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Correctional Education Association - Wisconsin

DOC Educators Attend Equity and Social Justice Institute

The Wisconsin Department of Corrections has collaborated with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Title I & School Support, and the Disproportionality Technical Assistance Network to offer a day-long institute focusing on equity and social justice in education for DOC teachers and education directors. Many education directors attended the Institute in September. Future Institutes for teachers were scheduled for October 27 in Wausau/Rothschild and December 19 and December 20 in Madison.

The Disproportionality Technical Assistance Network, "the Network," is a multi-tiered system of compliance activities and improvement supports to address racial disproportionality in special education. The Network is funded through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, Part B. The Network works with pre K-12 educators, schools, districts and other community partners to reduce racial disproportionality in special education to meet federal requirements related to racial disproportionality in special education and to ensure a hope-filled future for all.

The Equity and Social Justice Institute is designed to deepen learning about equity and social justice. It has been designed to provide a foundational understanding for engaging in equity work on behalf of students and families. The Institute was purposefully scheduled to precede attendance at the two-day seminar Beyond Diversity so that anyone new to engaging in conversations about equity and disproportionality can build the necessary background for courageous conversations. Participants who have attended Beyond Diversity are welcome to participate in the Institute and continue with the Equity and Social Justice journey.

Beyond Diversity is a powerful, personally transforming two-day seminar designed to help teachers, students, parents, and administrators understand the impact of race on student learning and investigate the role that racism plays in institutionalizing academic achievement disparities.

What Is Social Justice and Why Does It Matter In Education?

These sessions will help participants explore the meaning of social justice and examine how power and privilege play out in society and, more
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specifically, in education. Participants will have an opportunity to explore how their multiple identities related to race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, social class, ability, etc. intersect in both their lives and the lives of their students. Participants will be encouraged to examine the inequities that play out in schools and collaborate to find effective ways to create more equitable institutions that serve all students.

Participants will explore answers to questions such as:

- What is the difference between equality and equity?
- What are the circumstances that create barriers for success in schools?
- What can we do to effectively challenge systems that create inequality or inequity?
- How can we become more culturally responsive to serve an increasing diverse student population in the 21st Century?

Topics for Exploration and Discussion

- Establishing Protocols for Engaging in Conversations
- Jim Crow: Revisiting the Historical Perspective
- Privilege and Power: How Both Influence Your Interactions with Students
- Intersectionality and Identity
- Examining Social Justice in Classroom Practices
- Stereotype Threat

Participant Outcomes

- Explore the definitions of social justice and equity and how the concepts play out in their classrooms and schools
- Examine the inequities that students may be experiencing in their classrooms and schools
- Build an understanding of intersectionality and examine what it looks like for themselves and their students

Presenters

- Courtney Bauder Program Director, Social Justice Minor Program, University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh
- Melissa Moe Training and Supports Project Coordinator, Disproportionality Technical Assistance Network

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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

First Graduates Complete Dairy Worker Training Program

On June 27, 2017, DOC Secretary Jon Litscher joined Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch, State Representative Michael Schraa, leaders from Moraine Park Technical College (MPTC), and guests to celebrate the inaugural graduation ceremony for inmate workers completing the Dairy Worker Training Certificate.

The Bureau of Correctional Enterprises, which is part of DOC, has four dairy farms near Waupun, Fox Lake, Oregon, and Green Bay, as well as a dairy in Waupun. In total, there are 60 inmate workers managing a herd of more than 500 milk cows, 50 dry cows, and 600 heifers. There are 20 inmate workers at DOC's dairy. The milk, ice cream, and sherbet produced are sold to correctional facilities in Wisconsin and Minnesota for consumption and cream is sold to the University of Wisconsin-Madison for making ice cream. The farms also produce crops for livestock feed.

In 2016, DOC produced more than 2.6 million gallons of skim milk, 1 million cups of ice cream, and 400,000 cups of sherbet for consumption and sold 322,840 pounds of milk and 526,915 pounds of cream. The total market value of these products is approximately \$5.1 million, which represents a small sliver of Wisconsin's dairy industry, which annually contributes approximately \$43.4 billion to the State's economy.

MPTC and DOC worked to develop a training program for inmate workers at DOC's Waupun State Farm. The Dairy Worker Training Certificate is a two-credit transferable credential which includes instruction in milking, feeding, cow reproduction and calf care, as well as farm maintenance and other critical skills.

The Bureau of Correctional Enterprises also operates a transition program for inmate workers to find employment in related fields upon their release.

