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## Correctional Education Association - Wisconsin

### Teacher of the Year Uses Technology to Open Pathways

Randy Kowalsky's approach towards education is that of a life coach for inquisitive students seeking to acquire meaningful life skills in order to be successful. Randy believes, "While teaching formal skills are inherent in obtaining a GED, the reality is that correctional educators need to meet students where they are; therefore, the more valuable lessons tend to be social in nature. By encouraging and emulating skills such as proper communication, positive attitude, team work, flexibility, responsibility, patience, perseverance, and positive work ethic, students are more likely to adapt and transfer these traits into their future home, social, and work environments."

In recognition of Randy's innovation, dedication and tireless work, the CEA-Wisconsin Executive Board is proud to name Randy Kowalsky as the 2018 Wisconsin Correctional Teacher of the Year.



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Randy has been a teacher in the Wisconsin correctional system for 23 years. He began as a High School/GED Instructor at Southern Oaks Girls School. He taught there from September 1994 to April 2010, before transferring to the Jackson Correctional Institution (JCI) where he is currently an Adult Basic Education teacher. He primarily instructs students in Math and Social Studies and maintains EdNet student accounts.

Randy has earned a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing & Small Business from UW-La Crosse and a Masters of Education and Professional Development also from UW-La Crosse. He has become a Certified ABE Instructor through Western Technical College La Crosse.

In addition to teaching Adult Basic Education classes at JCI, Randy is a Smart Board Trainer, Certified Teacher Mentor, Computer Based Instructor/Trainer for the Plato and RACHEL systems, and a Committee Member of Competency Based Education.

One of the first introductions to Smart Boards in a correctional setting was at Southern Oaks Girls School. Randy took full advantage of the unique visual, auditory, interactive characteristics it offered to at-risk students by developing practical applications and lessons. These applications and lessons were shared with educators throughout corrections in the form of Smart Board trainings – fostering acceptance of the new technology within correctional educational settings.

As a committee member for CBI (Curriculum Based Instruction), Randy was part of a team instrumental in choosing the programs (Plato, Reading Horizons, Rosetta Stone, and Encarta Encyclopedia) and writing the Request for Proposal; which eventually became the core EdNet software available to all correctional students statewide.

RACHEL, a computer based learning system which is replacing EdNet, is currently being rolled out statewide and Lori Koenig, a teacher from Stanley Correctional Institution, and Randy are conducting RACHEL trainings in several institutions throughout the state. Together they developed guidelines and lessons revealing various programs available within RACHEL. In addition, they have conducted several institutional educator trainings on practical applications within a correctional setting.

<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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Due to the special needs of much of the correctional population and their educational challenges of differential learning, training in the use of the new technologies affords educators the needed opportunities and tools to incorporate them within their instruction. Randy believes, "These technologies aid educators in developing self-paced, visual, and auditory lessons in order to open pathways to success for students accustomed to educational hurdles."

As a member of the Competency Based Education committee, Randy developed project based lessons unique to the correctional population, while adhering to GED and Technical College requirements, for a comprehensive state wide 5.09 replacement – which should be implemented statewide in 2018.

Education Director Randy Scott notes that in his 2½ years at JCI, "Randy has shown the teamwork and knowledge it takes to make education a worthwhile venture for our students. He is a valuable resource in the area of technology, especially with the Smart Board. He not only provides students with amazing lessons but has shown me how the entire institution could benefit from his skills in any type of situation. He is the go to resource for other teachers as well as the DOC as a whole. Randy is well deserving of being named Teacher of the Year, although he may think differently because it is never about him. It is always about the students, staff and education of others that is his reward. Everyone at JCI is very proud of Randy for bringing the recognition of this well-deserved award to the vast reaches of the DOC. He is an amazing teacher as many of his students would attest."

Since 2008, Randy has provided a valuable service for the Wisconsin chapter of the Correctional Education Association. Using his technological expertise, he completely redesigned the [www.ceawiscosnin.org](http://www.ceawiscosnin.org) website in May 2008 and has acted as the website manager to this date – enabling it to become an important resource for correctional educators.

