Teacher of the Year Creates a Transformative Environment

“A dedicated pedagogical professional, Jim has served a diverse population of learners at all ability levels. He has truly found his calling in the field of correctional education.”

This is the assessment of James Svitavsky and the contribution he has made over the past nine years as a teacher at Kettle Moraine and Waupun Correctional Institutions by his colleague Ray Schlesinger in his letter nominating Jim for the Correctional Education Association-Wisconsin Teacher of the Year Award.

In recognition of Jim’s enthusiasm, dedication and tireless work, the CEA-Wisconsin Executive Board is proud to name Jim Svitavsky as the 2016 Wisconsin Correctional Teacher of the Year

(continued on page 3)
Grant Enables PROVEN Program to Expand

In 2013, Western Technical College in La Crosse, Wisconsin was one of only three organizations in the country to receive a Department of Education grant focused on bridging the gap between prison and community-based education and training programs.

The funding was used to expand existing educational opportunities Western offered in the La Crosse County Jail. It allowed the college develop community partnerships that would help incarcerated individuals overcome barriers to completing their education.

The successful program led to a second grant in 2015, called PROVEN to Work, which is part of the Improved Re-Entry Education grant through the Department of Education. PROVEN stands for Positive Reentry Offered through Vocation- and Education-Focused Narratives. This three-year, $1 million grant will continue the work of the first PROVEN grant and expand services beyond La Crosse County to Monroe and Trempealeau County Jails.

The additional funding will also focus on building career pathways through educational opportunities in the jail and increasing transition into programs at Western. The goal is to create an easy transition from classroom experience to workplace experience by developing industry-recognized credentials that can serve as a first step to increasing levels of education and skill attainment. This approach allows students with barriers to have multiple entry points to college programs and the opportunity to build on their education without losing ground while they navigate obstacles.

This unique hybrid of career education and program offerings ladders into employment areas to create job stability and, ultimately, to decrease recidivism.

For more information on the IRE grants and Re-Entry Education Model, read the White House Fact Sheet or the U.S. Department of Education’s Implementation Study.

To join CEA go to: www.ceanational.org
Prior to beginning his career with the DOC, Jim had worked for 14 years as an At-Risk and Special Education Teacher at Lake Park High School in Roselle, IL, Carl Von Linne School in Chicago, IL, Garretts Middle School in Kimberly, WI, Hortonville High School in Hortonville, WI and Custer High School in Milwaukee, WI.

Jim has a Bachelor Degree from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point with majors in Political Science and Sociology and a minor in Psychology. He also has a Master of Education Degree in Special Education Pre-K-12 with an emphasis in Learning Disabilities and Emotion Disturbed from National Louis University. Jim has also completed 12 credits of coursework in William Glasser Choice Theory.

In his years with DOC, Jim has taught Human Sexuality, Parenting, Special Education, GED Social Studies, Civics, Health, Employability, Work Place Success, Student Success, Occupational Communication, ABE Language Arts, ABE Math and Science.

Jim has taken the lead in creating an accessible Civics course curriculum for the Department of Corrections which allows a wider spectrum of learners to succeed.

Jim has also implemented the first academic program on the Behavioral Health Unit at the Waupun Correctional Institution. These learners have improved their reading levels significantly, and at the same time complemented their therapies. Jim’s unique background in special education allows the holistic integration of instruction and social functionality.

Jim’s educational philosophy is rooted in reverence for in the education process. He believes, “My job is to provide purposeful curriculum, which yields productive citizens.”

Jim believes that we need to respect our students enough and believe them enough that we ask them questions like:
- Who am I?
- What will I do with my new knowledge?
- How does my action or inaction affect others?
- What legacy will I leave?

Teaching through innovative or traditional ways, Jim seeks to develop a classroom environment that allows for the skills and knowledge gained to be transformative.

Jim has been a member of CEA since he started his tenure with the Department of Corrections. He has presented workshops at CEA-Wisconsin Training Days and Region III & IV Conferences including the workshops on “Using Personal Experiences to Increase Student Reflection on Holistic Assessments” and “Starting an Educational Program on a Behavioral Health Unit.”

The CEA-Wisconsin Executive Board is pleased to recognize Jim Svitavsky as the 2016 Wisconsin Correctional Teacher of the Year. Jim will receive a plaque attesting to his achievement and a $250 stipend. He will be furnished expenses to represent Wisconsin at the Region III & IV CEA Conference on May 2-3 at the Ramada Inn in Bloomington, Minneapolis. If he is selected as the Region III Teacher of the Year, Jim will be furnished expenses to attend the 71th Annual CEA International Conference and Training Event on July 31-August 3 at the Hilton Long Beach in Long Beach, California.

