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Correctional Education Association - Wisconsin

“Safety by Choice, Not by Chance” Is Theme of CEA-Wisconsin’s Training Day

The Wisconsin Chapter of CEA is hosting its annual training day on Monday, May 1, 2017 at the Fox Valley Technical College Public Safety Center in Appleton, WI. This year’s theme is “Safety by Choice, Not by Chance.”

The Training Day Planning Committee is working to make this training day an excellent professional development opportunity for educators working in prisons, jails, and detention centers. There will be four breakout sessions, two before lunch and two after. The workshops will focus on many aspects of safety in the workplace --- from managing disruptive students, to de-escalating conflicts, to gang awareness, to internet safety. Also featured will be a silent auction.

Construction of the new Public Safety Training Center has helped Fox Valley Technical College become a national leader in public safety training and resources. The 75-acre, \$35 million complex is as close to the real thing as it gets. The facility provides a rare, state-of-the-art space for public safety personnel and people studying in the field. The space includes a six-story burn tower, mock village, Boeing 727 airplane and train cars for simulated training scenarios. Tours of the facility will be available during the Training Day.

Registration fees for the CEA-Wisconsin Training Day will be \$50 for CEA members and \$115 for non-members. Registration will be limited to 125 participants. The CEA-Wisconsin Board will be making lodging arrangements with a nearby hotel at special Training Day rates.

When making your professional development plans for 2017, be sure to include the CEA-Wisconsin Training Day. Registration materials and a complete conference program will be published in the March/April issue of this newsletter and will then be available on the www.ceawisconsin website.

To join CEA go to:
www.ceanational.org

Corrections Officials Want Minors to Begin Sentences in Juvenile Facilities

According to several articles published by the Associated Press, Wisconsin corrections officials want minors convicted in adult court to begin their sentences in a juvenile facility.

In its state budget request, the Department of Corrections has asked legislators to change the law that currently sends 16- and 17-year-old criminals to adult prisons. Those minors who are sentenced to prison in the adult system would begin serving their time at the Lincoln Hills School for Boys and Copper Lake School for Girls.

The change would give young offenders age-appropriate treatment and align with the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act, according to the department's budget request. The Prison Rape Elimination Act requires prison staff to house minors away from adults 18 and older.

Holding minors in juvenile facilities — even those convicted as adults — makes common sense, according to Michael Caldwell, psychology lecturer at UW-Madison and an expert on juvenile delinquency. "Younger kids are hard to manage in an adult setting; there's plenty of research to support that," Caldwell said.

"This change would be consistent with state- and national-level advocacy for removing minors from adult prisons and providing them with age-appropriate services in juvenile facilities," states the corrections budget request. The change would give the DOC more options to appropriately house sentenced minors.

There are beds available in the juvenile centers for teens convicted as adults, Caldwell said. And juvenile offense rates are down nationally over the last 20 years, he said.

State Sen. Jerry Petrowski, R-Stettin, does not think the Department of Corrections' proposal will be controversial and expects it to survive the budget process. Previously, Petrowski had worked on a different policy to keep 17-year-olds who are first-time, non-violent offenders, in the juvenile system. The original proposal failed, but its supporters will make another try, Petrowski said. Current state law directs all 17-year-olds to adult courts.

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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.

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.

Articles for publication may be submitted to the CEA-W News Review Editor Jerry Bednarowski at: jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com

CEA-Wisconsin Showcase Award

Would you like to present a workshop about your program, classroom activities, or special area of interest? The Wisconsin Chapter of the Correctional Education Association would like to help.

In 2017, the CEA-Wisconsin Board will again be offering a \$500 grant to help defray the professional expenses for a CEA-Wisconsin member to present a workshop at the Region III CEA Conference, the International CEA Conference or another professional education or correctional conference. This is a wonderful opportunity to highlight the skills and talents of Wisconsin's correctional educators.

To be eligible for consideration, you must be an active CEA member, submit a proposal outlining the workshop you wish to present, and submit a statement of support from your supervisor. Your presentation may be on an existing program that has been effective, a new innovative program, creative classroom activities, unique instructional methods, or a special project. The CEA-Wisconsin Board will review the proposals received and select one to receive the \$500 grant.

Your proposal should include:

- ❖ Title of presentation
- ❖ Intended audience
- ❖ Presentation description (200 words or less)

Entries will be evaluated on:

- ❖ Relevance to the needs of correctional students
- ❖ Creativity
- ❖ Effectiveness of program or techniques
- ❖ Potential to be used in other settings
- ❖ Interest to conference attendees

The deadline for submission of your proposal is February 1, 2017. Submit your proposal to:

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CEA-Wisconsin Awards & Recognition Committee
3099 East Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53704
Phone: 608-240-5022
Email: holly.audley@wisconsin.gov



Mark Your Calendar

72nd Annual CEA Conference and Training Event
San Antonio, Texas
July 30 - August 2, 2017

Windows to Work Program Promotes Self-Sufficiency

Windows to Work is a pre- and post-release program designed to address criminogenic needs that can lead to recidivism, including employment, education, anti-social cognition, anti-social personality, and anti-social companions. The Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) holds a contract with each of Wisconsin's 11 Workforce Development Boards to provide, or subcontract to provide, a Windows to Work program at 12 state correctional institutions and 4 county jail facilities throughout the state. The mission of the Windows to Work Program is to promote self-sufficiency for individuals returning to the community through the development of constructive skills and the modification of thought processes related to criminal behavior.

