CEA-Wisconsin to Host State Correctional Education Conference

The CEAW Executive Board is pleased to announce that it will be hosting a one-day CEA-Wisconsin State Conference on Monday, May 7, 2007. The site for the conference is the beautiful Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake.

The Conference Planning Committee has begun constructing the program for the conference. It will include a featured speaker; workshops focusing on juveniles, county jails, literacy, special education, parenting, and other areas; and vendor displays.

Anyone with ideas for workshops or speakers may contact CEAW President and Conference Chair DeNeal Ericksen at deneal.ericksen@wisconsin.gov.

The Osthoff Resort has agreed to offer rooms at state rates for May 6 & 7. You may choose from a single room for $62, a double for $82, a one-bedroom suite with a sofa-sleeper for $82, or a two-bedroom suite for $124. All rooms have beautiful lakeside or woodland views. A block of rooms will be held at these rates until April 6, 2007.

For more information on room accommodations contact:

The Osthoff Resort
101 Osthoff Avenue
Elkhart Lake, WI 53020-0151
800-876-3399
www.osthoff.com

Details on the conference program and registration materials will be included in the March/April issue of this newsletter.
Be an Active CEA Member – VOTE!

One of the benefits of CEA membership is the right help select the State Chapter, Region III, and International officers and board members. Members may also run for office.

In this newsletter is a “Call for Nominations” for the Wisconsin State Chapter board members. Up for election this year are the Minimum Security, Juvenile Facilities, Local Education Agency, Community Corrections, and Member-At-Large representatives. If you are interested in serving on the CEAW State Chapter Board, consider submitting you name. The election will be held in March.

Region III is also holding its election for Executive Board Officers. In recent years, because of its large membership, Ohio has dominated the Region III CEA Board. All of the current Region III officers are from Ohio.

With the growth in Wisconsin’s membership, there is a greater chance of having a Wisconsin member elected to the board. One or two Wisconsin candidates are likely to be on the ballot. Please consider supporting their candidacy. Keep an eye out for the ballots that will be mailed to members during Spring 2007. Be sure to vote.

In early 2007, the International CEA Executive Board election is also being held. Members should already have received their ballots. The deadline for returning the ballots is February 15, 2007.

CEA has an on-going commitment to providing avenues for members to be involved in the governance of the association. Exercise your membership rights and vote. To run for office or to vote in an election, you must be an active CEA member. So, if you are a member of CEA, keep your membership active. If you haven’t already joined CEA, please go to the national website, www.ceanational.org, and do so.

Individual memberships are only $55 and students, volunteers, retirees, and clerical and support staff are eligible for reduced rates.

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The CEAW 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 CEAW and DOC.

Articles for publication may be submitted to CEAW Secretary Barb Rasmussen at Racine Correctional Institution, 2019 Wisconsin Street, Sturtevant, WI 53177-0900, barbara.rasmussen@doc.state.wi.us or CEAW News Review Editor Jerry Bednarowski at: jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com
November and December have proven themselves to be busy months here at the Dane County Jail. We have seen a considerable number of students come and go. We also enjoyed a visit from the public school teacher assigned to the Fond du Lac county jail, Patty Sawyer Rabe. Our discussions about program design led me to this month’s topic: the importance of the intake and assessment process.

As most of you out there know, school aged kids coming to jail display the full range of academic and social-emotional skills. How does one get to the heart of the matter and help kids set realistic goals, both short and long-term? We have found that an individual intake process has been the most effective way to start out programming on the right foot. Deb and I make sure to meet with new students within 72 hours of their classification into the jail setting. This meeting may take place in the classroom or an interview room. For academic assessment, we have chosen to use the Woodcock-McGrew-Werder Mini-Battery of Achievement (available from Riverside Publishing). We refer to it as the “quick and dirty” assessment as it hits all the content areas of concern, and in theory takes only about 45 minutes to administer (reality can be much longer if a student insists on trying EVERY question). We have also crafted an intake form that we use to gather information about each student. We would be happy to share an electronic version; just send off an email.

