DJC Selected to Participate in Blended Learning Initiative

The Center for Educational Excellence in Alternatives Settings (CEEAS) has selected the Division of Juvenile Corrections (DJC) to participate in a 15-month education reform initiative known as the Blended Learning Initiative.

The goal of the initiative is to implement comprehensive blended learning models, which combine face-to-face teaching with online instruction to improve student engagement and learning at schools operating in long-term secure juvenile facilities.

CEEAS is a non-profit organization that provides research-based, practitioner-ready support and training for direct service providers and policy-level organizations. CEEAS purpose is to maximize teaching and learning in alternative schools. Their mission is to help alternative schools in both community settings and locked facilities implement transformational, student-focused practices designed to significantly improve the life chances of the students they serve. CEEAS spends a significant portion of their time working with state juvenile justice agencies and their partner school districts to improve schools inside of short- and long-term secure care facilities.

DJC operates Copper Lake Girls School and Lincoln Hills School for Boys in Irma. The secured juvenile correctional facilities have certified teachers that provide individualized educational services to youth with wide ranges of learning abilities. Many of these students have failed in or are significantly behind in traditional school settings. In order to enhance the educational service delivery, teachers and various staff within DJC will be participating in several components of the 15-month initiative.

Beginning in July 2014, the first phase of the initiative will involve each participating agency sending a team to participate in a multi-day technology camp.

Second, the project focuses on teachers as change agents and innovators. Teachers from each school in the Blended Learning Initiative can apply to become Teaching and Innovation Fellows. The Fellows will represent their schools at the camp and throughout the year. They will have access to special training and opportunities to visit schools, and they (continued on page 2)
(continued from page 1)

will be eligible for innovation micro-grants that they can use to test out ideas in their classes.

Third, the Blended Learning Initiative emphasizes peer support and collaboration and directly confronts the isolation that many educators working in secure settings feel. CEEAS will facilitate communication among the participating agencies using the Edmodo platform, allowing teachers and administrators from around the country to work together, share ideas, and support each other.

“The Division of Juvenile Corrections is honored to have been selected for this initiative,” said DJC Administrator Cari Taylor. “This opportunity will further improve access, skills and resources for staff in order to deliver state of the art educational services and increase student success within the classroom.”

Twenty-three agencies applied to participate, and seven were selected: Alaska, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Oregon, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, along with Los Angeles County.

Welcome Home Kits Available

The Demeter Foundation, Inc. provides Welcome Home Kits to women who are re-entering the community. The women must be within 60 days and returning from the Wisconsin Women’s Correctional System to the following counties: Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Jefferson, Rock, Iowa and Sauk. The kits contain personal care items, socks, a resource directory, multi-vitamins, etc. There is a limit of one kit per person.

For more information, go to www.thedemeterfoundation.com or contact Alice F. Pauser at 608-298-3563.

Learn All About CEA-Wisconsin at:

www.ceawisconsin.org
CEA-Wisconsin Board Has New Look

At the CEA-Wisconsin Training Day in Elkhart Lake on May 5, President-Elect Laura Reisinger will assume the office of President of the Wisconsin State Chapter. She will be replacing Mary Stierna who has served on the CEA-Wisconsin Board since 2007 as President-Elect and President for two separate terms each.

For almost ten years, Laura has worked for Literacy Volunteers – Chippewa Valley. As Education Coordinator, she monitors, evaluates, and supports One-to-One, Workplace, Open Learning, Corrections and Citizenship programs. She supervises instructors in the Dunn, Chippewa and Eau Claire County Jails. She has also developed a class called, Vocational Literacy (How to Change Your Thinking to Get a Job). Last fall she was accepted into the first doctoral program at UW-Stout in Career & Technical Education. Laura is passionate about changing the lives of her students. She is particularly interested in how we change our thinking and the powerful effect thoughts have on our lives and learning. Laura is on the Wisconsin Literacy Board of Directors as Secretary and has served on the CEA-Wisconsin Board since May 2008.

