Bart Starr’s Legacy Lives on at Rawhide

With the death of Bart Starr on May 26, 2019, Rawhide, Inc. is mourning the loss of one of its co-founders. Rawhide, Inc. is a leading faith-based organization serving at-risk youth throughout Wisconsin.

“The Rawhide family is deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Bart Starr. Bart and Cherry have been incredibly instrumental in supporting and promoting Rawhide for over 50 years. Without Bart and Cherry, Rawhide would never have had the extensive impact on at-risk youth throughout Wisconsin,” said Alan B. Loux, President and CEO of Rawhide.

In 1965, Bart had already led the Green Bay Packers to two NFL championships and was on the verge of leading them to a third NFL championship and victories in the first two Super Bowls.

At the same time, John Gillespie and his wife, Jan, who had been taking in neglected and troubled boys, were hoping to start a ranch for at-risk youth. Unfortunately, their dream was in financial peril.

According to John’s recounting of the events, he found Bart Starr’s number in the phone book and made a desperate cold-call to Bart, who answered the phone. Gillespie explained the situation to Starr, who then had a question of his own: “You want to come over right now?” Gillespie didn’t hesitate. About an hour later, Gillespie — a man Starr had never met before — and his wife met Bart and Cherry at the Starr’s home in DePere.

John sat on the couch and described a plan that would eventually lead to the creation of Rawhide Boys Ranch, a facility for at-risk boys along the Wolf River near New London. When John finished explaining, Bart looked at Cherry, who answered with a subtle nod of her head. “I guess we’re on board,” Bart said.

Starting Rawhide during the early years would not be easy, but when the Starrs agreed to join the Gillespies, Rawhide gained instant credibility. Bart helped generate needed financial support. When Bart received a Corvette for being named MVP in Super Bowl II, he donated it to be raffled off to complete the down payment on the Rawhide property. They raised over $40,000 in 3 days, which was over ten times the car’s list price at the time.

Over the years, Bart and Cherry have been actively involved in tirelessly promoting Rawhide. They have donated countless hours sharing the Rawhide story, helping raise funds, visiting with the boys, and producing dozens of public service announcements for radio and TV. In addition, they have been wonderful role models for hundreds of boys who have gone through Rawhide’s programs since 1965.
Rawhide prides itself on being a place where commitment and compassion meet. It is a faith-based, 501(c)(3) recognized charity offering programs for at-risk youth in Wisconsin including residential care and outpatient mental health services dedicated to helping at-risk youth and their families lead healthy, responsible lives. Many of the youth arriving at Rawhide are court-referred as an alternative to juvenile corrections.

**Rawhide’s Continuum of Care**

Rawhide has moved beyond being just a Boys Ranch to offer a variety of programs and services that are designed to help at-risk youth and families turn their lives around, meeting them where they are at in their community.

Rawhide has expanded over the years and now offers services including outpatient counseling, residential treatment, summer camps, foster care and equine-assisted therapy. The ranch now has about 170 employees and volunteers.

The ranch also has a fully accredited school, Starr Academy, named for Bart and Cherry Starr.

The organization has branched out to provide services to boys and girls in Appleton, Green Bay, New London, Shiocton and Milwaukee and reaches between 600 and 1,000 people with services each year, said Alan Loux, Rawhide’s current president.

Rawhide professionals develop an individualized treatment plan for each at-risk youth to create sustained positive change. Rawhide has programs that vary in length of stay, residential goals, outcomes and costs to meet the youth’s unique placement needs and enhance the outcomes needed by each at-risk youth.

- **Short-Term — About Face Community Service Corps**

Rawhide offers 90 and 120-day placement increments for adjudicated and non-adjudicated male youth. The family-centered program builds character, mind and body while giving back through community service projects.
• **Standard Residential Care**

The family-centered home provides a safe therapeutic environment to gain and practice positive social skills. It includes Starr Academy, Rawhide’s on-grounds school, along with group, family, and individual counseling.

• **Transitional Group Home**

The Transitional Group Home is for youth who are ready to transition into a community and need less supervision. The youth participating learn independent living skills and receive community-based education, employment, social, spiritual, and recreational opportunities.