Academic skills are but a small part of the picture for meeting the needs of the students we serve. The rapport established during this one-on-one meeting has almost immeasurable value throughout the student’s stay. Additionally, questions about family, interests and background help round out the information and establish a connection many of the kids are looking for. This is also a time when red-flags about medical and mental health issues may come up, and other necessary jail staff can be brought into the loop. Most of the students are very receptive during this meeting, and it’s a great opportunity to go over rules of the institution and classroom expectations. But be prepared, a lot of the kids are very emotional and the tears can flow quite freely. Fortunately for us, it’s pretty hard for them to pull off the “tough guy act” in class after you’ve seen them cry!

In summary, the intake/assessment process is likely the most time consuming part of programming in the Dane County Jail School, but it is well worth the investment!

From left to right: Deb Anderson, Patti Sawyer Rabe, and Tina Chavez
CCI Takes Pride in Excellence

This year Columbia Correctional Institution is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Since its opening in 1986, CCI programming has been guided by the principle of “Pride in Excellence.” No where is this more evident than in the education programs offered at Columbia.

CCI offers academic instruction from basic literacy through HSED preparation and vocational education that is certified through the Wisconsin Technical College System.

**ABE (Adult Basic Education)**

Inmates who have not graduated from high school or earned an equivalency diploma are placed in ABE classes to help reduce the high rate of illiteracy which is characteristic of an inmate population. Capacity is for 125 students to participate weekly in academic programming. Thirty –five inmates completed their GED/HSED in 2006.

The academic staff at CCI is made up of Education Director Colleen James and ABE/HSED teachers Linda Kozlowski, Jeff Monfort, Ruth Mui, Tomi Randall, Judy Schelble, Jackie Stowell, and Tom Trimble.

**Vocational Programming**

CCI has three vocational programs that are certified through the Madison Area Technical College branch of the WTCS System. During the past year, 65 students have earned their WTCS diplomas at CCI.

*Building Services* is a twelve-month diploma program which provides inmates with competence in building construction using an actual work environment so that students will acquire good work habits. Brian Fritschler is the teacher of this program.

*Custodial Services* is a six-month diploma program which is self-paced with 12-16 weeks of on-the-job-type experience and a final proficiency exam which qualifies the graduates to do building maintenance, apartment complex managing and landscaping. Jean Grossman is the instructor.

*Printing Program* provides inmates the opportunity to develop skills to obtain an entry-level position in the graphic arts industry. The program usually takes 12 to 18 months to complete. A 7-week internship program in the Badger State Industries print shop is required for certification (a diploma). Mark Terpening is the teacher of this program.

From left to right: Tom Trimble, Ruth Mui, Jeff Monfort, Colleen James, Jackie Stowell, and Judy Schelble

Mark Terpening, Vocational Printing Teacher
A HEX Is on Oakhill

For the last four months, four graduate students from the University of Wisconsin-Madison have put a HEX on inmate creative writing at Oakhill Correctional Institution. HEX stands for a program called Humanities Exposed (HEX). HEX fosters collaborative projects in the humanities connecting UW graduate students to the broader community.

The quartet meets with two groups of inmates at OCI on Mondays. English PhD candidate Ray Hsu and MFA student Marianne Erhardt conduct an evening Prison Writing Workshop where inmate creative writers can read, discuss, and critique their work. Eventually, Ray and Marianne hope to be able to publish the literature generated by this group.

The other two grad students, Rachel Tabak, HEX Program Coordinator, and Sophia Estante, meet during the afternoon with inmates preparing to take the Language Arts: Writing test component of the GED. This test requires a 250-word essay. The students are referred by their instructors, Ray Schlesinger and Rick Bunnell. Rachel and Sophia coach the learners one-on-one about their essays. Rachel explains, “We’re pretty hard on them, and we force them to follow the rules of grammar. They really respond well to positive reinforcement. We work with the students individually, but I find when Sophia and I are explaining how to do something with one student, the others will look up from their own work and listen. They really want to learn.”

Ray Hsu observes that the project works synergistically for all involved. The inmates preparing for the GED benefit from additional instruction in essay writing. Inmate creative writers can have a forum for their work. The grad students gain exposure to a segment of the community that is culturally and socially diverse from academe. OCI Education Director Jack Rice says, “It’s a win-win situation.”