Learn All About CEA-Wisconsin at:
www.ceawisconsin.org
CEA-Wisconsin Training Days
May 2-3, 2016
The Osthoff Resort
Elkhart Lake, WI

The CEA-Wisconsin Board of Directors is pleased to host the CEA-Wisconsin Teacher Training Days on Monday and Tuesday, May 2-3, 2016 at the beautiful Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake. The Conference Planning Committee is busy constructing a wide array workshops focusing on literacy, county jails, juveniles, library services, professional development, and other areas. Also featured will be vendor displays and a silent auction. The Wisconsin Correctional Teacher of the Year will also be honored.

Make plans to join the more than 200 educators representing state adult and juvenile institutions, county jails and detention centers, Wisconsin technical colleges and local literacy organizations who will attend.

Recently, the educators who work in the Department of Corrections were surveyed about what they wanted to see at this conference. We had a tremendous response rate of 64% and took very seriously the feedback from 153 people who participated. The Conference Planning Committee is working hard to make this conference an excellent professional development opportunity. They are busy assembling an interesting array of workshops focusing on vocational education, basic literacy instruction, HSED/GED preparation, math instruction, financial literacy, special education, juvenile programming, county jail programming, library services, technology in the classroom, professional development, reentry resources, brief intervention tools, workforce readiness and other areas.

Complete workshop descriptions and the conference registration form will be posted soon on the www.ceawisconsin.org website. Click on “Conference Details”

Tentative Workshops Sessions

- STAR Reading Program Implementation for Small and Large Institutions Parts I and II
- Westlaw- Law Library Legal Research Services Overview
- Retention – Creating “Stickiness” in Your Reentry Program
- Managing Conflict in the Workplace
- Managing Manipulative Inmates in a Correctional Environment
- Project PROVEN: Proven to Work
- What Motivates You to Make a Difference Every Day?
- Changing the Narratives of Students through Pure and Complete Phonics
- Preparing Yourself for a Bad Day - Crisis Rehearsal
- Fitness for Reentry Professionals
- Time Spent with Educators Equals Success – Leadership through Mentoring
- Cataloging : Beyond the Basics
- LexisNexis: Tips on Effective Legal Research
- BadgerLink: State-Provided Resources for Advancing Education
- Starting and Maintaining a High Interest Jail Classroom Lending Library
- Techy Tips for the ABE/GED Classroom
- Wisconsin GED & HSED Updates
- Managing Stress in the Workplace and at Home
- Fraternization and Manipulative Inmates – How to Stay Safe
**Tentative Roundtable Sessions**
- County Jail Roundtable
- Guidance Counselor Roundtable
- Correctional Librarian Roundtable

**Osthoff Resort Lodging Information**
In past years, some Training Day participants elected to arrive early and enjoy the beautiful Osthoff Resort. The Osthoff Resort has agreed to offer rooms at state rates for May 1 & 2. All rooms have beautiful lakeside or woodland views. To reserve a room contact the Osthoff Resort at 1-800-876-3399 or [www.osthoff.com](http://www.osthoff.com) and identify yourself as a part of the Correctional Education Association group to receive the special rates. Please have tax exempt documentation with you upon registration. A block of rooms will be held at these rates until April 6, 2016.

**Resort rooms are available at the following rates:**
- Guest Rooms and One Bedroom Suites $82 single; $102 double
- Two Bedroom Woodland Suites $112
- Two Bedroom Lakeview Courtyard Suites $164

Register today for a great professional development experience for correctional educators! Hope to see you at the Osthoff!

**71st Annual International CEA Conference and Training Event**
CEA-Region 7 will be hosting the 71st Annual International CEA Conference and Training Event, *Correctional Education: Key to Successful Transitions and Promising Futures*, on July 31 - August 3, 2016 at the Hilton Long Beach in beautiful Long Beach, California. The conference planning committee has been working diligently to provide its participants with quality professional development opportunities.

To register online or access the Call for Presenters Form or Exhibitor Registration Form, go to: [www.ceanational.org](http://www.ceanational.org). The deadline for proposals to present is May 16, 2016.

To make a lodging reservation, call the Hilton Long Beach hotel directly at 1-800-HILTONS and refer to the event name or group code IC2. The conference rate of $150.00 is valid until July 7, 2016.

For more information about the 71st Annual International CEA Conference and Training Event contact: Conference Chair Robert Holtz at [robert.holtz@cdcr.ca.gov](mailto:robert.holtz@cdcr.ca.gov).

