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Correctional Education Association - Wisconsin

Travels with Sue

As interest in the Fair Shake website continues to grow, Fair Shake Founder and Director Sue Kastensen has been on the road introduce Fair Shake to incarcerated people, corrections staff and administrators, reentry councils, and even employers around the country.

Founded and still headquartered in Westby, Wisconsin, Fair Shake is the only reentry organization to:

- Curate a free, dynamic, Resource Directory with over 15,000 resources (which are now available inside Idaho, Washington, Maine, and Pennsylvania state correctional facilities and some Wisconsin county jails)
- Print and mail a free 90+ page Reentry Packet – great for self-study, for educators to print and share materials and for inmate-led reentry classes
- Go inside prisons and jails to provide this type of unique and encouraging message of ownership, connection and empowerment

In May, Sue presented Fair Shake in a Federal halfway house, to a Federal Probation and Parole office and to Region III & IV Correctional Education Association Conference. She also offered a hands-on workshop at a reentry and job-training center, and met with a large employer who is looking to "Ban the Box"

In June, Sue headed to the beautiful northwest to present Fair Shake in Idaho, Washington, Oregon and South Dakota. Idaho and Washington are installing Fair Shake's software application in their state institutions, and South Dakota and Oregon both have federal institutions. The Federal Bureau of Prisons has always been very enthusiastic about the resources provided by Fair Shake.

In July, Sue presented a workshop on the Fair Shake software application at the Annual Correctional Education Association Conference in Arlington, Virginia. At the conference, Sue was honored with CEA's Ralph Kaplan Award which is given to a presenter who will demonstrate the use of technology or promote technology through her conference presentation.

In addition to all of these events, the biggest news is that Fair Shake was approved to offer its software on computers in the libraries and some
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special housing units in all of the prisons in Pennsylvania! Sue made a follow-up trip to Pennsylvania to present Fair Shake in their institutions, at their Reentry Conference, and at the Mon-Valley Reentry Coalition's Conference. A link to the Fair Shake website is on the Pennsylvania State DOC reentry page.

In August, Sue presented workshops for staff at the Wisconsin Resource Center and then traveled to the Northwest where she shared the 'keynote speaker' spot at the Gains Center Intercept Mapping and Gapping Reentry Symposium in the Seattle area and visited Oregon juvenile institutions.

Several other presentations are coming up, the most notable is the first annual Reentry Summit: Reintegration Through Collaboration: The New Normal taking place in the heart of the Adirondacks on September 23rd. If you are interested in attending this unique event, please contact Sue directly at sue@fairshake.net.

Fair Shake prides itself in being like no other reentry organization in the US. The incarcerated people that attend Sue's workshops are encouraged and grateful to hear that that Fair Shake is 100% funded by people who care and not by government grants. Hope is an important feature of successful reentry. If you would like to make a donation to support Fair Shake's work, visit their website, www.fairshake.net.



Meeting at the FCI Ray Brook in Ray Brook, New York to work on Fair Shake's Reentry materials are Terrell Hall, Warden Steve Langford, Sue Kastensen, David Loper, Shawn Pelley, and Melvin Martinez

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.
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President-Elect	Laurie Jarvis, FVTC/Waushara CJ	
Secretary	Sharon Neseemann, WRC	
Treasurer	Ray Schlesinger, WCI	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.
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Member at Large/Editor	Jerry Bednarowski	Articles for publication may be submitted to the CEA-W News Review Editor Jerry Bednarowski at: jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com
Member at Large	Holly Audley, OOS	
Member at Large	Vacant	
News Review Staff		
Editor	Jerry Bednarowski	
Layout & Design	DeNeal Ericksen, REECC	
Proofreader	Laura Reisinger, LVCV	
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Correctional Education Association 2016 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Purpose:

The Correctional Education Association-Wisconsin (CEA-W), in cooperation with the International Correctional Education Association, has established the TEACHER OF THE YEAR award to recognize outstanding educational contributions by a teacher in a correctional facility.

Who Is Eligible:

To be eligible, the teacher must:

- spend at least 51% of his/her work time in classroom instruction
- have taught in correctional facilities a minimum of two years
- have demonstrated leadership qualities and be active in promoting improvements in correctional education
- have demonstrated devotion to the teaching profession as evidenced by a willingness to work beyond his/her job description
- have been an active member of CEA for the past one year

Teachers who were nominated previous years, but were not selected as the CEA-W TEACHER OF THE YEAR may be re-nominated. CEA-W Board members are not eligible for nomination.