From left to right: HEX volunteers Rachel Tabak and Sophia Estante, OCI Teacher Ray Schlesinger, OCI Education Director Jack Rice, and Community Connections volunteers Stacey Anderson and Donna Mahr stand in front of the School at Oakhill Correctional Institution.
Help for Juvenile Educators on Their Journey

Juvenile educators --- have you ever felt as mentally “locked up” behind razor wire and locked gates as your students were physically?

In the Juvenile Special Interest Group Report submitted by Juvenile SIG Chair BJ Berquist, she describes her 23-year journey as a correctional educator of juveniles in Pennsylvania and her drive to sustain the learning and collaboration needed for professional development.

In her journey, she has found that face-to-face conferences are important and she tries to attend as many CEA conferences as she can. However, this is a financial burden and over the years she has learned about other less costly platforms for collaboration.

Mailing lists and email groups provide an asynchronous way with which to communicate with colleagues, either individually or as a special interest group. The online community of practice for educators, Tapped In <www.tappedin.org> has been invaluable in teaching her how to integrate technology into the curriculum, how to address different learning styles, how to work using the state standards, how to use new tools to collaborate in different levels, how to deal with the stress that is an integral part of correctional education. She learned about blogs that have given her students a platform in which they can receive feedback from an authentic audience <http://voicesfromloysville.blogspot.com/>. She has met an educator in Tapped In who is developing a wiki for educators. A wiki is a webpage that can be edited by an individual or group of individuals. BJ is hopeful that this wiki tool will easily provide information about her school program at the Loysville (PA) Youth Development Center to other correctional facilities as well as serve as a resource site for the Loysville teachers. A teacher of the week feature could be included, a lesson highlighted, an experience with a student could be documented. Parents and released students would have a place to find transition resources.

You can see what BJ refers to as her VERY rudimentary beginnings of this project at <http://helpingstudents.org/JSPWiki/Wiki.jsp?page=LYDC> If you have any comments or suggestions, please email BJ at bjb@tappedin.org.

BJ believes the CEA’s JUV SIG is an excellent example of how a mailing list can work as an asynchronous network for Juvenile educators. Any member of the JUV SIG group can post a question, announcement, or other information to the list. That post will go to all the members of the list. And any member of the group that has an answer or comment to that post can just as easily share that information with the group.

BJ urges juvenile educators to join the Juvenile Special Interest Group and collaborate with others facing similar challenges. Her hope is to communicate this bottom line: YOU ARE NOT ALONE: WE ARE A COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY! Be brave. Be a risk taker. Take the time to play. Be an active member of the CEA’s JUV SIG Community and join her on the list, in Tapped In, on your own blog or wiki or other new Web 2.0 tool. Share what you’re doing to feed your passion as an educator and life long learner.

For more information on how to become involved, please email BJ at bjb@tappedin.org.
Thanks to Silent Auction Donors

For the third year, an interesting sidelight at the GED/HSED & Adult Literacy Conference was the Silent Auction sponsored by the Correctional Education Association-Wisconsin. The auction was very successful. All proceeds from the Silent Auction will be used to help support CEAW initiatives to strengthen literacy, high school equivalency, vocational training, and treatment programs which improve the juvenile and adult offenders’ chances of successfully reintegrating into the society upon release from incarceration, and thereby creating safer communities.

The CEAW Board would like to thank these businesses and individuals for their generous donations and support of CEAW’s efforts to strengthen the skills of correctional educators and support effective and innovative educational programming:

The Bar on the Avenue
Chippewa Valley Technical College
Fox Cities Children’s Museum
Foxley’s Gallery
Sharon Holtrane
Kerrigan Brothers Winery
Linda Kozlowski
Menards
Oshkosh Correctional Institution
Radisson Paper Valley Hotel
Scheel’s All Sports
Stone Toad Bar & Grill
Wal-Mart Superstore
White Heron Chorale
Wisconsin Timber Rattlers

Elaine Bodven-Refsland
Conkey’s Book Store
Fox Cities Performing Arts Center
High Cliff Golf Course
Jansport
Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution
Carol May
Moraine Park Technical College
Outagamie Museum
R.E. Ellsworth Correctional Center
Southern Oaks Girls School
Jan Walker
Waverly Beach Sports Bar
Wisconsin Resource Center
Fox Valley Technical College

Coming Soon!