Both individual and group participation begins 3 to 9 months prior to release from DOC incarceration. The Windows to Work Coach provides participants with classroom training in core curriculum content areas, such as Cognitive-Behavioral Intervention, General Work Skills and Expectations, Financial Literacy, Community Resources, Job Seeking, Applications and Resumes. In coordination with the institution social worker and/or community corrections agent, individual release/case planning takes place. Coaches use a variety of assessment tools to assist in determining skill level and career path choices.

During the pre-release phase, county jail programs may function in a different manner due to the transient nature of the population. Many jail programs offer support to participants on an individual basis. This process still requires the utilization of curriculum as defined above, but in a more individualized manner.

In coordination with the Division of Community Corrections agents, coaches assist participants with job search and job retention activities for approximately 12 months after release from incarceration. Participants receive assistance in accessing available community resources to address needs for food, shelter, clothing, transportation, and other services. Windows to Work programs sometimes have limited funds to assist participants in addressing barriers to employment, such as transportation, education, identification and work supplies.

One of the goals of Windows to Work is to increase employment placement opportunities for participants. In all, 405 different program participants obtained 546 episodes of employment during FY16. An employment episode is an instance of employment, including temporary placements, On-the-Job Training, Work Experience, Seasonal Employment, and all full- and part-time employment. Further, 71.2% of these employment episodes were in full-time work.

by: Ray Woodruff, Wisconsin DOC Reentry Employment Coordinator

Inmate Art Displayed at ESTHER Banquet

On Sunday, November 13, 2016, CEA-Wisconsin, partnered with teacher Ken VanMieghem and his students at the Wisconsin Resource Center to provide an exhibit of artwork at ESTHER's Annual Banquet. This is the second year that inmate art was displayed at ESTHER's event. The artwork became part of a silent auction, raising \$385 to support ESTHER's projects.

CEA-Wisconsin also had a table at the event to familiarize the 200+ people in attendance with its efforts to promote education in correctional settings.



Founded in 2004, ESTHER is a grassroots and non-profit interfaith social-justice organization. ESTHER aims to bring together people of faith and communities of faith in the Fox Valley region of Wisconsin to build community and to identify and act on issues of injustice. Faith communities covenanting with ESTHER are united based on shared values such as equality and human dignity.

An affiliate of the statewide organization Wisdom, ESTHER seeks to:

- Bring healing and unity as an interfaith community that reaches beyond the divisions of race, creed, and socio-economic status
- Build solid relationships with one another and with community leaders
- Identify and address root causes of poverty, oppression, and injustice
- Be agents of change that unite the community and spread a message of hope
- Work at local, state, and national levels to promote justice
- Empower people to overcome injustices and respond to the social-justice concerns of people in the communities of the Fox Valley

ESTHER has created these task forces which are action groups that plan and implement activities and events to evoke positive change in the community:

- **Transportation Task Force** - The Transportation Task Force is working to address issues that have an impact on the transit systems serving the greater Fox Valley region. Public transit connects people to jobs, education, training, and medical services. An accessible transit system also connects residents with family and friends and allows riders to remain engaged and active in their community.
- **Immigration Task Force** - This task force works to address issues related to immigration, specifically those affecting the Latino population in the Valley. In addition to national comprehensive immigration reform, this task force is working locally in two areas: the allowance for Wisconsin state driver's certificates for resident undocumented workers and in-state tuition rates for all residents of Wisconsin meeting the academic guidelines for acceptance into our state's public universities, colleges and technical schools. ESL classes are also being offered at St. Therese Parish. The newly formed Casa ESTHER in Omro is looking to be an outreach center for Latinos in the Oshkosh/Omro area.
- **Prison Reform & ROC WI Task Force** - ESTHER is part of the statewide ROC WI (Restore Our Communities). The campaign is a movement of people of faith calling for change in the Wisconsin incarcerating system. ESTHER believes:
"We can't punish people into being healthy. We need for families to stay intact and for offenders to be responsible to their communities. We are all better off when people can be healed and made whole through these effective programs that bring accountability to the offender and to the community. Alternative treatment programs work better than incarceration."

For more information about ESTHER's activities or to become involved in one of ESTHER's task forces, go to <http://esther-foxvalley.org/>.