Nomination Process:

Anyone may submit a nomination for TEACHER OF THE YEAR. The nomination may be a colleague or the teacher him or herself. The nomination deadline is **November 1, 2015**.

Qualities To Be Considered:

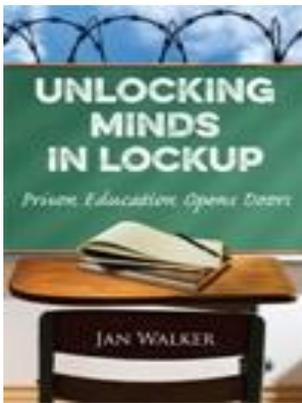
- Teaching excellence
- Classroom and program innovation
- Professional development activities
- Ability to serve as a representative for correctional education in the state of Wisconsin

Awards:

The CEA-W TEACHER OF THE YEAR will receive a plaque attesting to his or her achievement. He/she will receive a \$250 stipend and will be furnished expenses to compete against winners from five other Midwestern States at the Region III CEA Conference and Training Day in April 2016. If the Wisconsin Teacher of the Year is selected as the Region III Teacher of the Year, he/she will be furnished expenses to attend the 71st Correctional Education Association International Conference & Training Event to be held at the Hyatt Hotel Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia on July 2016.

HURRY!!! Phone, fax, or mail your nomination by **November 1, 2015** to:

Sharon Neseemann
CEA-W Awards & Recognition Committee
Wisconsin Resource Center
1505 North Drive
P.O. Box 16
Winnebago, WI 54985-0016
Phone: 920.426.4310 Ext. 4468
Email: sharon.neseemann@dhs.wisconsin.gov



The Power of Story Can Unlock Minds

“I believe in the power of story,” are the words of Jan Walker, author of the soon to be published book, *Unlocking Minds in Lockup: Prison Education Opens Doors*. “This book is a story about women and men who spent time in prison for crimes punishable by removal from society. More specifically it’s a story about how they used their time inside and what it means to all of us on the outside. I hope it provides food for thought and perhaps changes how you view the American criminal justice system.”

Jan Walker is a veteran of 18 years of teaching men and women in Washington correctional facilities. She is author of *Parenting from A Distance: Your Rights and Responsibilities*, a parenting textbook that is in its third edition and is widely used in correctional facilities. She has also written five fictional books, two dealing with correctional topics and three on other topics. Jan has presented workshops at several state, regional and international CEA conferences and presented training workshops for Wisconsin DOC staff.

Summarizing her work with inmate students, Jan believes, “Everything I taught came back to getting students to think about their choices, write or tell their stories in bits, and then discuss their thoughts with other inmate students.”

In *Unlocking Minds in Lockup*, Jan invites the reader to step inside prison classrooms where convicted felons are working to change their lives. She gives vignettes of inmates choosing to learn, think and prepare for release to their communities as contributing adults and involved parents.

Jan candidly describes her reactions to prison realities, her belief in education as a door-opener for offenders and their responses to the programs she developed. She gives readers an honest look at the rhythms of working inside, seeing inmates as students, and helping them prepare for reentry to society. She confronted negative attitudes and behaviors with honesty and options for offenders to change their lives through critical thinking, open discussion and reaching out to their families and communities.

In her review of the book, Faith E. Lutze, Ph.D., Professor and Graduate Director, Research Faculty, Washington State Institute for Criminal Justice, Washington State University writes, “Walker in *Unlocking Minds in Lockup* makes an important contribution to our understanding of the critical need for meaningful education in our prisons. She makes clear that it is through education that everyone’s humanity is recognized. It is time for everyone to realize the human capital locked away in our prisons and how it may be translated into an asset important to the future of our communities.”

Rebecca Ginsburg, Associate Professor and Director, Education Justice Project, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign adds, “Jan Walker’s book is a welcome and valuable addition to the literature on prison education. Across the political spectrum there is agreement that the U.S. experiment with hyper-incarceration has failed and that we need to engage in serious decarceration efforts. Critical programming of the sort that *Unlocking Minds in Lockup* describes so movingly, will play a key role in reducing the number of men and women who return to prison. Although Walker’s book is a retrospective of the eighteen years she spent teaching in Washington state facilities, it also serves as a blueprint for our way forward. I hope state prison systems and higher education administrators will take seriously her call to create more education programs inside our nation’s prisons.”

To accompany her new book, Jan has created new website: www.TeachInside.com. *Unlocking Minds in Lockup: Prison Education Opens Doors* may be preordered on the website. Jan is also preparing a set of Teach Inside activity pdfs and that can be used inside jails as well as prisons. They will be available for download and printing for \$1.95 each.