Laurie Jarvis has been named President-Elect. She will serve in that office for two years and then succeed Laura Reisinger as President.

Laurie received her Masters from UW-Stevens Point in 2002 in Education. She has worked for Fox Valley Technical College since 1989. Laurie has a contagious enthusiasm for learning – teaching is her passion. She has had the opportunity to work with many different types of students: ELL, Family Literacy, Alternative High School, Business & Industry, GOAL, General Studies, and Incarcerated. Laurie is always amazed by how much she learns from her students and she hopes the lessons they learn from her are as powerful as the ones that they have taught her. Laurie has been teaching in a jail setting for approximately thirteen years. Her first experience was teaching at the Waushara County Work Release Center and presently she teaches at the Waushara County Jail. Laurie has served on the CEA-Wisconsin Board as Jail/Detention Center Representative since September 2007.

Selecting Laurie as President-Elect has resulted in two other board members shifting positions. Willa MacKenzie, who had served as an At-Large Representative, replaces Laurie as Jail/Detention Center Representative and Margaret Done, who had been Maximum/Minimum Security Representative, becomes an At-Large Representative.

New to the Board and serving as Maximum/Minimum Security Representative is Laurie Prochnow. Laurie started in corrections as a county jail instructor, worked for 10 years at Stanley Correctional Institution as both a teacher assistant and a teacher, and is now a teacher at Columbia Correctional Institution. Laurie has presented workshops at various CEA conferences over the years and serves on the board as the secretary for Wisconsin Institutions Literacy Council. She is a previous Honorable Mention winner of the Virginia Hart Award, which recognizes outstanding women in state government.

All of the other CEA-Wisconsin Board members up for election this year were unopposed and will be returning for another term. Continuing on the board are:

- Secretary – Sharon Nesenmann, WRC
- Treasurer – Ray Schlesinger, OCI
- Medium Security Representative – Dave Hines, OSCI
- State Agency Representative – Peggy Meyers, WTCS
- At-Large Representative/Newsletter Editor – Jerry Bednarowski

The new Board members will assume their offices at the May CEA-Wisconsin Board meeting.
OSCI’s Braille Transcription Program Serves International Market

Oshkosh Correctional Institution Education Director David Hines (left) and OSCI Program Director Kurt Pamperin (right) recently spoke to Lions Club members about the Braille transcription program that is conducted by OSCI inmates. The presentation occurred at a joint meeting of the Beaver Dam, Fox Lake and Waupun Lions clubs at the Rock River Country Club in Waupun.

The Braille transcription program has been in existence since July 1997. The program uniquely melds inmate rehabilitation through specialized vocational training while meeting a rapidly escalating need for high quality educational Braille material for the blind and visually impaired. Six inmates were enrolled as the pilot group and transcribed one book in the first year. Braille transcription is very labor intensive and is therefore uniquely suited to be a prison centered program.

The OSCI program has developed into a nationally known center of Braille production and received the 2004 Outstanding Contribution award from the Wisconsin Council of the Blind. It has been recognized as one of the top prison Braille transcription programs in the country.

Since its inception, 50 inmates have graduated from the program, and five former graduates have launched a successful community based Braille transcription service. The program has completed a total of 1,392 projects encompassing nearly four and a half million Braille pages. Eighty-five books were transcribed in 2013. The program has provided material to all 50 states and has recently done some projects for the international market.

In order to earn a Literary Braille Certification, an inmate must complete a nine month to one year long basic module, and must earn a passing grade of 80% to obtain Library of Congress certification. Successful students earn twelve credits from Fox Valley Technical College. Students also gain ancillary skills in the use of Braille translation software, production of tactile graphics on various media, use of embossing and binding equipment, quality control and interpersonal communication and teamwork. Besides producing Braille for the written word, the program also produces tactile graphics so that the blind are able to visualize maps, graphs, scientific diagrams and other illustrations that the sighted use to understand concepts in textbooks.

