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## Correctional Education Association - Wisconsin

### Wisconsin Prisoners Eligible for Second Chance Pell Grants

Division of Adult Institutions Education Director Margaret Carpenter has confirmed that Milwaukee Area Technical College in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections has been awarded for a \$1.45 million Pell Grant to serve 250 inmates.

Programs included in the grant are Technical College Certificates, Diplomas and Associate Degrees in a number of pre-identified areas.

Sixteen institutions have been identified for inmate/student participation:

- Eleven Medium Male Institutions – FLCI, JCI, KMCI, MSDF, NLCI, OSCI, PDCI, RCI, RGCI, RYOCF, SCI
- Three Minimum Male Institution – FCC, MSCC, OCI
- One Medium Female Institution – TCI
- One Minimum Female Center – REECC

After receiving 200 applications from throughout the nation, the U.S. Department of Education released in June a list of 67 colleges and universities chosen for a pilot program that will offer Pell Grants to incarcerated students. The colleges will offer need-based grants to prisoners pursuing a degree. The grants are part of a series of education and jobs programs, all focused on helping former prisoners re-enter their communities and find work.

The Second Chance Pell Grant program will enroll 12,000 prisoners at more than 100 correctional institutions across the country. It's geared toward prisoners likely to be released within the next five years.

Most of the colleges chosen will offer classes in person at the correctional facilities, while some will offer online classes. Many also plan to offer a range of support services and tailor their instruction to local labor markets.

"This belief in second chances is fundamental to who we are as Americans," John King Jr., the Department of Education Secretary, said.

The 67 schools that were Department of Education finalists are a mix of two-year and four-year institutions from across the country. King said that student recruitment, student success and compliance with student aid programs all played a role in the decision process.

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While most prisoners have been ineligible for Pell Grants since the U.S. Congress banned the aid in 1994, the Department of Education has authority to waive certain federal rules for the benefit of experimentation. “That ban remains in place until Congress acts,” King said. “We are using our experimental authority under the Higher Education Act to support this pilot.”

The Department of Education’s argument is also financial. King cited a study of prisoner education from the RAND Corporation which concludes that for every dollar invested in prison education, four to five dollars are saved on reincarceration costs. “Second Chance Pell will allow us to measure the costs and benefits of this approach,” he said.

While the new program is a “step in the right direction,” he added, “It’s not the entire solution.” He said that more institutions would likely express interest if Congress restores broad Pell access – or if the Obama administration’s 2017 budget goes through.

King also emphasized that the program, which will not affect any other Pell awardees, is only a small part of the overall Pell budget – “less than one tenth of 1% of total Pell spending.”

Margaret Carpenter will be disseminating more information on the Wisconsin DOC participation in the second Chance Pell Grant program as it becomes available.

## Highlighting Vocational Education

We would like to highlight a DOC vocational program in each issue of the CEA-Wisconsin newsletter. The article could describe the content of the program, skills learned, job prospects on release and special projects related to the program. Pictures of student activities or products produced could be included.

If you would like to contribute an article on your vocational program, contact the CEA-Wisconsin newsletter editor at [jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com](mailto:jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com) .

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<b>Executive Officers</b>		<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Articles for publication may be submitted to the CEA-W News Review Editor Jerry Bednarowski at: <a href="mailto:jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com">jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com</a></p>
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# Sue Kastensen Honored as Champion of Change

On Wednesday, April 27, the White House recognized ten individuals from across the country as “White House Champions of Change for Expanding Fair Chance Opportunities.” These individuals were selected by the White House for their leadership and tireless work to remove barriers to a second chance for those with a criminal record. The Champions of Change program was created as an opportunity for the White House to feature individuals doing extraordinary things to empower and inspire members of their communities.

One of the ten individuals honored for working to provide those with criminal records a second chance was Sue Kastensen, founder and executive director of Fair Shake, a web- and software-based reentry resource center.

At the ceremony, Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch gave a moving talk about “a basic human need” we all share: “to be seen and recognized for being the person who we are.” The program also featured remarks by Senior Advisor to the President Valerie Jarrett, Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates, and Labor Deputy Secretary Chris Lu. The event highlighted the growing list of public and private sector organizations that have stepped up to provide a second chance, including local governments that have passed “ban the box” ordinances and companies that have signed the White House Fair Chance Business Pledge.