Lt. Governor Kleefisch said: "What better way to celebrate June as Dairy Month than to congratulate the first class of graduates of this outstanding new program. With unemployment near record lows, we must expand our workforce by ensuring previously forgotten folks get off the bench and into the game. These men were an untapped resource who will now have a recognized credential and a ticket to a better life as an employee, citizen, and taxpayer."

DOC Secretary Litscher said: "Vocational training programs are critically important to prepare inmates for life in the community while also providing opportunities for them to learn how to work as part of a team, develop a good work ethic, and communicate with colleagues. These skills are invaluable for employers seeking trained workers in the community and we look forward to furthering our partnership with Wisconsin's technical colleges."

State Representative Schraa said: "Moraine Park Technical College and the Wisconsin Department of Corrections should be commended for working together to make this Dairy Worker Training Program possible. Matching capable employees with available jobs is certainly a good thing for the dairy industry, and finding steady employment is an even better thing for ex-offenders who will be re-entering the workforce."

MPTC Vice President of Academic Affairs Jim Eden said: "Our College has always been grateful and excited to take part in innovate ways to help employers fill positions in the workforce, and this new training program with the DOC is a great example of that. The skills gained through this training will benefit an important industry in our state, and we look forward to future partnerships that will help create qualified workers that can benefit Wisconsin employers and communities."

reprinted from Wisconsin DOC Website

GBCI Inmates Knit for Babies and Veterans

On August 23rd, a reporter and photographer from WBAY-TV in Green Bay visited Green Bay Correctional Institution (GBCI) to feature a story on the Mainstream Unit's knitting program. The story focused on the inmates knitting hats and other accessories for infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Bellin Hospital, children in area schools and veterans undergoing chemotherapy.

The Mainstream Unit is a specialized program for 25 inmates with medical or mental health issues, and cognitive disabilities. The knitting program focuses on providing a therapeutic benefit for the inmates while providing a service for the community.

The newborns, children, and veterans are benefiting from a donation of warm accessories and blankets knitted by a group of inmates at the maximum security prison. The inmates have crafted thousands of pieces over the last six years, and have now expanded the project to include hats for veterans undergoing chemotherapy.



Corrections Program Supervisor Michelle Haese says the project makes the inmates feel like they're part of something bigger. "That group atmosphere is something they most likely did not have when they were out in the community, so they really feel a part of it down here."

"The sewing project allows the inmates to use their creativity," says Jamie Wortell, social worker. "It kind of helps relieve some of the stress that they have."

Teacher Tina Thanos, agrees. She teaches school in the Mainstream Unit and helps the inmates work on social skills. "They love the idea that it's actually contributing something, and I hear them talking, asking, 'When is the next bunch of hats going out?'"

Handwritten thank you notes line the walls of the sewing room. It reminds the inmates of the value of their work.

GBCI inmates described how they feel about being involved in the program that gives back to the community:

"I think crocheting was usually for old people. So, I seen other guys around here doing it and I'm like, well maybe it's not for old people, maybe it is like a masculine thing. So I ended up doing it."

"That gave him a sense of pride, a kind of sense of purpose to give back to a community that he probably destroyed or fractured, so it kind of helped him give back to the people that he probably did wrong to."

"One kid was so happy that he got something. He was like, yeah, look at my new hat and new scarf. And it makes me so proud to have somebody like my work."

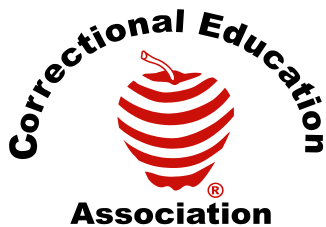
"I've been locked up since I was 15, so as you get older, you kind of figure out what's your purpose. What can you do? Down here, it kind of gave me a sense of meaning."

If you would like to give to the program, you can send your donations to:

Green Bay Correctional Institution
Attn: Mainstream Unit Program Supervisor
2833 Riverside Drive
P.O. Box 19033
Green Bay, WI 54307-9033

The story featuring reporter Sarah Thomsen, which aired August 24th, can be accessed at www.wbay.com/content/news/Soft-side-to-hard-time-Green-Bay-inmates-knitting-for-babies-veterans-441671903.html.

Call for Presentations



"Transforming Lives"

**CEA International Leadership Forum
March 18-20, 2018
The Madison Concourse Hotel
Madison, Wisconsin**

The Wisconsin Chapter of CEA will be hosting the 2018 CEA International Leadership Forum March 18-20, 2018. A wide variety of workshops will be needed to make this conference an excellent professional development opportunity. This is your opportunity to share information about your program or services with correctional professionals from around the world!

Sessions will last 75 minutes. You are responsible for providing all materials and handouts needed for your session. Due to hardware/software incompatibilities, you must provide a computer, if needed, for your presentation. We will provide screens, LCD projectors, flipcharts and markers.