The program provides employment opportunities to staff and inmates as well as to individuals in the community. In the institution there is one staff supervisor certified in literary Braille. The program employs 12 inmate transcribers, two inmate students, and two ancillary inmate workers. Four blind or visually impaired Library of Congress certified proofreaders in the community are also utilized by the program. Three proofreaders earn an income from the OSCI Braille program while one proofreader logs volunteer hours. All provide valuable feedback to transcribers, and ensure the highest level of quality.

Educational projects produced by the program include textbooks for grades K-12 (all subjects), college textbooks (advanced courses in math, economics, statistics, and biology), university class lectures and
study assignments, maps and miscellaneous tactile graphics for use in class. All book titles that are transcribed to Braille are listed with the American Printing House for the Blind Louis Database for national internet access to allow potential users to determine what is available in Braille, as well as to prevent Braille transcription programs and services from duplicating a volume that is already transcribed.

In addition to educational materials provided by the program, recreational Braille books are provided free of charge to blind children in Wisconsin. WisBraille provides copies of the printed books, and the OSCI Braille program provides transcribers and production facilities to make these books usable by blind children. Over 4,000 copies of nearly 200 titles have been distributed in Standard Braille format as well as in Embossed Print format, in which transparent adhesive sheets with embossed Braille are placed over the print text to allow sighted family members and friends to read along.

The program is a win-win situation for both the inmates as well as for the blind community that it serves. It meets the DOC mission of offender reintegration. Inmates learn highly specialized skills related to Braille including hands on experience with advanced software programs and graphics media. The program provides meaningful work for incarcerated inmates and fosters a genuine sense of purpose and accomplishment. There is potential for employment in the field upon release and it is an avenue for community service. It also provides high-quality Braille resources for students in Wisconsin and across the country at significantly discounted rates as well as income for blind or visually impaired proofreaders.

by: John Bett
Lion’s Club Newsletter

Thank You Exhibitors

One of the key elements that contribute to the success of the CEA-Wisconsin Training Day are the exhibitors who display the latest materials that correctional educators may use in their classrooms. The CEA-W board would like to thank the following vendors for participating in this year’s Training Day:

- Adult Education Specialists/New Reader’s Press - Ann Beeson
- edmentum, Inc. - Paul Osen
- GreyStone Educational Materials - Ted Harms
- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publisher/Steck Vaughn - Jayne Schultz
- McGraw-Hill Education/Contemporary - Dan Helms
- ModuMath - Bob Khouri
- InfoCor - Mike Palecek & Shawn McLoughlin

The CEA-Wisconsin Board would like to thank McGraw-Hill Education/Contemporary for sponsoring the afternoon break

Paper or Electronic?

Do you like the feel and smell of paper? Are you a techno-phobe? Or are you comfortable with doing all of your reading electronically and want to “bring it on?” To CEA-Wisconsin, the most important thing is that our members are able to conveniently access the information we make available.

If you are a CEA-Wisconsin member and prefer to have paper copies of our CEA-Wisconsin or Parenting Connection newsletters, we are happy to continue to send paper copies to you. If you would prefer not to be burdened with a paper copy and only want an electronic copy, we will email you the newsletters.

If you haven’t told us your preference, please email me at jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com to let me know – paper or electronic? If you choose the electronic format, send me the email address to which you would like the electronic newsletters sent.
A New Approach for Reducing Reincarceration and Joblessness

In September 2013, the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center released *Integrated Reentry and Employment Strategies: Reducing Recidivism and Promoting Job Readiness*, a white paper that provides a new tool that can be used as a starting point for cross-systems collaborations to reduce reincarceration and unemployment among adults with criminal histories. It presents guidance to policymakers, corrections and community supervision administrators, and workforce development providers on how to make the best use of scarce resources by using objective, assessment-based approaches that take into account individuals’ risk of future criminal behavior, level of job readiness, and their need for services in order to produce better reentry, employment, and public safety outcomes.

The paper was developed in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, with additional guidance from the U.S. Department of Labor. It builds on work done by the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the Center for Employment Opportunities, as well as work done by the policy research organization, Public/Private Ventures.