The idea for Fair Shake took root in 1999, when an employee in Sue’s business asked if she would consider hiring a friend who would soon be released from prison. Sue interviewed and hired the individual, learned a great deal about crime, prison, reentry and recidivism, and started building on an idea. By 2005, Sue sold her business and in 2009 launched Fair Shake. Today, Fair Shake provides a number of free resources to currently and formerly incarcerated individuals including a free office in the Clouds for formerly incarcerated individuals which includes data storage, email and a personal web page. The Fair Shake software and limited internet access website is also available in state prisons in Idaho, Maine, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Washington.

While Sue was in Washington DC, Representative Ron Kind met with her to congratulate her on the recognition and discuss the important work Fair Shake is doing back home in Wisconsin. “Congratulations to Fair Shake and Sue Kastensen for being named a Champion of Change for Expanding Fair Chance Opportunities. It is an enormous and well-deserved honor. I am impressed by the work Fair Shake is doing to help recently released and incarcerated individuals to prepare to reenter society and the job market. It is not an easy transition, and we must all work together to find ways to lower the recidivism rate and break the endless cycle of incarceration,” said Representative Kind.

Taking time to travel to Washington DC to receive the Champion of Change honor has not slowed the Fair Shake momentum.

In the last two months, Fair Shake has updated its software which includes study guides created by Terrell Hall to accompany the Fair Shake Reentry Packet and two other reentry study guides created within the incarcerated community. Fair Shake is looking forward to adding more! It has many new resources, voting information, correspondence course information, and a brand new page called “Documentos en Español” which it is being built as quickly as possible.

Fair Shake is moving forward, slowly but surely on two other big projects. Fair Shake hopes to create a full-time position focused exclusively on building its Resource Directory, and one day sending resources from its directory to those who ask for them. Since there is NO federal or state or ‘other’ funding for a

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national reentry resource data base, building of the Resource Directory is dependent on funding being secured from private donations.

Fair Shake is also expanding and improving “best reentry practices” with the incarcerated community. Several types of groupings of individuals are taking shape – from Think Tanks, to Reentry Councils, to coaching groups, Round Tables, self-studiers and others. Fair Shake would like to provide a hub for sharing and exploring ideas for personal development and reentry considerations.

The other nine individuals recognized as White House Champions of Change for Expanding Fair Chance Opportunities are:

### **Samantha Galarneau**

Galarneau serves as Executive Vice President at California Marketing Group (CMG), a business process outsourcing vendor headquartered in San Diego, California. Over the past 20 years, Galarneau has developed a company culture that focuses on the current qualities of candidates. Her re-entry advocacy has helped foster a diverse and successful workforce. Since 2006, CMG has trained and relied upon federal inmates in the Federal Prison Industries, Inc. work program to perform tele-servicing functions on behalf of its customers. This relationship has been so successful that the call center operation was expanded to a second correctional facility in Tallahassee, Florida. Both locations operate outbound call centers and, together, employ more than 300 federal inmates. To date, over 100 formerly-incarcerated individuals have been provided a direct opportunity with CMG, and more than a 1,000 opportunities have been provided through partnerships and business relationships developed by Galarneau.

### **Tina Naidoo**

Naidoo is a licensed clinical social worker serving as the executive director for the Texas Offenders Reentry Initiative (TORI), a prisoner reentry program of the Potter’s House Church in Dallas, Texas led by Bishop T. D. Jakes. Through the vision of Bishop T. D. Jakes, and under Tina’s leadership, TORI has helped reduce the rate of recidivism by serving more than 10,000 returning citizens and their families, over the past 10 years, through a 12-month intensive case management program that offers formerly incarcerated individuals the opportunity for a second chance by providing solutions to the many barriers they face upon release. The TORI program has a recidivism rate of 11% through its holistic approach to core needs: Employment, Housing, Healthcare, Family Reunification, and Spiritual Guidance.