The CEA-Wisconsin Executive Board is pleased to recognize Randy Kowalsky as the 2018 Wisconsin Correctional Teacher of the Year. He will receive a plaque attesting to his achievement and a \$250 stipend. Randy will be furnished expenses to represent Wisconsin at the Region 3 & 4 CEA Conference on April 29 – May 1 at the Embassy Suites in Des Moines, Iowa. If he is selected as the Region III Teacher of the Year, Randy will be furnished expenses to attend the 73rd Annual CEA International Conference and Training Event on August 26-29, 2018, at the Sheraton Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana.



Randy Kowalsky has been a leader in the introduction of Smart Boards for use in correctional settings

# RACHEL within DOC: Beyond the Classroom at Stanley Correctional Institution . . .

In our classrooms, we serve two distinct groups of offenders. Those who grew up surrounded with technology and those who did not. Many younger guys seriously miss the cell phones and computers they once had. Others, generally older inmates reject new technology as foreign, even today. The Wisconsin DOC has recently adopted new-to-us technology that is helping to bridge that gap in technology.

RACHEL is a portable plug-and-play server which stores educational websites and makes that content available over any local (offline) connection. Once connected to RACHEL, you can instantly access offline versions of the world's best free educational websites including Wikipedia, Khan Academy, and over 100 more. One RACHEL unit that costs less than \$500 can provide this internet-like educational content for multiple DOC inmate computers. Stanley Correctional Institution (SCI) has made use of this new educational content in two areas beyond the classroom.

The library at SCI holds 4 RACHEL Chrome bases for General Population use in learning. They are occupied and in use approximately 66% of the day. Many offenders enjoy TED Talks for the topics highlight technological developments that are either foreign to them or far removed. Imagine the struggle for an inmate today – the world “outside” is extremely computerized and technological. Within the walls of a prison, those same devices and technologies are forbidden or highly restricted.



We have one RACHEL “Super User” here at SCI. Our Super-User is 61 years of age and is holding a life sentence. He has come to the library every possible day to use the RACHEL since it arrived back in October of 2016. A good estimate for this would be 240 study sessions. According to him, “I have library time four times a week, and I’m always on the computer. Every time I go, I learn something.” He has been studying basic math with the interactive KA lite module. He enjoys looking up different countries around the world to learn about their landforms and history. This Super User enjoys the TED Talks too. He has learned from TED speeches given by Michelle Obama, Bill Gates and more. The video he found most interesting this far was one explaining how government surveillance works.

The second creative use for RACHEL that SCI has implemented is right there in the middle of a housing unit in a “Study Lab”. This is a small room set up with some study tables, encyclopedias, dictionaries, and four computers for study. The study is directed by unit tutors and supervised by staff. The students and tutor are able to engage in educational discussions, where they can pull up reference materials with the RACHEL computer – almost like your teen will use Google on their Chromebook today. Inmate students use RACHEL as a supplement for traditional ABE/ GED study. The tutor can help a student take the “what you need to study to do better on the GED test” handout and guide students to the correct sources on RACHEL to learn those math skills.

The study lab is very popular. Throughout the entire housing unit, approximately 65 men are eligible to participate. On average, nine students show up for each study session. Some are directed to work together and share a computer if they have common assignments to work on. They appreciate being able to use this extra study time, some with and some without a computer. It is the RACHEL technology that operates on a chrome base that helps to make it all possible.

by: Lori Koenig, SCI

# ***Blueprint for Change Sets Goals for Juvenile Justice Education***

The Legal Center for Youth Justice and Education (LCYJE) is a national collaboration of the Southern Poverty Law Center, the Juvenile Law Center, the Education Law Center – Pennsylvania, and the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law. LCYJE's mission is to ensure that all youth in and returning from the juvenile and criminal justice systems can access a quality education. LCYJE builds collaborations among juvenile justice and education professionals, highlights innovative model litigation strategies, and works to reshape federal, state, and local policies.