Second Chance Pilot Program Gives Incarcerated Access to Pell Grants

According to a U.S. Department of Education press release on July 31, 2015, the Second Chance Pell Pilot program will be established to test new models to allow incarcerated Americans to receive Pell Grants and pursue postsecondary education with the goal of helping them get jobs, support their families, and turn their lives around. The pilot program is part of the Obama Administration's commitment to create a fairer, more effective criminal justice system, reduce recidivism, and combat the impact of mass incarceration on communities.

According to a Department of Justice funded 2013 study from the RAND Corporation, high-quality correctional education – including postsecondary correctional education – has been shown to measurably reduce re-incarceration rates. The study concluded that incarcerated individuals who participated in correctional education were 43% less likely to return to prison within three years than prisoners who didn't participate in any correctional education programs. RAND estimated that for every dollar invested in correctional education programs, four to five dollars are saved on three year re-incarceration costs.

The Second Chance Pell Pilot program will be the first time that those behind bars can have access to Pell Grants since Congress amended the Higher Education Act (HEA) to eliminate Pell Grant eligibility for students in federal and state penal institutions. The pilot program will restore educational opportunities for some of those individuals, improving their chances to stay out of prison and become productive members of their communities after they are released. The program will build on existing research to examine effects of restoring Pell eligibility.

Through this pilot program, incarcerated individuals who otherwise meet Title IV eligibility requirements and are eligible for release, particularly within the next five years, could access Pell Grants to pursue postsecondary education and training. The goal is to increase access to high-quality educational opportunities and help these individuals successfully transition out of prison and back into the classroom or the workforce. Incarcerated students who receive Pell Grants through this pilot will be subject to cost of attendance restrictions, so Pell Grants can only be used to pay for tuition, fees, books and supplies required by an individual's education program. Incarcerated individuals will not be eligible to receive other types of Federal student aid under this pilot.

The pilot program builds upon previous Administration efforts. A report from President Obama's "My Brother's Keeper Task Force" recommended enforcing the rights of incarcerated youth, including access to a quality education and eliminate unnecessary barriers to reentry. Last December, the Departments of Education and Justice released a Correctional Education Guidance Package to improve education programs in juvenile justice facilities and clarified existing rules around Pell Grant eligibility for youth housed in juvenile justice facilities and individuals held in local and county jails. The pilot program is intended to build on this guidance and expand access to high-quality postsecondary educational opportunities and support the successful reentry of adults.

When determining which institutions will be selected for participation in this experiment, the Department of Education will consider evidence that demonstrates a strong record on student outcomes and in the administration of the Title IV HEA programs.

The deadline for postsecondary institutions to apply for this pilot program is September 30, 2015 for the 2016-2017 academic year.

More information on the U.S. Department of Education Second Chance Pell Pilot program is at: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2015-18994.pdf>.

15th Annual CEA-W Creativity Contest

Once again, CEA-Wisconsin invites incarcerated writers and artists to submit their works for the fifteenth annual edition of the CEA-Wisconsin Creativity Contest. Each year CEA-W publishes original prose, poetry, and ink drawings from Wisconsin's jail, prison, and juvenile facility populations. All levels of writers and artists are encouraged to offer submissions. Authors and artists whose works are selected will each receive two free copies of the booklet when it is published in May.

Encourage your learners to express themselves in drawings (black ink on 8½ by 11 white paper) and writings up to 1000 words including poems, letters, essays, and short stories. Winners are selected from all levels, so urge beginning writers to give it a try. Submissions are accepted between September 1st and December 1st. Please ask entrants to read the contest rules and legibly fill out the submission form. Entries can be sent to Mary Davies at the Wisconsin Resource Center address on the submission form.

Members of the Creativity Contest Committee are Nancy Alderton (OSCI), Margaret Done (MSTF), Laurie Jarvis (FVTC), Linda Lentz (JBCC), Pandora Lobacz (LHS), Tim Mahoney (WRC), Sharon Neemann (WRC), Laura Gebhardt (OCI), and Mary Davies (WRC) and Ken Holehouse, volunteer at the Fond du Lac Detention Center.

