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## Correctional Education Association - Wisconsin

### GED 2014 – Three Years Later

Three years ago, the GED 2014 test was launched. The new test was the most dramatic change in the 72 year history of the exam. It was a completely new test. Not only did the GED change to a CBT format, but the GED curriculum was altered to be based on national Common Core standards.

The GED was born during World War II as a result of the vast numbers of young men and women leaving school before graduation to fight for their country. The government foresaw a need to help them get back on track when they came home. So the American Council on Education created the GED in 1942.

Over the decades, the use of the GED credential expanded. It evolved to represent a second chance for immigrants too old to attend school, for prisoners trying to turn their lives around, for teen parents or anyone whose life interfered with completing formal education.

Over the years the test has been updated five times, and on some occasions those upgrades resulted in drops in participation the following year. The previous update, in 2002, resulted in a one-year drop of 53% in test takers.

This time around in the first year after the launch, the high school equivalency program saw a sharp drop in the number of people who took and passed the test. Nationally, while the GED Testing Service says it has seen a "sizable decrease," it hasn't posted its annual GED Testing Program Statistical Report on its website since 2103.

According to an NPR Morning Edition Report, *A 'Sizable Decrease' In Those Passing the GED*, in 2012, a total of 401,388 people passed the GED test. In 2013, people rushed to take the old test in its final year, creating a bump to a total of 540,535 people passing. In the general population in 2014, 58,524 earned a GED credential. The 2014 number does not include the prison population.

Some adult educators claim that the changes made in the GED 2014 test create unnecessary barriers for people who are already struggling. Concerns they cite are the test's increased difficulty, higher cost and computer requirement.

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# CEA-Wisconsin Training Day

“Safety by Choice, Not by Chance”

Monday, May 1, 2017

**Fox Valley Technical College Public Safety Center  
Appleton, Wisconsin**

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.

The CEA-W Training Day will be held at the new Public Safety Training Center at Fox Valley Technical College. The \$35 million complex is a state-of-the-art space for public safety personnel and people studying in the field. Tours of the facility will be available as breakout sessions during the Training Day.

Registration fees 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 will then be available on the [www.ceawisconsin.org](http://www.ceawisconsin.org) website.

**To join CEA go to: [www.ceanational.org](http://www.ceanational.org)**

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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](mailto:jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com)

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With the advent of GED 2014, for the first time the new GED Testing Service is a joint venture between the non-profit American Council on Education and the for-profit education company Pearson.

For 72 years, the GED had been the only game in town. As a result of the concerns about the new test and the GED's shift to being run on a for-profit basis, two alternative tests have emerged and been adopted by many states. As of the end of 2016, at least 19 states have begun offering or plan to offer new, alternative tests. Thirty-one states still offer only the GED.

The High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) is produced by the nonprofit Educational Testing Service and the University of Iowa. The HiSET is the only testing alternative in eight states – Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, and Tennessee. The Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) produced by CTB/McGraw-Hill is the only alternative in three states – Indiana, New York, and West Virginia

New Mexico accepts either the GED or HiSET. Illinois and South Carolina accept either the GED or TASC. In California, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Wyoming; the GED, HiSET and TASC are all available.

The GED exam includes four separate tests in the subject areas of: Literacy (Reasoning through Language Arts), Math (Mathematical Reasoning), Social Studies, and Science, and is only offered in a computer-based format. The TASC and HiSET exams come with five tests in the subject fields of Writing, Reading, Science, Social Studies, and Math. These exams are generally offered in both paper and computer formats. The GED and TASC tests are based on Common Core State Standards, while the HiSET content comes from the Iowa Testing normed in 2011.

In most states, the GED exam costs \$120, but there are states where the exam is more expensive due to local fees. The TASC and HiSET are cheaper costing \$52 and \$50 respectively, and some states pay part of the cost. Some states subsidize the exams partially, and four states fully subsidize the cost of the exam for their residents (New York, West Virginia, Maine and Connecticut).

## Call for Nominations

During March, Correctional Education Association - Wisconsin will be conducting its annual election for Executive Board Members. Nominations are being accepted for the following offices:

- ✓ **Juvenile Facilities Member**
- ✓ **Local Education Agency Member**
- ✓ **Jail/Detention Center Member**
- ✓ **Member-At-Large**
- ✓ **Member-At-Large**

Any CEA-Wisconsin member is eligible to run for office. All officers and board members serve two-year terms. Nominations must be received by **March 1, 2017**. Newly elected members will assume their offices at the May 2017 Executive Board Meeting.

Nominations are to be sent to:

**Peggy Meyers, Education Director - ABE**  
**Wisconsin Technical College System**  
**Office of Student Development & Assessment**  
**4622 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53707**  
**Phone: 608-267-9684**  
**Email: [peggy.meyers@wtcsystem.edu](mailto:peggy.meyers@wtcsystem.edu)**

# Copyright Law and the Correctional Educator

With the introduction of photocopy machines and computers, federal copyright law has evolved over the past 40 years. The many subsequent legal interpretations of federal copyright law have become confusing to correctional educators. The question remains, "What materials can a teacher copy and use in the correctional classroom?"