• **Treatment Foster Care**

Rawhide’s Level 3 and 4 community-based foster care supports foster parents, youth, and families. Foster care includes weekly therapy for youth and family, weekly in-home meetings including child-specific training with the foster parents, and close supervision of the youth’s community-based activities. Students attend a local school or may attend Starr Academy.

• **Youth and Family Counseling**

Rawhide’s counselors serve both male and female youth and their families. Rawhide has clinics in Appleton, Green Bay, and Milwaukee, in addition to the Shiocton and New London campuses which offer equine-assisted therapy.

**Bart Starr’s Legacy**

In addition to his generosity, Bart Starr will be remembered for his selfless, humble spirit that he modeled for those around him. He would selflessly spend time with the Rawhide youth and the staff. Bart and Cherry have inspired hundreds of boys who have gone through Rawhide’s program since 1965.

“My dad is so proud of what he was able to accomplish while playing with the Green Bay Packers. But he viewed that as a stepping stone to do something of even greater significance, and that was to make a difference in the lives of individuals who might otherwise not be able to turn their lives around. We will never know what would have happened without Rawhide, but we certainly know what has happened as a result of Rawhide,” said Bart Starr, Jr.

On its New London campus, Rawhide has established the Bart and Cherry Starr museum that is open to the public. The museum showcases personal memorabilia from Bart’s career with the Green Bay Packers.

“Bart and Cherry have been the heart and soul of Rawhide since its inception. Bart will be sorely missed but never forgotten,” said Loux.
Our 351 Sons
John Gillespie stepped away from working at Rawhide full-time in 2000, but continued to visit at least once a week. He recalls, "Over the years with the success of Rawhide, numerous people said, 'When are you and Jan going to write a book?'"

Six years ago, the Gillespies decided it was time, so John and Jan began writing the book.

Picking a title for the book, Our 351 Sons, was easy for the Gillespies."We had 10 boys at a time from the courts living with us. They stayed about a year, so over 35 years it came to 351 different boys. Many of them came in a police car and handcuffs, and Jan always said she was in love with those boys before the handcuffs came off," recalls John.

To refresh their memories, John and Jan combed through the daily planners each had kept over the first 35 years of the ranch's history.

In January 2017, two months after finishing the book, Jan passed away after a lengthy battle with cancer. A year later, the book was finally ready for release. In the first four months it was out, John says it sold about 4,000 copies all over the country.

In the book, Gillespie shares inspirational and humorous stories about his experiences fostering troubled youth, how Packers legend Bart Starr became a passionate partner in the mission to turn young lives around, and how car dealerships around the state helped save the ranch from foreclosure.

There are also tips and advice for parents today. "Do something with your kids serving others and they will start to develop that serving attitude. That's why if we can have a boy at Rawhide for 90 days, three months, there's an 80% chance he'll never be in trouble with the law again, and it's because we develop that serving attitude," says Gillespie.
Rawhide Contact Information
To find out more about Rawhide’s programs or to help support their efforts to help at-risk youth by donating or volunteering go to www.rawhide.org or call them at 1-800-729-4433.
New Faces on the CEA-Wisconsin Board

As a result of this year’s CEA-Wisconsin Board election and a resignation, the Board will have several new faces when it meets in July.

Newly elected to the CEA-Wisconsin board are:

- Brandi Berry – Juvenile Facilities Member
- Jon Philipp – Jail/Detention Center Member
- Dave Shepherd – Member-At-Large

Those re-elected to the CEA-Wisconsin Board and continuing in their positions for another term are:

- Mary Davies – Local Education Agency Member
- Holly Audley – Member-At-Large

Another change to the CEA-Wisconsin Board is the result of Secretary Margaret Done’s resignation. Margaret has accepted a position as a social worker within the DOC. While Margaret will continue to support correctional education, she believes that in order for the Board to continue to grow and flourish, it needs individuals more actively involved with education.

To fill the vacant Secretary position, the CEA-Board has appointed Connie Shlimovitz to fill the vacancy until next year’s election.

Meet the New Board Members on the next two pages!
Meet the New CEA-Wisconsin Board Members

Connie Shlimovitz – Secretary

Connie is the Teacher Supervisor at Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center. She started teaching there in 2014 and was promoted to her current role in 2017. Prior to this, she worked as a counselor at Sunburst Youth Homes, a social studies teacher at Portage Community Schools, the technology director at St. Bernard’s Catholic School, and a writing instructor at Madison College. She has a Bachelor’s degree in Education and Social Studies from UW-Eau Claire, a Master’s Degree in Education and Technology from Edgewood College, a certificate in on-line education, and a license in adult education. She recently completed the DHS – Foundations of Leadership program.