With expert guidance from a diverse advisory committee made up of researchers, reentry practitioners, workforce development practitioners, and policy experts, the paper provides the following:

- An overview of the Risk-Need-Responsivity principles which are used by criminal justice professionals to identify individuals’ risk of recidivism and to allocate resources and services
- A summary of workforce development program components for improving employment outcomes for hard-to-employ individuals, particularly for adults with criminal records
- Five principles of effective service delivery that can be applied to employment programs to address the distinct needs of adults involved in the corrections system
- A new “Resource-Allocation and Service-Matching Tool” to help guide the decision making of workforce and corrections policymakers and practitioners

Complementing the paper’s findings, the CSG Justice Center unveiled its new one-stop, online toolkit on reentry and employment that provides the latest information on legal, policy, and other common barriers faced by the reentry population. It also provides tools and resources to help the policymakers and practitioners understand how to address these barriers through policy and practice.

To read the white paper or view the online toolkit, go to http://csgjusticecenter.org/reentry/the-reentry-and-employment-project/. The Council of State Governments Justice Center is a national nonprofit organization that serves policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels from all branches of government. It provides practical, nonpartisan advice and consensus-driven strategies to increase public safety and strengthen communities.

Want to Learn More about Education in Prisons and Jails?

CEA–Wisconsin can bring an excellent resource to your classroom, church or community organization to provide presentations, workshops, and question and answer sessions so you can learn more about our efforts to transform the lives of the incarcerated. If you would to have a speaker for your event, contact CEA-Wisconsin Board Member Jerry Bednarowski at jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com or 920-734-5902.

To join CEA go to: www.ceanational.org
SDC to Host Spring Job and Resource Fair

On Saturday, May 31, the Social Development Commission (SDC) will host its Spring Job and Resource Fair. The event which is free and open to the public will be held from 10 am to 3 pm at Journey House located at 2110 W. Scott Street in Milwaukee. It will have employment, job training, driver’s license recovery, child support debt reduction, healthcare awareness, financial education, educational, housing and public safety resources. There will also be a number of free on-site health screenings. Several groups that work with people who have been incarcerated will be participating at the fair.

The Social Development Commission’s mission is: “Empowering Milwaukee County residents with the resources to move beyond poverty.” For the past 50 years, SDC has served as a planner, coordinator, and provider of human service programs for low-income individuals and families in Milwaukee County.

The Commission is comprised of 18 citizens residing in Milwaukee County, each of whom holds the title of Commissioner. One-third of the Commissioners are elected representatives of low-income residents of the county, one-third of the Commissioners are appointed as representatives of public officials, and one-third of the Commissioners are appointed as representatives of the private sector.

With its vision of ensuring that all Milwaukee County residents will have equal access to the resources needed to help them achieve economic self-sufficiency, the SDC believes that all individuals are to be treated and valued with compassion, dignity, and respect. To fulfill its vibrant and necessary role as Milwaukee County’s Community Action Agency, the SDC is involved in the following activities:

- **Research:** Analyzes and studies the factors that prevent Milwaukee County residents from participating fully in social and economic institutions
- **Fostering Collaboration:** Works in partnership with public and private institutions, community groups, and low-income people to fulfill community needs and minimize duplication of services
- **Planning:** Recommends solutions for the County’s social problems, plans for implementation of solutions, coordinates efforts, and provides technical assistance to community groups to solve these problems
- **Advocacy:** Advocates for greater participation in community affairs and creates ways to help the economically or otherwise disadvantaged achieve self-sufficiency and independence
- **Program Operation/Incubation:** Cooperates with other governmental and nongovernmental organizations to pilot, launch, and operate services
- **Program Evaluation:** Analyzes, evaluates, and monitors the effectiveness of programs
- **Human Relations:** Actively works to fight racism and build an inclusive society

SDC operates more than 25 programs designed to improve the overall quality of life for low-income residents. Through the five core service areas of asset development, family strengthening, employment, education and training/support services; SDC provides the services to over 80,000 people annually:

If you would like more information on the Spring Job and Resource Fair or would like to be an exhibitor, please contact Diane Robinson at drobinson@cr-sdc.org.