In his article, "Copyright Law and the Correctional Educator," in the September 2016 issue of the *Journal of Correctional Education*, John Sample, Ph.D. reviews basic copyright law and cites examples that are familiar to correctional educators.

He provides answers to these questions:

- What can and cannot a teacher copy and distribute in the classroom?
- What is "tangible expression" and how is it protected by copyright law?
- What is the "fair use" privilege and what criteria must be met?
- Why are spontaneity and brevity key factors?

The advent of the internet has allowed correctional educators and their students to access many new learning opportunities. But each innovation brings new challenges and leads to additional laws and regulations. John Sample describes how the TEACH (Technology, Education, and Copyright Harmonization) Act of 2002 extends the provisions of the original Copyright Law of 1976 to digital materials and online distance learning.

The information provided in this *Journal of Correctional Education* article can help correctional educators avoid embarrassing litigation that can result from copyright violations.

## Lt. Governor, DOC Secretary and MATC President Recognize CNC Graduates

Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch joined Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) Secretary Jon Litscher, Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Ray Allen and Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) President Vicki Martin at a graduation ceremony for Computerized Numerically Controlled (CNC) machining Certificate Program graduates and their families as they received their certificates of completion on January 19, 2017.

Eleven participants, either incarcerated in minimum-security facilities with community privileges or on community supervision, received their certificates after completing the program.

In addition to DOC's partnership with Milwaukee Area Technical College, DOC is operating a pilot program with Madison College to train inmates with work release privileges in Industrial Maintenance. DOC also has partnerships with technical colleges across the state to train inmates in high-demand fields.

Lt. Governor Kleefisch said: "Wisconsin needs offenders to come out of corrections institutions ready to take jobs and become taxpayers. Inmates like those graduating with CNC degrees today will be able to fill one of the thousands of available jobs that provide family-sustaining wages, which also reduces their chances of recidivism. These programs are all-around wins: they make our communities safer, expand our workforce, save taxpayer dollars, and create dignity and opportunity for these graduates."

DOC Secretary Jon Litscher said: "DOC is working with workforce development partners to develop and deliver training for inmates in high-demand fields to enable them to transition to independence. With continued support from Governor Walker and the State of Wisconsin, DOC will continue to place a high emphasis on creative solutions that prepare inmates for jobs in the community."

DWD Secretary Allen said: "Under Governor Walker, Wisconsin has an intense focus on eliminating the barriers to employment that may exist for individuals. Employers are hiring and we cannot afford to have anybody standing on the sidelines. Re-entry program partnerships with the Department of Corrections help ex-offenders find a quality career, which reduces recidivism and makes society safer."

MATC President Vicki Martin said: "Milwaukee Area Technical College appreciates the opportunity to work in partnership with the Department of Workforce Development and Department of Corrections on this innovative training program. We are proud to provide men and women with access to high-quality education and training that will prepare them for high-demand careers that help meet the region's workforce needs and enable them become active and engaged citizens and offer them a better life."

DOC News Release

## **SkillsCommons.org Offers Over 6,500 Free Workforce Development Resources**

Looking for free resources to aid in designing, managing, and expanding courses for career training? SkillsCommons is an online repository hosting thousands of free and openly-licensed course and educational program support materials being developed by nearly 700 colleges across the U.S., funded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant program.

More than 6,500 resources are already available for download, featuring curricula for both short and long-term courses leading to industry-certified credentials in 16 high-demand fields, such as manufacturing, healthcare, energy, and information technology. While there are multiple repositories of open educational resources (OER), SkillsCommons is the world's largest OER project featuring job-driven workforce development materials, with more resources being added continually. All teaching, learning, and supporting materials on SkillsCommons are available under a Creative Commons license that allows others to use and adapt the materials for free, including commercial use of derivatives. To date, the site has already generated more than 150,000 downloads.

SkillsCommons has implemented seven types of "makeover strategies" to illustrate how innovative technologies can be applied to the site's content to create engaging, interactive educational materials tailored to the needs of students. The strategies provide "before" and "after" views of content using different designs and highlighting the advantages of the new derivative works. These strategies include support for interactive content (including games, quizzes, and mobile-friendly content), learning management systems, eBooks, and much more.

SkillsCommons.org is designed and managed by California State University (CSU) and its Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching (MERLOT) program under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor. Extensive user support resources are available on the website, and the SkillsCommons CSU-MERLOT team of leaders, librarians, educators, and developers are available to assist anyone interested in using and adapting the OER on SkillsCommons.

**Tell Us About Your Program**

**Email your article to: [JerryBednarowski@new.rr.com](mailto:JerryBednarowski@new.rr.com)**

# Racine Correctional Institution Hosts Winter Graduation Ceremony

Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch, Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) Secretary Jon Litscher, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Ray Allen, and Gateway Technical College (GTC) President Bryan Albrecht joined inmates and their families at Racine Correctional Institution's (RCI) winter graduation ceremony on December 13, 2016.