Once again, CEAW will publish a compilation of original inmate writing and drawings. This year’s Creativity Contest booklet, These Places and Regrets, goes to press at Columbia Correctional Institution in early 2007.

CEAW members will each receive a copy of the booklet as a benefit of membership. Whenever possible, your booklet will be sent to your worksite. If your worksite or address has changed, or if you would like to purchase additional copies of the booklet at a cost of $4.00 each, please e-mail Raphael.Schlesinger@wi.gov.
Call for Nominations

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

Nominations are being accepted for the following offices:

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

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

Conrad Reedy  
Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution  
PO Box 31  
Plymouth, WI 53071  
Phone: (920) 526-3244 ext. 303

Nominations must be received by February 12, 2007. Newly elected members will assume their offices at the April 2007 Executive Board Meeting

CEAW Webmaster Needed

CEAW is looking for a webmaster to be responsible for CEAW's website. Responsibility would include layout, visual appearance, and usability of the website. Updating on a regular basis, every two months, would be the CEAW newsletter and Parenting Connections newsletter. Other updates could include photos, articles, presentations, and links to other websites. Knowledge of MS Word, MS PowerPoint, photo software, and HTML would be helpful. Any knowledge of additional website development software would be an advantage.

The selected person would receive a CEAW membership for his/her commitment.

If you are interested in designing and maintaining CEAW's website, please email DeNeal Ericksen at wi_cea_pres@yahoo.com by January 30, 2007. Please include your contact information and experience in web design.
Site Set for Region III & IV CEA Conference

Region III will again be joining Region IV at their regional conference. The conference will be held April 18-20, 2007 at the Best Western Kelly Inn in Yankton, South Dakota.

Keep an eye on the Region III and Region IV websites for a Call for Presentations and registration information.

Wisconsin educators are encouraged to submit proposals to present workshops at the conference.

Call for Presentations

62nd International Correctional Education Association Conference
Excellence in Education
July 8-11, 2007

The “Call for Presentations-Workshop Proposals” form is now available on the www.ceanational.org website.

Proposals must be completed and emailed to Conference Co-Chair Lisa Williams Gallacher by March 1, 2007.

For more information contact: lwilliams.dysd@gaggle.net

Atlanta Marriot Marquis Hotel
Reservations: 888-855-5701 or 404-521-0000

Jails SIG Publishes Newsletter

In addition the Deb and Tina’s column in the CEA-Wisconsin newsletter, another opportunity for jail educators to spread the word about their program has risen.

Timothy Lisante, Jails Special Interest Group Chair, and Thomas McKenna, Jails Education Newsletter Editor, published the first issue of their Jails Education Newsletter last month. They are requesting articles for the second issue. Themes include curriculum management and transitional services within short-term detention.

Please consider writing on article on your program for the national Jail SIG newsletter. Articles for next edition are due by April 15th, 2007.

For more information about the Jails SIG and or to submit an article, contact: Tim Lisante at tlisant@schools.nyc.gov or Tom McKenna at tmckenn2@schools.nyc.gov. If you do submit an article, please also send a copy of it to CEAW News Review Editor Jerry Bednarowski at jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com.
President’s Message

Welcome 2007! It seems to me that every year goes by faster and faster! I hope all of you and your families had a great New Year.

CEAW is starting off the New Year with the planning of a teacher training day, officer elections, and the upgrading of our website. I am looking forward to receiving your ideas for workshops or speakers for our training. We are dedicated to bringing to you training that will assist you in your position.

As mentioned in the newsletter, CEAW officer elections are in March. I would like to encourage any of our members to consider running for office. Please feel free to contact myself or a board member if you have any questions regarding an office.

So put these dates on your calendar!

- **May 7**: CEA-Wisconsin State Conference
- **March 2007**: CEAW Elections
- **April 18 – 20**: Region III & IV CEA Conference
- **July 8 – 11**: CEA International Conference

CEA- Wisconsin News Review
Barb Rasmussen, CEAW Secretary
Racine Correctional Institution/Belle Venture School
2019 Wisconsin Street
Sturtevant, WI  53177-0900