### **Dorsey Nunn**

Nunn is Executive Director of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children and co-founder of All of Us or None, an organization that supports formerly incarcerated individuals. Since 2003, Nunn has been at the forefront of a movement where formerly incarcerated individuals speak in their own voices, transform their lives and communities, and fully participate in all aspects of society. All of Us or None originated and continues to expand the “Ban the Box” campaign – a nationwide effort to eliminate structural discrimination based on conviction history in employment, housing, education, social services and other areas. Nunn and his organization have been involved in efforts to “ban the box” on employment applications in local and state governments and in some of the largest corporations in the country. Formerly incarcerated himself, Dorsey holds numerous prestigious awards for over thirty-five years of work on prison reform and social justice.

### **Juan Perez**

Perez has served in the Miami-Dade Police Department since 1990 and was appointed to be the Director of the Miami-Dade Police Department by Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez in 2016. Throughout his extensive law-enforcement career, he has served as in Police Services, Criminal Investigations, Homeland Security, and Robbery and as Chief in the Police Services’ South Operations Division and Deputy Director. The Miami-Dade Police Department has prioritized training its workforce on Crisis Intervention, so that the mentally ill persons are treated rather than incarcerated. In addition, Director Perez participates in the Re-entry Council Committee of the Miami-Dade Criminal Justice Council ensuring

comprehensive local re-entry programs. He has recently developed the Youth Outreach Unit which helps at-risk children at an early age in an effort to break the cycle of violence.

### **Gregory P. Razo**

Razo is an Alaska Native and shareholder of Cook Inlet Region, Inc., an Alaska Native Corporation which supports his efforts to improve Alaska's civil and criminal justice systems. He serves as Chairman of the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission charged with evaluating and making recommendations to improve criminal laws and practices – keeping in mind the goals of enhancing public safety, offender rehabilitation and victim restitution and reducing costs. Alaska is in the midst of omnibus criminal justice reform legislation that is based upon the Commission's policy recommendations to the Alaska Legislature. Razo also serves as Vice Chair of the tribal non-profit Alaska Native Justice Center that addresses the unmet needs of Alaska Natives impacted by the increasing disproportionate rates of victimization, incarceration and other justice-related issues inherent in the Alaska civil and criminal justice system.

### **Carrie Ann Schubert**

Schubert is the President of the Beaverton Bakery, which has been a community landmark since 1925 and in the Schubert family since 1965. The Beaverton Bakery started its Second Chance Program ten years ago but the business has been providing second chance opportunities since it was founded. The program was developed in partnership with Judge Thomas W. Kohl who presided over the Washington County Adult Drug Treatment Court. The program focuses on teaching bakery skills as part of an effort to help individuals transition back to the community after being released from prison. Since the program was founded, Beaverton Bakery has trained and hired over 200 formerly incarcerated individuals.

### **Robert Scott**

Robert Scott, PhD, is Executive Director of the Cornell Prison Education Program (CPEP) at Cornell University. CPEP provides college-level liberal arts education to qualified incarcerated students in upstate New York prisons. CPEP is a response to the challenge of mass incarceration in the United States: too many people in prison with too few opportunities for education and rehabilitation. CPEP demonstrates the transformative power of higher education in prison. Former students of the program have gone on to serve as role models in the community, participating in civic life and finding gainful employment in spite of the myriad challenges that face formerly incarcerated individuals. Under Robert's tenure, the program has expanded to three prisons and is serving approximately 200 incarcerated individuals this year. Robert is also known for his leadership in increasing collaboration in the field, contributing to the formation of a New York statewide consortium, as well as a national consortium for higher education in prison.

### **Roby So**

So is a Re-Entry Program Manager at the Executive Clemency Initiative, part of Stanford Law School's Justice Advocacy Project. Since becoming involved in 2012, So has provided support for both federal and state inmates returning home after long sentences, often meeting them at the prison gates. Having served in California's prison system for 12 years, he has used his experience as an inmate to help released prisoners reintegrate into society. In 2015, So was featured in a New York Times Magazine article on reintegrating the formerly incarcerated. He also serves as an example for formerly incarcerated individuals by working full time as post production supervisor in the entertainment industry, proving that hard work and determination can overcome barriers.

