miles south of Algoma on Highway 42. Music will be provided by the group Acoustic Soup and refreshments will be served. The exhibit will continue through November 13.

The Wisconsin Resource Center provides treatment for correctional inmates with severe mental health and behavioral problems. As part of the treatment process, offenders are encouraged to participate in community service projects.

In one of these projects, WRC teacher Ken VanMieghem recruited some of his students to produce artwork which could be used in fundraising events. Ken contacted Sue Conners and Robyn Mulhaney, proprietors of the Flying Pig. They arranged for an exhibit at which the artwork will be displayed at the gallery and sold via a silent auction. The proceeds from the event will be donated to the Kewaunee County Violence Intervention Project who will use the funds to help support programs for victims of domestic abuse. Last year's event raised over \$1600 for the Kewaunee County Violence Intervention Project

With this partnership, offenders who are suffering from mental problems will not only be engaged in an act of restitution for their crimes, but also will enhance their feelings of self-worth which may have deteriorated with the onset of their mental illness. This productive involvement will aid in their recovery from mental illness and will help them to regain their sense of optimism. The chance to help others will provide the inmates, as well as the clients of the Kewaunee County Violence Intervention Project, an opportunity to find new meanings in their lives.

Please mark your calendar and join us at the Flying Pig on October 8 to enjoy the exhibit and entertainment and support this worthwhile project.

OSCI and Thrivent Join Hands to Plant Flower Gardens



Oshkosh Correctional Institution inmates and Thrivent for Lutherans (East Fond du Lac Chapter) teamed together on Join Hands Day to work with the community in an effort to provide and plant flowers in gardens throughout the county.

The Horticulture Program inmates at OSCI grow plants for OSCI, other correctional institutions and nonprofit organizations. The Horticulture Program provides inmates education, employment preparation and a vocational certification in horticulture.

Thrivent with the support of OSCI donated flowers to ARC of Fond du Lac, St. Paul's Lutheran Church of North Fond du Lac, Mt. Calvary Fire Department, Van Dyne Lions Park and Fire Department, Brownsville Community Park, Immanuel Trinity Lutheran, Hope Lutheran, Welcome 4-H of Campbellsport, Trinity Lutheran of Dundee, Church of Our Savior, Divine Savior Lutheran and Good Shepherd's Jesus Little Lambs.

Reprinted with permission from:
Fond du Lac Action Sunday

2005 GED/HSED and Adult Literacy Conference

October 11-13, 2005

Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton, WI



The GED/HSED and Adult Literacy Conference continues to expand, adding new professional development opportunities for its participants.

Again this year, the Correctional Education Association-Wisconsin has joined the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Technical College System to plan the conference agenda. Planning committee members have developed eight sessions specifically highlighting concerns and programs of interest to educators working in correctional settings.

The GED/HSED portion of the conference is scheduled for October 11-12. The Adult Literacy part is on October 12-13. Participants may register for either set of two days for \$125 or for the entire three days for \$175.

New this year are two pre-conference workshops, one provided by the Wisconsin Even Start Family Literacy Program and the other by Wisconsin's Bridges to Practice leaders. A GEDO 2 Staff Development Workshop will also be held within the conference.

Lunch will be included each day of the conference. Wednesday's lunch will feature successful students of Wisconsin literacy and GED programs. And, as always, our exhibit hall vendors will have the best and most current goods and services that meet professional educators' needs.

On the lighter side, the CEAW Silent Auction will be expanded to include items inmate-made donated by Wisconsin correctional institutions, items contributed by Wisconsin Technical College schools, and items donated by Appleton area businesses. Stop in and make a bid.

On the evening of Wednesday, October 12, correctional educators are invited to travel two blocks east of the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel to the Brewed Awakenings Coffee Shop. There CEAW will host a social hour, featuring music provided by the group Acoustic Soup.

The Wisconsin Association for Career and Technical Education is serving as managing partner for the conference. You will find more information, an online registration form, and an online housing form at their website: www.wacteonline.org

Friends Help....continued from page 1

Over the years, Sr. Johnella has helped hundreds of offenders. In addition to assisting offenders to raise their academic skills, Sr. Johnella encourages her students to be the best they can be in all areas of their lives. Staff and students alike at the House of Corrections are extremely grateful for Sr. Johnella and are honored to nominate her for this special award,

Sister Johnella Bohmann was nominated by Jan Brylow.