**Now available at** [www.ceawisconsin.org](http://www.ceawisconsin.org):
**The updated Directory of Education Programs in Wisconsin’s County Jails and Juvenile Detention Centers**
2015 Annual Treasurer's Report

Where does the Wisconsin chapter of CEA get the money to fund the services it provides to correctional educators? How does CEA-Wisconsin spend its money? In the spirit of transparency, CEA-W Treasurer Ray Schlesinger has submitted this Annual Report for publication in this newsletter.

As you can see, the largest source of revenue for CEA-W and its largest expense is the CEA-W Training Day. The CEA-W Board’s goal for the Training Day is to have the registration and vendor fees cover most of the expenses, but often CEA-W does not “break even” and ends up covering some additional Training Day expenses from other revenue sources.

The other major source of revenue is the Silent Auction that CEA-W conducts at the CEA-W Training Day. The Silent Auctions fund the majority of CEA-W’s initiatives, including printing and postage relating to the CEA-Wisconsin and Parenting Connection newsletters and Creativity Contest booklet, Teacher of the Year expenses, other awards, scholarships, and member dues rebates. CEA dues that members pay go to supporting National and Regional CEA operations. Usually CEA-Wisconsin does not receive any cut from the membership dues revenue.

If you have any questions or comments relating to this 2015 Annual Treasurer's Report, contact Ray at raphael.schlesinger@wisconsin.gov.

Revenues

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<td>Silent auction proceeds</td>
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<td>Credit union account dividends</td>
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<td>Pass-through CEA national memberships received</td>
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<td>Merchandise sales</td>
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<td>Vendor fees</td>
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Expenses

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<td>Membership dues rebates</td>
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<td>Training conference expenses for members</td>
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<td>Facility rental and food service</td>
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<td>Memorials</td>
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<td>Candy for training event attendees</td>
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Creating a Network for Teachers Who Work with School-Aged Detainees

Teachers who work with school-aged detainees in county jails and detention centers often express the concern of being isolated and unable to communicate with their peers working in similar settings.

Aundrea Worthing is the coordinator for Title I-D Subpart 2 Neglected and Delinquent programming with the Department of Public Instruction. Aundrea is seeking a way to collaborate with the RCC’s Jails and Detention Centers who work with their LEA (Local Association/School District) as she provides opportunities for funding, educational support and resources for each type facility that provides a minimum of 20 hours of education weekly. She is looking for opportunities to make connections and begin to break down the silo work that seems to happen with this population. Aundrea’s work is also very involved with the DOC through Title I-D Subpart 1 monies and there is another coordinator (Kyle Peaden) who works with her to support them.

Aundrea’s office publishes an e-brief monthly with professional development opportunities and local and federal updates. Through coordination with CEA-Wisconsin, she hopes to make this e-brief available to teachers who work with school-aged detainees in county jails and detention centers.

CEA-Wisconsin is interested in working with Aundrea to provide another service for educators who work in County Jail and Detention Centers. CEA-W already has an email list of most teachers and education administrators who work in County Jail and Detention Centers. We would like to create a more specific email list of those teachers and education administrators who work with school-aged detainees in these facilities.

To do this, we are asking you to provide us with the following information:

1) Does your facility provide a minimum of 20 hours of education weekly for school-aged detainees?
2) Does your facility provide less than 20 hours of education weekly for school-aged detainees?
3) If your facility receives a school-aged detainee, is he/she transferred to another facility to receive education services? Which facility/county?
4) What is the average number of school-aged detainees receiving education services at your facility each week?
5) Please send us the following information for each educator and administrator involved in education services for school-aged detainees at your facility:
   - Facility’s County and Name
   - Teacher/Administrator Name
   - Email Address
   - Local Association/ School District or Supervising Agency

If you work in a county jail or detention center and haven’t already sent in this information, please email your responses to the above questions to jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com. Once this information is compiled, CEA-W will create a list of educators and administrators involved in education services for school-aged detainees and share it with Aundrea so that a network can be created for sharing resources and professional development opportunities.
President’s Message

I would like to publicly thank the 153 correctional educators who took the time to complete the online training needs survey. Here are just a few highlights from the survey. When asked to select what topics should be addressed, the top answer was Student Motivation with 88% of respondents selecting it. It was followed by: Examples of Best Practices in ABE (82%), WTCS Updates (78%) GED (77%) and Utilizing Technology in the Classroom (74%).

We asked how important a keynote speaker is and 59% rated if from somewhat to extremely important. This is significantly lower than the 93% who rated networking opportunities from somewhat to extremely important. Many of the networking ideas shared are being explored for implementation. Some examples include:

• Adding a dinner to Monday night
• Adding some topic table tents at lunches
• Not having a keynote
• Searching for presenters that can address the most popular choices.

The feedback will make the CEA-Wisconsin Training Days most beneficial. Make your plans to attend today!

Laura
lreisinger@lvcv.org