This year, all proposal submissions will be done electronically. Go to www.ceanational.org to access the Call for Presentations form. Address all inquiries and send the completed form, along with a short one-paragraph biography of each presenter, to Emily Propson at Emily.Propson@dhs.wisconsin.gov. You will be notified by January 31, 2018, if your presentation is selected.

Deadline for Proposal Submissions: December 1, 2017

County Jail Directory Updated

Teachers and volunteers working in jails and detention centers often express the concern of being isolated and unable to communicate with their peers working in similar settings. The Correctional Education Association-Wisconsin is interested in providing services for these educators. To do so, CEA-Wisconsin has developed the *Directory of Education Programs in Wisconsin's County Jails and Juvenile Detention Centers*. The *Directory* lists information on teachers, education coordinators, and volunteers working in those settings.

The annual update of the Correctional Education Association-Wisconsin's *Directory of Education Programs in Wisconsin's County Jails and Juvenile Detention Centers* has been completed. Teachers, program directors and volunteers working in jails and detention centers have submitted information on their county's education programs for the *Directory*. The updated *Directory* has been emailed to each person listed in it and has been posted on the www.ceawisconsin.org website.

CEA-Wisconsin hopes this *Directory* will enable teachers and volunteers to contact their colleagues working in other facilities to ask questions, share ideas, and pool resources.

In addition to this *Directory*, CEA-Wisconsin provides these services for jail and detention center teachers and volunteers:

- County jail articles in the bi-monthly CEA-Wisconsin newsletter
- Special sessions for jail teachers at the CEA-Wisconsin Training Day, Region III CEA Conference, and International CEA Conference
- Posting of articles on the National CEA Jails Discussion Forum at www.ceanational.org

If you would like to be included in this *Directory* or know of other teachers or volunteers who could be included, contact Jerry Bednarowski at jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com. Also contact Jerry with any corrections, questions, or suggestions. Updates of the *Directory* will be emailed to each person listed in it and posted on the www.ceawisconsin.org as changes occur.

Now available at www.ceawisconsin.org:
The updated *Directory of Education Programs in Wisconsin's County Jails and Juvenile Detention Centers*

Another Professional Development Opportunity from CEA

One of the Professional Development opportunities provided by the Correctional Education Association is a series of on-line graduate courses designed by correctional educators and offered through Ashland University in Ohio.

The online course offerings include:

- Fundamentals of Correctional Education
- Facilitating At-Risk Student Learning
- Basic Financial Literacy
- Conflict Resolution
- Fundamentals of Effective Problem Solving

To view course descriptions, tuition rates, and to register for graduate credit with Ashland University, go to the Professional Development page on the www.ceanational.org website.

To join CEA go to: www.ceanational.org

Mark Your Calendar

March 18 - 20, 2018

CEA International Leadership Forum

The Madison Concourse Hotel & Governor's Club

Madison, Wisconsin

April 30 - May 1, 2018

CEA Region 3 & 4 Conference & Training Event

Embassy Suites Des Moines Downtown

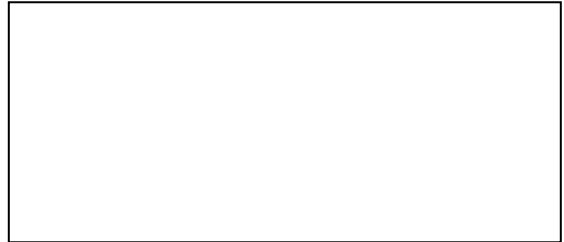
Des Moines, Iowa

Tell Us About Your Program

Email your article to:

JerryBednarowski@new.rr.com

Emily Propson, CEA-Wisconsin Treasurer
Wisconsin Resource Center
P.O. Box 16
Winnebago, WI 54985



President's Message

One of my favorite CEA sponsored activities is our annual Creativity Contest. The artist talent and writing abilities of our students continues to amaze me. The Creativity Contest provides students with a positive venue in which to gain public recognition of their talents. I encourage each of you to inspire your students to participate. If you need to review the contest rules, please refer to the September/October 2017 newsletter. The due date for submissions is December 1, 2017. Consider the following quote regarding the Arts.

Through the Arts I . . .

- Nurture my creativity
- Build my confidence
- Learn to see problems as opportunities
- Persevere through many challenges
- Learn that I must focus to achieve my goals
- See that communication is more than just words
- Improve by accepting constructive feedback
- Collaborate with others to create amazing things
- Understand my choices affect others
- Experience the benefits of my dedication
- Learn what I need to succeed

Make plans now to embolden your students to participate in this year's contest

Laurie
jarvis@fvtc.edu