Inmates received degrees or certificates in the following fields:

- 6 General Equivalency Diplomas
- 6 High School Equivalency Diplomas
- 4 Culinary Arts graduates, who will receive a GTC certificate
- 13 Custodial Services graduates, who will receive a GTC certificate
- 18 Computerized Numerically Controlled (CNC) machining graduates, who will receive a GTC certificate.

DOC has a self-contained mobile CNC lab that can be moved between DOC correctional facilities. It has been parked at RCI since early 2015. DOC received Wisconsin Fast Forward – Blueprint for Prosperity funding to provide CNC machining instruction to inmates at Racine Correctional Institution prior to their release. Inmates who are selected for enrollment in the program must have a clean record and must be within 18 months of their release.

In 2015, 400 inmates graduated with their GED/HSED, and 696 graduated from Career and Technical Education programs throughout all DOC facilities.

Lt. Governor Kleefisch said: "Today's celebration marks inmates turning the page in their old lives and marching towards their future in the Wisconsin workforce. By choosing to equip themselves with talents employers need, the inmates have learned valuable skills that will make their communities stronger. These inmates today are taking the first step towards success and a better future."

DOC Secretary Litscher said: "Our focus at the Department of Corrections is to provide education, training, and programming for inmates so they are able to thrive upon their release. Under Governor Walker's leadership, the State of Wisconsin has pursued innovative solutions to connect inmates with vocational training that will prepare inmates for in-demand jobs in the community."

DWD Secretary Allen said: "Wisconsin and DWD have pursued several initiatives in partnership with job centers and corrections officials to assist citizens in overcoming barriers and realizing successful re-entry into the community," Secretary Ray Allen said. "Through this partnership, with funding from a Wisconsin Fast Forward – Blueprint for Prosperity grant, men and women under the custody or supervision of the Department of Corrections have an opportunity to learn the job skills that employers demand."

GTC President Albrecht said: "The Gateway community is proud of the commitment and personal accomplishments made by the RCI graduates. Education enlightens the pathway to a productive and successful life."

In addition to DOC's partnerships with Gateway Technical College and Milwaukee Area Technical College, it also recently started a pilot project with Madison College to train inmates with work release privileges in Industrial Maintenance.

DOC News Release

# 2016 Annual CEA-W 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-Wisconsin Treasurer Ray Schlesinger has submitted this Annual Report for publication in this newsletter. If you have any questions or comments relating to this *2016 Annual Treasurer's Report*, contact Ray at [schlesinger1009@charter.net](mailto:schlesinger1009@charter.net).

As you can see, the largest source of revenue for CEA-Wisconsin and its largest expense is the CEA-Wisconsin 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-Wisconsin 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.

## Revenues

Silent auction proceeds	\$1,858.00
Credit union accounts dividends	35.17
Pass-through CEA national memberships collected	730.00
Merchandise sales	91.00
Vendor fees	1,650.00
Training conference registrations	18,895.00
Extra training conference meals purchased	200.00
Sponsorship	1,000.00
	\$24,459.17

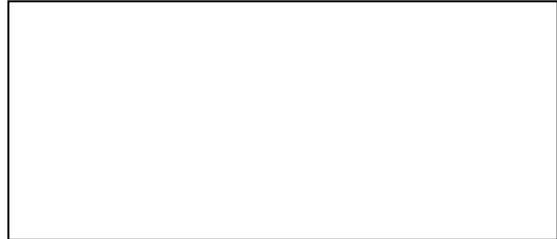
## Expenses

Facility rental and food service	\$16,044.22
Training conference planning lunches	321.20
Scholarship	1,000.00
Teacher of the Year award & conference expenses	753.64
Speaker fee	750.00
Postage	288.53
Website	100.00
Office supplies and paper	243.53
Printing and copies	536.42
Embossed poly envelopes	506.84
Silent auction expenses	60.99
Membership prizes at training conference	200.00
Memorials and gifts	223.03
Program typesetting and assembly	129.97
Pass-through memberships paid to CEA national	815.00
	\$21,973.37

## Assets

Cash deposits at credit unions	\$22,103.43
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**Sharon Neemann, CEA-W Secretary**  
**Wisconsin Resource Center**  
**P.O. Box 16**  
**Winnebago, WI 54985**



## President's Message

Happy New Year!

I don't know about you, but I miss the cold crisp sunny days of typical Wisconsin weather. Slip sliding through the ice and rain has been challenging for the body and the soul. It is time to think of sunny thoughts and look at the amazing opportunities that are available to you as a CEA member. Here are a few of the upcoming events:

**CEA Leadership Forum – April 9-11, 2017**  
**Cleveland Airport Marroitt, Cleveland, Ohio**

**CEA-Wisconsin Training Day – May 1, 2017**  
**Fox Valley Public Safety Center, Appleton, Wisconsin**

**CEA International Conference and Training Event – July 30-August 2, 2017**  
**Holiday Inn-River Walk, San Antonio, Texas**

Make plans now to attend. CEA members will have the opportunity to network and gain support for the important work we do behind bars. More information may be found on the [www.ceanational.org](http://www.ceanational.org) website.

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