### **Sabra Williams**

Williams is an actress and the founder and Director of the Actors' Gang Prison Project. The Prison Project conducts eight-week theatre workshops inside the California prison system and has developed programs at the California Institution for Men, California Institution for Women, California Rehabilitation Center, Lancaster State Prison, Ironwood State Prison, and New Folsom Prison. As one of the only remaining arts programs inside California's correctional system, The Prison Project fosters tolerance and nonviolent expression while significantly reducing recidivism rates.

# Chroma Key (Green Screen) Photos: How Has It Worked at SCI?

Technology is moving ahead day by day. When educators face budget cuts and limited resources they sometimes turn to ingenuity. They find new uses for old things. At Stanley Correctional Institution, teacher Lori Koenig is facilitating the use of green screen technology in creating photo and video products. The end result of these efforts will be digital images that are custom and unique.

The digital images are broken into layers. With the help of photo editing software, the green surrounding a digital photo can be pulled out and become transparent. The next step is to swap in a new digital image or layer right behind the subject. This resulting chromakey image has a new background and can be saved as such. You could easily print off a photo of someone at the Taj Mahal or the Great Wall of China.

## Why does the neon green work best?

The most important factor is contrast. In order to isolate one area from the rest, the background color must be distinctly different. The bright, neon green is generally not found within the natural colorings of people and the clothing they wear. Other colors may be utilized; however the editing time for the individual photos will increase.

## How it has worked at SCI?

After permission from administration, a period of green screen exploration began. It all started with a few dollar store plastic tablecloths affixed to a bulletin board. The subject stood in front of the wall where the first digital photos were taken and then merged with new background layers. The plastic tablecloth did not work very well. Eventually some green paint was purchased and a full wall (10' tall x 8' wide) was painted for taking the digital photos.



After the digital images are captured, they are edited on a stand-alone computer with the Adobe Creative Suite 6 software. Lori Koenig then takes responsibility for locating a volunteer to edit the digital images. She also oversees the transfer of high-resolution background images to be used for the layering effect. (No one is ever pictured at the Taj Mahal.)

## Graduation Photos

Every other month, a graduation photo shoot is held in front of the green wall to provide a free photo in cap and gown. The graduates are presented with one 4x6 image with their choice of 6 backgrounds. The photo is prepared and delivered. The inmate can then choose to purchase additional photos after they approve the first one.



## Fathers With Books

Twice a year, the chroma key backdrop is used to take photos of fathers as they read to their children. Within this family literacy project, a DVD is created and sent off to the child where they can see their father reading age appropriate stories. Using chroma key, a photo right out of the story is merged behind the reader. So Curious George can appear right on the TV screen next to "Dad" while he reads that same story.

## The Software Used: Adobe Creative Suite 6

The project makes use of state of the art editing software, handed down from the CAD vocational program in operation at SCI. For photos, Adobe Photoshop is used to edit and add layers. An approximate 10 minutes of time is spent on each photo. For the Fathers With Books videos, three components are used. Adobe Photoshop is used to take a photo from the children's book. Adobe Premier takes the raw video from the camera and edits out mistakes. Adobe Encore is used to convert the raw video image to a DVD format and menus are added. This complete process uses a stand-alone computer.

For more information about how Stanley Correctional Institution uses green screen technology, contact Lori Koenig at [lori.koenig@wisconsin.gov](mailto:lori.koenig@wisconsin.gov).

By: Lori Koenig, SCI

# Tutors Provide Struggling Learners One-on-One Attention

Wisconsin Department of Corrections collaborates with Wisconsin Literacy, Inc. to train literacy tutors for academic programs. Tutors are trained using Pro-Literacy of America standards. DOC participates in the 1200 Tutors which is a grant opportunity that Wisconsin Literacy and Alliant Energy provide to participating agencies. Tutors are trained to assist people with low or no literacy levels in their communities. Tutors help people learn to read signs, read recipes, read the bible, pass drivers tests, pass citizenship exams, pass GED testing, or achieve any literacy goal the student has.

The inmate tutors who are trained and work in institution classrooms bring a wealth of background knowledge from prior employment and life experiences. Previous tutors working in my school were a Masters level Engineer working with College Math students, Bachelors level Liberal Arts tutors working with HSED and Special Education students, former members of the military who model self-discipline in addition to literacy skills that many of my students do not possess.