LCYJE developed the *Blueprint for Change: Education Success for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System* with 10 goals that set forth the broad framework for education success for young people involved in the juvenile justice system. Each goal includes correlating benchmarks to measure progress toward achieving the broader goals and examples of programs, legislation, resources, policies, and practices that exist to improve educational outcomes for children in the juvenile justice system.

The *Blueprint for Change* is designed to be a tool for all stakeholders (including youth, parents, educators, lawyers, judges, caseworkers, probation officers, child welfare workers for dual status youth, juvenile justice and education system administrators, state and local agencies, and policy-makers). Stakeholders can use the framework of this Blueprint for Change to identify what they can do to promote educational success for youth in the juvenile justice system in their jurisdiction.

The *Blueprint for Change: Education Success for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System* 10 goals may be downloaded at [www.jjeducationblueprint.org](http://www.jjeducationblueprint.org).

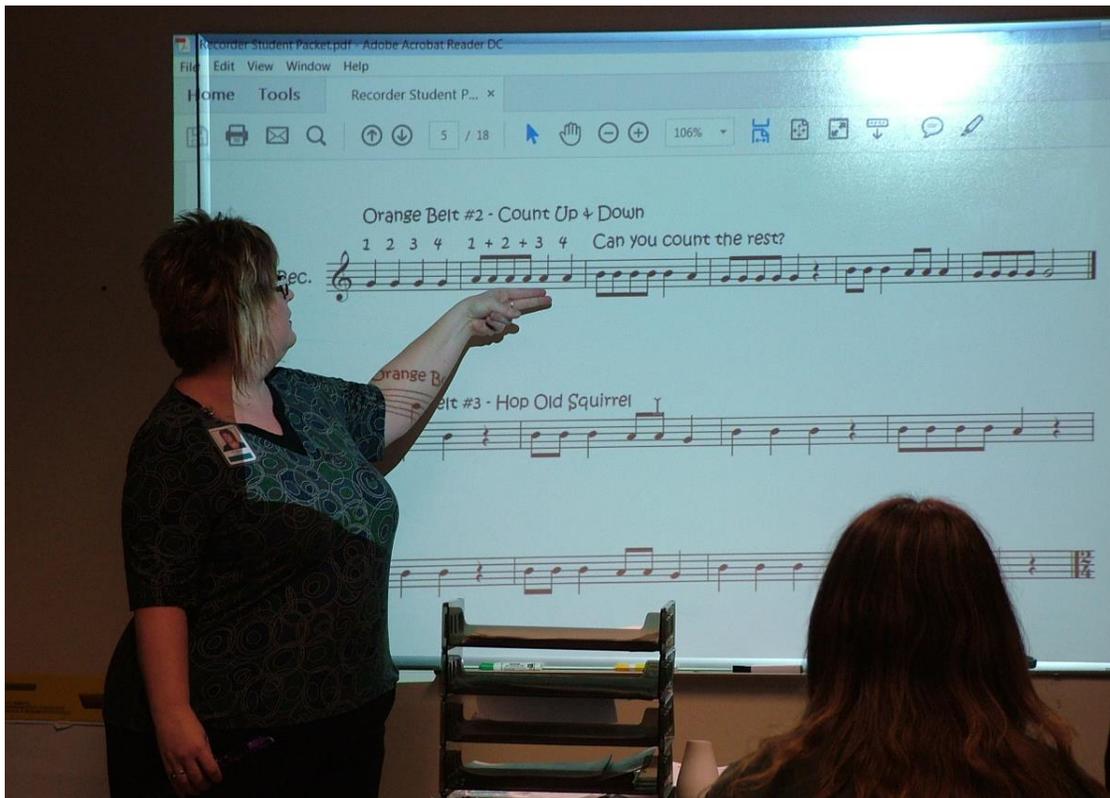
## ***Blueprint for Change Goals***

- Goal 1: Youth Voice - Youth are informed and entrusted to make decisions about their own education and future
- Goal 2: Adult Support - Youth have adult support in their education before, during and after involvement in the juvenile justice system
- Goal 3: Educated in Community - After being charged or adjudicated delinquent, youth remain in the same school whenever feasible or enroll in a new school in their home community
- Goal 4: Full Opportunities in Community - Youth involved in the juvenile justice system who are educated in the community receive access to the full range of educational opportunities and supports
- Goal 5: Quality Education in Facilities - Youth in juvenile justice placements receive a high quality educational experience that enables them to stay on track academically
- Goal 6: Supportive School Environments - Youth in juvenile justice placements are educated in a supportive, positive school environment where they feel safe and have a voice
- Goal 7: Career Pathways - Youth have access to high quality career pathways programs, especially in juvenile justice placements
- Goal 8: Post-Secondary Access - Youth receive supports to prepare for, enter, and complete post-secondary education and training
- Goal 9: Smooth Transitions - Youth have smooth transitions between home schools and juvenile justice placements and receive effective reentry planning and supports
- Goal 10: Protect Especially Vulnerable Youth