Please Use CEA's New Contact Information

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Survey Provides Profile of Prisoners' Education and Work Levels

On November 15, 2016, the Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics released the latest installment of findings from the Survey of Adult Skills, part of the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC). The report, *Highlights from the U.S. PIAAC Survey of Incarcerated Adults: Their Skills, Work Experience, Education, and Training*, presents new data collected from a nationally representative sample of incarcerated men and women, ages 18-74, in 98 state and federal prisons in 2014. It describes the literacy and numeracy levels of these adults by age, gender, and ethnicity and compares these findings to the general household population, which was surveyed in 2012 and supplemented in 2014. The survey's background questionnaire, adapted for the incarcerated population, provides a rich profile of background data, work experiences, and education and training participation patterns while in prison.

Listed below are key findings in literacy and numeracy from the report:

- The average literacy score for the U.S. prison population was lower than the average literacy score for the U.S. household population, and a higher percentage of incarcerated adults (29%) were low-skilled (scored below PIAAC's Level 2) in literacy compared to adults in the U.S. household population (19%).
- While the average literacy score for incarcerated white adults was lower than the average score for white adults in the U.S. household population, the average literacy scores for incarcerated black and Hispanic adults were not measurably different from the average literacy scores for black and Hispanic adults in the U.S. household population.
- The average numeracy score for the U.S. prison population was much lower than the average numeracy score for the U.S. household population, putting a higher percentage of incarcerated adults (52%) in the low-skilled range compared to adults in the U.S. household population (29%).

Echoing findings on skill levels and skill-use patterns in the household survey, incarcerated adults' skills showed the following interesting findings related to adults' prior and current work history:

- Around two-thirds (66%) of inmates reported that they were working prior to their incarceration — about half (49%) were employed full-time, with another 16% working part-time.
- Adults who were employed prior to their incarcerations had higher average numeracy scores.
- Incarcerated adults holding a prison job had higher average literacy scores than their peers who did not have a prison job. Yet many incarcerated workers reported that their jobs did not require the use of literacy and numeracy skills on a regular basis.
- Those with skills certifications scored higher on literacy and numeracy than their peers without such certifications.

Previous research from the Rand Corporation and the U.S. Department of Education has shown the value of education and training in prison and the value of industry-recognized credentials to reduce recidivism. The *U.S. PIAAC Survey of Incarcerated Adults* sheds light on how incarcerated adults are participating — or not — as follows:

- Fifty-eight percent of incarcerated adults completed no further formal education beyond the level they had on their entry to prison, and 21% obtained a high school credential during their current period of incarceration.
- For incarcerated adults, more education completed was associated with higher skills in both literacy and numeracy. Twenty-one percent of incarcerated adults were studying for a formal degree or credential.
- The most desirable educational programs for incarcerated adults who wanted to enroll in academic programs were those which offered a certificate from college or trade school (29%). High school completion (18%) and associate degree programs (18%) were the next most popular.

- Seventy percent reported that they wanted to enroll in an academic class or program, but 25% of these adults were on a waiting list for academic classes or programs of study in 2014.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, more than 600,000 individuals are released from prison each year in the United States. From the *Highlights from the U.S. PIAAC Survey of Incarcerated Adults*, more than half of incarcerated adults had two years or less remaining on their sentences (54%), with about one in five (19%) having fewer than six months left to serve.

All related survey reports are available at <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/piaac/>.

Reprinted from: Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE) Connection newsletter, November 17, 2016

Save the date!

As the date approaches more details will be available @ www.cearegion3.org

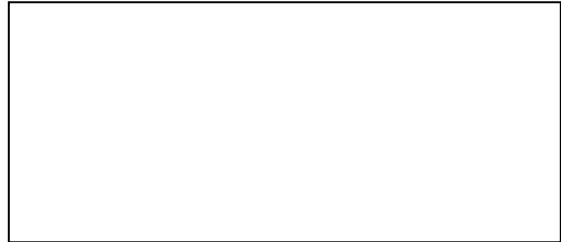
Correctional Education Association's
2017 INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUM
along with REGION 3 & 4 CONFERENCE & TRAINING EVENT

Sunday, April 9 thru Tuesday, April 11, 2017
Cleveland Airport Marriott, Cleveland, Ohio, USA

The **Leadership Forum** offers information on the current climate of corrections, rehabilitation, education and reentry with workshops, training, motivational speeches, discussion groups, discussion panels, networking, and technology.

Region 3 & 4 Conference and Training Event will honor Teachers of the Year from North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio.

Sharon Neemann, CEA-W Secretary
Wisconsin Resource Center
P.O. Box 16
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President's Message

Greetings!

The CEA Board of Directors is excited to provide quality training for our members. Make plans now to attend our training day in May. One of the benefits of belonging to CEA is the fact that our organization provides an avenue to network with others who work in similar situations. Let's face it, not everyone understands our work environment and our passion for our students. Attending training days and conferences not only provides an opportunity for professional development, but it also provides a venue to meet and make life-long friends.

Laurie
jarvis@fvtc.edu

"It is said that no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones." — Nelson Mandela

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