Tutors are held to a higher standard in the school setting because they are also role-models for students. They are required to possess a high level of academic performance, exhibit behavior that is exemplary, have the patience of a saint, and be able to become non-partisan when disagreements between teacher and students occur.

Graduation speeches by students often include heartfelt thank you's to tutors who have helped them be successful in the academic setting. Teachers with full classes of students appreciate the one-on-one attention tutors give to struggling learners.

by: Mary Pohlman, KMCI

**Learn All About CEA-Wisconsin at:**  
**[www.ceawisconsin.org](http://www.ceawisconsin.org)**

# WRC Vocational Workshop Provides Unique Work Setting

For the past 13 years, the Vocational Workshop at the Wisconsin Resource Center has taken on as one of its program projects the printing and collating of the CEA-Wisconsin and Parenting Connection newsletters, as well as programs for CEA-Wisconsin Training Days. The CEA-W Board wishes to thank Program Supervisor Kellyn Simonson-Zaremba, Therapist Supervisor; Program Coordinator Sara Werner, Therapist; and these past and present facilitators for their reliable and quality work.

**Past Facilitators:**

- Sarah Beahm, Therapist
- Jennifer Guenther, Therapist
- Tom Mohelnitzky, Teacher
- Dan Smithback, Teacher

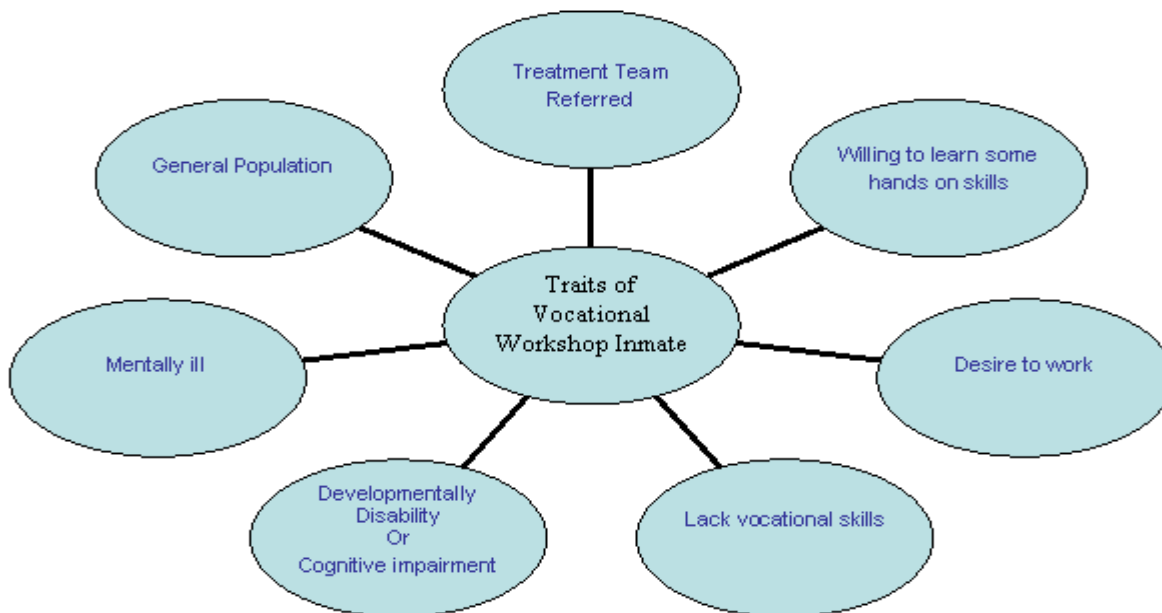
**Present Facilitators:**

- James Blaskowski, Therapist
- Cara Edwards, Teacher
- Jim O'Keefe, Teacher

The Vocational Workshop is one of WRC's Multi-Disciplinary Programs that is unique in its work setting in that it is calm and non-threatening and encourages quality of work at a pace appropriate for each individual. It is designed to teach hands on job skills to a select group of inmates at WRC. The Vocational Workshop Program has two ambitions to: 1) provide the inmate worker hands on skills and 2) improve work behaviors. When the inmate returns to the community or another institution, the learned skills will better equip him for the opportunity for employment. This in turn will give him a better chance to succeed as a productive member of society.