Dawn Borchardt

For the past few years, the quality and relevance of the vocational programs at the Taycheedah Correctional Institution have been enhanced by presentations done by Dawn Borchardt. Dawn is employed by SEEK, Inc. She uses skills and knowledge she has developed in her profession to help inmates at TCI to prepare for employment after release from incarceration.

Dawn's eagerness and willingness to offer her expertise at TCI is valued by both staff and offenders. When conducting the sessions for the vocational programs, her presentations are always insightful and based on reality. She conveys to the female offenders at TCI the confidence that they can be successful in the job search process.

Dawn Borchardt was nominated by TCI teacher Debra Breister.

Community Connections

Approximately 25 volunteers from the group Community Connections staff the Family Center at Oakhill Correctional Institution. Located in the OCI School, the Family Center is open twice a week to provide male offenders with support, education, information, and awareness of resources to improve their family relationships, literacy, and ties to the community.

Established in the fall of 2002, Community Connections is an all-volunteer organization that pulls together people and resources from Oregon, Wisconsin and the greater Madison area. The goal is to create safe spaces where inmates feel comfortable talking with others about issues important to their lives. Using a non-judgmental approach, Community Connections encourages and supports the autonomy of each individual while offering tools and researched information to help him discover what decisions are best for his life.

Classes include:

Fatherworks, a parenting class that helps men explore the relationship that they had with their own fathers before they deal with the relationship that they have with their own children.

Read to Me, where Family Center staff advise offenders in selecting an age appropriate book for their children that is also within their comfortable reading level. Staff members help the men learn to read the book and read it appropriately to their children. The men are videotaped and the book and tape are sent to the children. The Family Center averages four to six tapes each week for this popular offering.

FatheRead, where men improve their own literacy skills while learning to read books to their children. The books are used as a basis for discussion about relevant issues in the men's lives.

Common Ground, a weekly support group where up to eight men share with each other in confidence about their journeys as men, fathers, husbands, and sons.

Love and Logic, a parenting education class that gives the men skills and information about disciplining their children using natural consequences.

Art Exploration, a weekly instruction group in pencil sketching open to all levels of learners.

Film Group, an informal class where participants watch a movie and discussion follows. Films cover a variety of topics including incarceration and reintegration, history, social issues, current events, and family issues.

Letter Writing, where men can use donated supplies to write creative letters and cards to their children to maintain and build relationships.

Additionally, Community Connections volunteers cooperatively facilitate a pre-release planning group with an OCI social worker that helps offenders develop realistic action plans for returning to their homes and communities after incarceration. Community Connections also offers community mentors to give support and guidance which may not otherwise be available to offenders. Also, Community Connections has developed **Visiting Area Family Days**, a weekly program to enhance the OCI Visiting Center for children and families who come to visit their loved ones. Volunteers organize activities, games, books, and art materials for the children to use with their family members. The volunteers also encourage and model age-appropriate ways to interact and play with the visiting children.

Some of the more active Community Connections volunteers are:

Donna Mahr, a private educational consultant that helps families when school programs aren't working. Donna has been a driving force behind Community Connections from its inception and has been active in education for 40 years.

John Mix, an art therapist and former part-time prison chaplain in Illinois who facilitates the Common Ground support group and the Art Exploration classes.

Sarah Quinn, a recent UW-Madison graduate in Human Ecology/Family Studies who runs the film group.

Stacy Anderson, who volunteers two days a week at the Family Center despite being physically disabled. She has a degree in Extension Education and a background in working with families and horses.

Liz Harlow, the director of WOW, Oregon's community access cable television station. She facilitates the taping of the Read to Me program.

Donna Rae Clasen, a retired UW-Whitewater education professor who also facilitates the taping of the Read to Me program.

Anne Staton, Director of Community Education for the Oregon School District, who leads the FatherRead group.