# Music in the Key of WRC

Have you ever had a tune stuck in your head? Do you have a workout playlist? How about using music as a way to calm your nerves or get you pumped up for something? The Wisconsin Resource Center (WRC) knows that we have many inmates who use music as a wellness tool and have a love/interest in music. Therefore, we thought adding music education to our program services would benefit the inmates in both educational and therapeutic ways. Music has been proven to help in traditional education objectives such as basic math skills, reading, writing, etc. Music can also assist with other treatment goals such as socialization, dexterity, confidence, healthy leisure activities, etc.

Enter Jen Bautz. In September, 2017, music classes began being offered at WRC and classes have been full ever since . . . sometimes even with a waiting list! I began with a simple survey asking the inmates what styles of music they liked and what kind of classes they might be interested in. From there I began to develop my own curriculum for 15 music classes. Having worked in the public schools for 18 years, this was not an odd feat for me. I was excited and up to the challenge! Many inmates wrote encouraging comments and showed great enthusiasm about being able to take an actual music class! One inmate even went so far as to ask “Can you help my soul?” Not identifying as a deity, I decided to try my best!



Piano (keyboard) and Choir are my staple classes that remain every term. The rest of the classes I rotate in and out depending on my schedule and what the waiting list looks like. These classes include: History of Rock N Roll, Jazz Studies, Basics of Music, Tone Chimes, Composer-A-Day, Music Around the World, Guitar, Hip Hop Studies, Music Appreciation, Music History, Musical Styles, Holiday Traditions, and Musical Theater. Due to space restrictions, the largest number of inmates that I can have in piano at one time is 10. I consistently maintain around 15 choir members on both the men’s and women’s sides. The rest of the classes are more about space and how many tables/chairs fit – which in my room is 12.

Music is beyond therapeutic! Have you ever seen video footage of an elderly person with dementia or Alzheimer’s disease sing a song? It is proof that music stays with your soul! My own grandfather ended

up singing in Polish at the end of his days, and we didn't even know that he spoke the language! I recently gave my students a survey asking about what they think the benefits of music are, if they use music as a coping skill, if music influences their mood, and how music has changed their life. Their responses were quite heart-warming. Here are a few:

- *Music has given me the focus and motivation to do things I want to in my life and without it, I'd have no direction as to what I want to do with my future.*
- *Music as a coping skill: It allows me to dream of a better future than what I have lost coming to prison.*
- *Jen's music classes have given me a new-found confidence!*
- *I took this class because I wanted to learn something that I believe my childhood was robbed of due to all the foster families, group homes, and treatment centers.*
- *Keep moving to the waves of music, because the beat will continue to ride to the rhythm of your heart.*
- *Music classes at WRC have changed my ability to be around others and open up. I am able to sing in front of people, a LOT of people! My classes have expanded my taste in music, keeps my mood up and I'm happier. I am able to share it with my family of what I've learned.*
- *Speaking of choir: We became a group! I socialized with guys that I would have never spoken to!*
- *I look forward to music class even though I am in a locked-up setting.*
- *Music as a coping skill: I feel lighter and more upbeat. It is a substitute for negative habits like worrying or anxiety.*
- *Music is a great outlet for creative energy and helps build bridges between people from all backgrounds, races, ages, styles, etc. Music can take you places emotionally that you can't be physically, like home.*
- *I wanted to broaden my horizons. I now have a new outlet that will help me deal with my abuse. Music has changed my life by helping me cope with all of the trauma that has happened in my life. I rely on it.*

Quite honestly, I could write pages of what inmates stated in their surveys as to the many benefits of music in their lives and specifically being able to take a class as a coping skill, mood enhancer, or even a healthy leisure activity.

Even though you may not have a degree in music, I would encourage you to utilize music in your classroom! Perhaps it's something as simple as music playing as the inmates come into your room. If you teach history, share a song or two from the era you are studying (youtube and google are the best resources). Studying current events? What song was the crowd singing at the political rally? Perhaps a brief lesson on the lyrics for "We Shall Overcome" is in order. What about writing? Find some class room appropriate rap lyrics and discuss form, metaphors, or compositional styles between Jay-Z and Tupac. I have a wealth of information that I would be more than willing to share with you. I am just an e-mail away! [jennifer.bautz@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:jennifer.bautz@dhs.wisconsin.gov)

Music is the universal language and as Bono once said, "Music can change the world because it can change people." Isn't that what we are here for?

by: Jen Bautz, WRC

## **TCI Says Goodbye to Ed Director Grueter**

In January, Taycheedah Correctional Institution Department said goodbye to Education Director Gary Grueter who announced his retirement.

Gary began working for the Department of Corrections in November 1977, and just celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> year of service. During his 40 years, Gary was a teacher at Waupun Correctional Institution, the Education Coordinator in Madison, and Education Director at Taycheedah since July 2003.

During his tenure at Taycheedah, 614 students completed their GED/HSED at the institution. He also administered the Moraine Park Technical College-certified vocational programs at Taycheedah, including supervising the development and implementation of the new MPTC-certified Dental Laboratory Technician and Cosmetology vocational programs. He also oversaw major curriculum updates to the existing Building Maintenance and Construction and Office Software Applications programs at the institution. Five hundred and sixty-five students completed MPTC-certified vocational programs at Taycheedah under Gary's oversight since July 2003.

Gary also oversaw the implementation of TABE testing for A&E inmates at Taycheedah when the institution became an intake site for female offenders in 2006. Since January 2006 his staff have administered and recorded the results of over 6,500 TABE exams.

Please join us in celebrating his many years of service, as well as his much deserved retirement.

Reprinted from the DOC Intranet

## **Region 3 & 4 CEA Conference & Training Event**

### **April 29 - May 1, 2018**

### **Embassy Suites - Des Moines Downtown**

You are invited to attend the Region 3 & 4 CEA Conference in Des Moines, Iowa. This is a wonderful opportunity to share information about practical strategies and best practices with correctional professionals from across the country.

#### **Registration Information**

Conference registration rates include: Sunday night screening of *The Fort – 177 Years of Crime & Punishment at Iowa State Penitentiary*, Monday Luncheon, and Tuesday Teacher of the Year Luncheon. Guests of Embassy Suites receive complimentary cooked-to-order breakfast. For a registration form, email Kerry Murray at [kerry.murray@iowa.gov](mailto:kerry.murray@iowa.gov).

#### **Registration Rates**

By March 30:	Members \$165,	Non-Members \$230,	Retirees \$150
After March 30:	Members \$190,	Non-Members \$255,	Retirees \$175

#### **Lodging**

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Embassy Suites Downtown Des Moines for conference attendees at a special group rate of \$115 per room. Hotel parking is \$23 per night, or parking is available for \$10 per night across the street in the public parking garage. For booking, go online at <http://group.embassysuites.com/CorrectionalEducationAssociation> or phone the hotel at 1-800-EMBASSY (Code: CEA).