Referrals are based on the following criteria:

- Diagnosis of a developmental disability and/or cognitive impairment
- Lack of basic vocational skills that would provide for gainful employment in a community workshop setting or another adult institution
- General Population status



**Community Service Projects:**

A long time Community Service Project in which the Vocational Workshop is involved is preparing box tops and soup labels for area school fundraisers. The many schools we work with are grateful for the help and the inmate workers have an opportunity to contribute back to the community.



**In-House Services:**

In-house services make up a large part of the Vocational Workshop’s workload. Examples of in-house services provided by the inmates are:

- Laminating posters, papers, booklet covers, institutions passes, group materials
- Binding booklets
- Stuffing and sealing envelopes
- Folding newsletters
- Variety of recycling projects
- Shredding paper to be recycled
- Cleaning yoga mats
- Laundry – cleaning and folding aprons, dish towels, cleaning rags and towels, and blankets from various classrooms and fitness rooms
- Preparing popcorn for class and unit programming
- Preparing notepads and scratch paper
- General cleaning and maintaining the workshop - sweeping and mopping, dusting, maintaining machinery and equipment in the workshop, stocking shelves, organizing
- Forms corrections
- Making inmate checkbooks for specific units
- Various collating, cutting and assembly jobs for departments throughout the institution
- Cleaning mail and property bins
- Cleaning ceramics molds

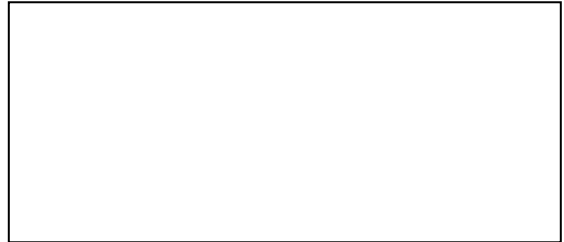
Inmates complete an application, participate in an interview, receive a tour, and participate in a two week trial period prior to beginning their training in the workshop. Inmates are responsible for completing a timesheet where they record their hours of work. Leadership opportunities are available for inmates to mentor other workers in the program. Workers are assessed on their performance and are able to earn pay raises.

Vocational Workshop Program has two ambitions: to provide the inmate worker hands on skills and improve work behaviors. Examples of desired outcomes:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• safety</li> <li>• interpersonal skills</li> <li>• communication</li> <li>• staying on task</li> <li>• performing repetitious tasks</li> <li>• multi-tasking</li> <li>• maintaining professional attitudes toward peers/supervisors</li> <li>• increasing work endurance</li> <li>• dressing appropriately for work</li> <li>• being punctual</li> <li>• demonstrating good personal hygiene and appearance</li> <li>• working independently</li> <li>• seeking assistance appropriately</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• responding to feedback and criticism</li> <li>• self-monitoring work</li> <li>• effectively communicating</li> <li>• maintaining a positive attitude toward work activities</li> <li>• handling conflict</li> <li>• completing work accurately and timely</li> <li>• following instructions, organizing work efficiently</li> <li>• completing tasks in individual deadline period</li> <li>• demonstrating knowledge of safety issues and policies</li> <li>• demonstrating safe judgment with equipment and materials.</li> </ul>
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## President's Message

I look forward to serving as the President of CEA-Wisconsin for the next two years. I teach full time for Fox Valley Technical College and part of my teaching assignment finds me at the Waushara County Jail two days a week. I have twenty-five years of teaching experience with FVTC and have had several tremendous teaching opportunities. As the CEA-W Board starts the new term, I hope we are able to provide the training and support our members find helpful and supportive. Remember to check both the CEA-Wisconsin website and the CEA National website for the latest events.

I am excited to attend the 71st CEA International Conference & Training Event, *Correctional Education: Key to Successful Transitions and Promising Futures*, at the Long Beach Hilton Hotel in Long Beach, California on July 31- August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Willa MacKenzie and I will be presenting *Jail Break- Tips and Tricks for Maintaining a High Interest County Jail Classroom*. We will discuss how to operate a classroom lending library in a county jail setting and numerous ways in which reading can be encouraged.

*Laurie*

[jarvis@fvtc.edu](mailto:jarvis@fvtc.edu)

**He who opens a school door, closes a prison.**

**Victor Hugo**