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69th Annual CEA Conference

Education & Technology: The Pathway to Reentry

June 22 - 25, 2014

Hilton Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia
2014 Friends of Correctional Education Award

Do you know someone who has been noteworthy in their support of correctional education?

This person may be a volunteer who contributes time and effort to an education program, a community agency employee who has presented special workshops, a business person who has donated funds or materials to make programs more effective, or an advocate of correctional education in some way. If such person has contributed to your facility’s education program, submit his/her name to the Correctional Education Association-Wisconsin for the “Friends of Correctional Education Award.”

Nominees cannot be employed by the Department of Corrections, Department of Health and Family Services, or a county jail.

Friends of Correctional Education Nomination Form

Name:________________________________________________________

Contribution to Correctional Education:
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________

Nominator’s Name:______________________________________________

Institution:____________________________________________________

Deadline: July 1, 2014

Submit your entry to:

Margaret Done
CEA-Wisconsin Awards Committee
Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center
21425A Spring Street, Union Grove, WI 53182
Phone: 262-878-6000 x5017
Email: margaret.done@wisconsin.gov
CEA-Wisconsin
2014 Scholarship Program

This year CEA-Wisconsin has increased the amount of the scholarship it will be awarding to $1000. One scholarship will go to a CEA-Wisconsin member or a member’s spouse or dependent.

Purpose: The CEA-Wisconsin Scholarship Award Program is designed to assist CEA-W members or their spouses/dependents that are pursuing a degree at an accredited university or technical college.

Scholarships Details: CEA-Wisconsin endows a scholarship of $1000. The scholarship will be awarded to a CEA-W member who is furthering his/her education in the education or library services field or a CEA-W member’s spouse or dependent who is pursuing a university or technical college degree in any field. The recipient must provide verification of enrollment in an accredited university or technical college.

Eligibility:
☑ Applicant must be a current CEA-W member, member’s spouse, or member’s dependent.
☑ Applicant must be pursuing (full or part-time) a graduate, undergraduate, or technical degree at an accredited university or technical college.
☑ Applicant must be entering his/her freshman, sophomore, junior, senior year, or graduate school. First year students must have been officially accepted by the college/university they plan to attend.
☑ Past winners are not eligible.

Application: Applicants must complete the application form that can be found on the www.ceawisconsin.org website, provide all required attachments, and submit the entire package to the address below no later than July 1, 2014. Incomplete or late application packages will not be accepted for consideration.

Selection: The scholarship recipients will be selected by the CEA-Wisconsin Board. Criteria for selection will include academic record, financial need, as well as school, community, or association activities. Recipients will be notified in writing.

For more information contact:

Holly Audley
CEA-Wisconsin Scholarship Committee
Office of the Secretary/Reentry Unit
Wisconsin Department of Corrections
3099 East Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53704
608-240-5022
holly.audley@wisconsin.gov
President’s Message

I recently went through years’ worth of CEA-W newsletters researching the Creativity Contest for a presentation several of us were giving at the Region III & IV conference in Minnesota. We have a very active chapter with members doing great things in our correctional facilities. It was a nice walk down memory lane. I realized that we have held the Creativity Contest for 14 years! The book from the 2013 contest will be out very soon.

I’ve enjoyed the past two years serving as the President of the Wisconsin chapter of CEA. I’ve had the opportunity to meet many wonderful people in our state that are devoted to correctional education. I want to thank the CEA-W Board of Directors for all of your hard work. You are an awesome group of people to work with and are very dedicated to promoting correctional education.

The new President of CEA-W is Laura Reisinger from Literacy Volunteers Chippewa Valley. Laura has been on the board for many years and has played an integral role in the planning of our annual May Training Day. Laurie Jarvis from Fox Valley Technical College is Presiden-Elect and Laurie Prochnow from Columbia Correctional has joined the board. Wisconsin is in good hands!

Many thanks to the CEA-W Board and members,

Mary
mary.davies@wisconsin.gov