## **Call for Presentations**

### **73rd CEA International Conference & Training Event**

**August 26-29, 2018**

### **Sheraton Hotel - New Orleans, Louisiana**

You are cordially invited to submit a workshop proposal for the Correctional Education Association International Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26-29, 2018. The Conference is seeking professionals who can share their expertise and experience with correctional educators in an enlightening and stimulating fashion. All sessions are set for 75 minutes. This is your opportunity to share information about your program or services with correctional professionals from around the world! To submit a proposal, go to [www.ceanational.org](http://www.ceanational.org) and click on "Conferences."

# 2017 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 Emily Propson has submitted this Annual Report for publication in this newsletter. If you have any questions or comments relating to this *2017 Annual Treasurer's Report*, contact Emily at [emily.propson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:emily.propson@wisconsin.gov).

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.

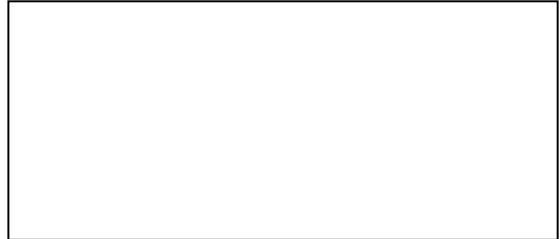
## Statement of Revenue and Expenses

<b>Gross receipts</b>	
Silent auction proceeds	\$717.00
Merchandise sales	35.00
Vendor fees and sponsorship	0.00
Pass-through CEA national memberships	1,055.00
Training day registrations	4,055.00
	<b>\$5,862.00</b>
<b>Contributions, gifts, grants, etc.</b>	
Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Teacher of the Year award	250.00
Plaques	78.36
Memorials and Gifts	158.10
	<b>\$1,486.46</b>
<b>Disbursements to members</b>	
Member conference expenses	\$773.00
	<b>\$773.00</b>

<b>Other expenses</b>	
Facility rental and food service	\$1,380.00
Registrations refunded	50.00
Postage	412.5
Exhibitor fees	50.00
Paper stock and office supplies	225.65
Printing	364.49
Pass-through memberships paid to CEA national	1,055.00
Check printing	19.00
CEA National ACA Annual Membership	150.00
Membership Recruitment	82.24
Deposit for 2018 International Leadership Forum Account	2,500.00
	<b>\$6,288.88</b>
<b>Balance</b>	
Inventory of Merchandise	\$448.00
Cash Deposits in Credit Union	<b>\$18,334.832</b>

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

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



## President's Message

**Whew!**

We made it! The cold snap in December, the long dark days of January, and the dreary icy days of February are over! I am anxious to hear the haunting calls of Sandhill cranes, and I look forward to seeing robins bouncing across my yard. We in Wisconsin have to power through some harsh weather conditions to make it to work each day. I am grateful to have colleagues that share my passion for teaching and who power through difficult situations, and my CEA colleagues are among the best. Recently, a group of CEA members who serve on the Creativity Contest Selection Committee met to judge this year's entries. It was a day of sharing experiences and working together to select the items that will be showcased in this year's booklet. This past year, the members of the Leadership Forum Planning Committee, including CEA leaders from across the U.S., have worked together to plan this year's forum – *March Toward Excellence*. Again, it has been an honor to work with individuals who are committed to bringing quality programming to our members. Hopefully, many of you are able to attend. As we look forward to warm spring days, take time to connect with other CEA members, I am confident it will be time well spent.

*Laurie Jarvis*

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

**“After one has been in prison, it is the small things that one appreciates: being able to take a walk whenever one wants, going into a shop and buying a newspaper, speaking or choosing to remain silent. The simple act of being able to control one's person.” - - - Nelson Mandela**