The booklets are typeset by inmates at Taycheedah Correctional Institution and printed by inmates at Columbia Correctional Institution. This publication reflects the professional commitment of CEA-Wisconsin members to promote literacy. Each CEA-W member gets a free copy of the booklet. If you want to join the committee, contact Mary Davies at mary.davies@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

CEA-Wisconsin Creativity Contest Rules

1. Entries are limited to writers who are incarcerated in prisons, juvenile facilities, and county jails located in Wisconsin. People in alternative correctional programs such as bracelet monitoring, probation, or parole are not eligible.
2. All entries must be the original work of the entrant. Plagiarism, copying someone else's work and claiming it as your own, is against the law and is not acceptable!
3. Artwork must be black ink/dark pencil on white paper and allow for at least a one-inch margin around a standard 8.5 x 11" page. Wider and darker lines allow for better reproduction. Photocopies are allowed, but the teacher or representative must see the original work at the time of submission.
4. Writing is judged on voice, organization, and creativity. Any form of writing is acceptable: poems, essays, short stories, letters, etc. Writing can be as short as one paragraph, but should not exceed 1,000 words. Entries must be typed, double-spaced, with a maximum of 2 pages.
5. Only one submission for each category, art and writing, will be accepted from each entrant.
6. CEA-W reserves the right to publish excerpts of submitted entries.
7. The enclosed release form must accompany the entry. The instructor is responsible for explaining that the work will undergo the usual editing process which any publication undergoes. All writing technicalities (punctuation, grammar) will be corrected. Instructors are advised not to correct students' work. Assistance in writing should include suggestions for expanding ideas, development of themes, and organization. Over-correcting by instructors interferes with the voice of the writer. Entries may be reviewed locally by the Education Director or by DOC Central Office for appropriateness and security consideration as needs and policies dictate.
8. Entries must be signed by the Education Department contact person and received at the address on the release form by December 1, 2015. Winners will receive publications by May, 2016. **No submissions will be returned.** Writers whose work is not accepted will not be notified.
9. The writer should include an address where he/she can be contacted in May, 2016. Booklets will be sent to the institutional address in care of the Education Contact Person, as listed on the form, for distribution to the winners. Books will be distributed in early May 2016.

10. Writers retain copyright to their work. CEA-W has first publication rights and rights to the collection of work. Winners will receive two (2) copies of the book. No payment for published work will be provided.
11. Students may have their essays published anonymously. The release form, however, must contain the student's real name and signature. This information will be used by contest coordinator only and kept confidential. Write "anonymous" or use initials (no pseudonyms, please) on the writing or drawing submitted, and staple the two together.
12. Illegible submission forms or entries may be disqualified.

SUBMISSIONS RELEASE FORM Correctional Education Association - Wisconsin "Creativity Contest 2015"

Mary Davies
Wisconsin Resource Center
PO Box 16
Winnebago, Wisconsin 54985-0016
(920) 426-4310 ex. 4165

I hereby give the CEA-W permission to publish the following work(s), if selected for the contest publication. **These works are my original, unpublished writings and/or artwork.** I understand that the selections may be minimally edited. I further understand that after publication all rights will return to me, however, original works will not be returned. The titles of the works submitted (maximum two) are listed below:

A. Title(s): *May submit only one (1) of each category.*

Writing: _____

Art: _____

B. CEA-W will send each person whose work was selected two copies of the book. Please clearly print your full name and mailing address as of May, 2016. Illegible submission forms may result in disqualified entries.

(Full Name)

(Inmate Number)

(Mailing address – Street Address)

(Institution where currently residing)

(Mailing address -- City, State, Zip)

Check here if this is a juvenile facility.

C. On the line below, please print the way you would like your name to appear in the book if selected. You may only use your institution name, first name with last initial, initials only, or anonymous. No aliases.

(PRINT your name, initials, or anonymous)

D. Sign and date. By signing I verify that these works are my original, unpublished writings and/or artwork.

(Signature)

(Date)

E. Education Department Contact Person. (For correctional facilities and county jails, the contact person will be responsible for distributing booklets to winning authors.)

(Signature)

(Facility)

(Print Name)

(Contact Info -- Phone or Email)

Please circle one: **Jr/Sr High School (DJC)** **ABE** **Intermediate** **HSED** **Post High School**

NOTE: This form must accompany all submissions. Incomplete or incorrect submissions forms may disqualify the entry. Submissions must be sent to Mary Davies, WRC, by December 1, 2015.

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



President's Message

*"Anyone who thinks they are too small to make a difference
has never tried to fall asleep with a mosquito in the room."
Christine Todd Whitman*

As correctional educators, it is encouraging to see research support the efforts we make to teach inmates. The article on page 5 reports: The RAND study concluded that incarcerated individuals who participated in correctional education were 43% less likely to return to prison within three years than prisoners who didn't participate in any correctional education programs.

Please take a moment now to consider nominating a correctional educator that makes a difference for the 2016 Teacher of the Year Award. Don't be afraid to even nominate yourself!

Laura
lreisinger@lvcv.org

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