Steve Staton, a retired Oregon Middle School principal and currently the At-Risk Coordinator for Oregon High School. Steve coordinates the Love and Logic group and also conducts job interviews for the Employability Skills component of the HSED.

Community Connections was nominated by OCI teacher Ray Schlesinger.

Margaret Green

Margaret Green is an invaluable resource for the Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center book club. Margaret started as a business contact, a person to buy books from, but ended up as a true friend of corrections.

Margaret regularly heads up book club discussions with the offenders and has been key to having authors visit the institution to discuss their books with the offenders. The book discussions allow the offenders to get out of their immediate surroundings and share feelings and insights with others.

Margaret also helps ensure the continued success of the book club and Ellsworth's library through in-store fund-raisers that allow our offenders to raise money to buy books for the book club and library while earning community service hours. In addition, Margaret has provided Ellsworth's library with donations from Barnes & Noble, other book clubs, and bookstores.

An article in the May/June 2005 issue of the CEAW News Review gives more information on REECC's book club discussions.

Margaret is a true friend of corrections helping to bring literacy and life-long learning experiences to offenders at REECC.

Margaret Green was nominated by the REECC education staff.

Jonathan Shailor

Jonathan Shailor, Ph.D is an instructor at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. Over the past ten years he has volunteered to teach numerous communication classes at the Racine Correctional Institution.

This year, Jonathan designed a 9-month program to teach and produce William Shakespeare's King Lear. This project involved coordinating costumes, scenery, inmate performances, security concerns, and media. He donated over 400 hours of his own time, as well as, personal items for costumes and props.

When King Lear was presented on April 27, 2005; 225 inmates, staff, and guests attended the performances. Many inmates who participated in the theatre project reported that the play provided them an opportunity to face many of their own fears and frustrations in a productive fashion. Staging the play required learning to work together and resolve many personal and interpersonal issues.

A detailed article on the King Lear production can be found in the May/June 2005 issue of the CEAW News Review.

Jonathan Shailor was nominated by RCI Education Director Jean Thieme.

Book Grants Available

The Literacy Empowerment Foundation (LEF) has increased the size of the matching grants available to \$8,000.00 per school. A school can now order \$16,000.00 worth of books and pay only \$8,000.00. (Any amount purchased from \$100.00 to \$8,000.00 will be matched.)

Here are the details: The Matching Book Grant Program offers Guided Reading and Independent Reading Collections. Guided Reading Collections consist of six copies each of eighteen titles. Independent Reading Collections consist of one copy each of 108 titles. With each set of Guided Reading and/or Independent Reading Collections purchased at the regular price, an additional set of books will be included.

The Literacy Empowerment Foundation (LEF) is a 5.01(c)(3) nonprofit organization. LEF currently supplies books to over 15,000 schools. The number of books available in the Matching Book Grant Program has increased dramatically. Matching Book Grants allow your school to double its purchasing power. This is a limited time offer that requires no special screening or applications. Orders must be received by September 30, 2005.

Please forward this email to your friends and colleagues in literacy.

Information and a matching book grant order form are available at <http://www.lefbooks.org/>.

Literacy Empowerment Foundation
6323 Salem Park Circle
Mechanicsburg, Pa. 17050
Phone: 717-791-6210 or 610-719-6448
Web site: <http://LEFbooks.org>
Email: info@LEFbooks.org



Submitted by: Barb Rasmussen, RCI

CEA Membership Initiatives

The national CEA office has announced several initiatives to expand the organization's membership. With Wisconsin hosting the 2006 Region III & IV CEA Conference, many more Wisconsin educators will be joining CEA. You may be able to take advantage of one of these initiatives to earn a free membership, win free registration to the International CEA Conference, or reduce your membership fee.

CEA's new membership initiatives are:

- Any member recruiting five new members will receive a free one-year membership.
- The person who recruits the most new members this year will receive free registration at the 2006 International CEA Conference in Anaheim, CA.
- Librarians, Program Assistants, and Teacher Assistants may join CEA at the Support Staff rate of \$25 per year.
- Retirees, students, or volunteers may join at a rate of \$35 per year.

The states with the greatest percentage increase and raw number increase in membership will be recognized by the national office with CEA's Founder's Award.

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Association