Brandi Berry – Juvenile Facilities Member

Brandi completed her undergraduate education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and then obtained her Master’s and Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is now a licensed psychologist and school psychologist in the State of Wisconsin. She has been employed at Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake School for five years. Following one year as a Psychological Intern, she moved into the role of School Psychologist. Brandi’s primary responsibilities include overseeing the special education program, providing behavioral supports to students, and consulting with staff members to develop behavioral management plans. Additionally, she serves on the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Team, Family Council, and Leadership Committee.
Meet the New CEA-Wisconsin Board Members

Jonathon Philipp – Jail/Detention Center Member

Jon has spent the past nine years as the Education Coordinator/GED Instructor at the Outagamie County Jail in Appleton. Jon earned his Bachelor’s degree in Radio-TV-Film from UW Oshkosh, and spent the next two years working at Wisconsin news stations and California production companies. After returning to Wisconsin in 2006, he began classes at UW-Milwaukee and obtained his teaching certification. He accepted his current position with Outagamie County in 2010. Jon was selected the CEA-Wisconsin Teacher of the year in 2017.

David Shepherd – Member-At-Large

Dave is a teacher at New Lisbon Correctional Institution. Prior to joining the Department of Corrections, Dave was a member of the US Navy, serving in Operation Desert Storm. He has worked as a private security supervisor in New York City and Milwaukee. While in Milwaukee, he earned his Bachelor’s in Education from UW-Milwaukee. He served one year as a Milwaukee Public School teacher before joining the New Lisbon team in 2011. Beyond his teacher duties, Dave has been active in statewide initiatives such as STAR and CBE. At his institution, Dave also serves as a member of the Security Threats Group, a member of the Crisis Negotiations Team, and an inmate advocate.
Leaving the Board are four long-time members

Ray Schlesinger – Ray has served on the CEA-Wisconsin Board since March 2002. Originally elected as an At-Large member, Ray also served for a brief time as Maximum Security Representative. From 2007 to 2018, Ray was the CEA-Wisconsin Treasurer and played a key role in helping the state chapter achieve its current financial stability. Last year’s election as Region III CEA Treasurer required Ray to resign his position as CEA-Wisconsin Treasurer to avoid any possible conflict of interest. He returned to an At-Large position on the Board.

Margaret Done – Margaret has served on the Board since July 2007. She started as the Minimum Security Representative until she was elected President-Elect in 2009. After her term as President ended in 2012, Margaret continued to serve on the Board as Maximum/Minimum Representative, Medium Security Representative and Secretary.

Pandora Lobasz – Pandora has served as Juvenile Facilities Representative on the Board since May 2013.

Willa MacKenzie – Willa was selected CEA-Wisconsin Teacher of the Year in 2013. After representing Wisconsin at the Region III Teacher of the Year ceremony, Willa became an At-Large Member on the Board in May 2013. The next year, Willa was elected as the Jail/ Detention Center Representative.

The CEA-Wisconsin Board thanks Ray, Margaret, Pandora and Willa for their dedicated service and wishes them the best in their future endeavors.
We’re Evolving

The May/June issues of the CEA-Wisconsin and Parenting Connection newsletters introduced the first new look they have had in over 15 years. Amanda Hillestad, a teacher at Jackson Correctional Institution, has accepted the challenge to redesign the format for both newsletters.

We asked for your comments and suggestions relating to the new format and received encouraging replies. Many approved of the modern look and enhanced graphics. Several commented that the added pictures helped them to “get to know” the people behind the articles.

Several responders also made suggestions for improvement. Among the recommendations which we will try to incorporate are:

- Featuring the CEA apple logo and “Transforming Lives” motto predominately in the newsletters as they one of the most identifiable CEA symbols out there and help establish the CEA brand
- Adding a header or footer on each page to identify it as a newsletter and not just a long word document
- Limiting the use of dark backgrounds with light text to smaller areas because dark backgrounds with light text tend to cause eye strain and are difficult for readability
- Keeping the color scheme, logos, etc. used in the newsletter similar to those used on website so they become identifiable as the CEA-Wisconsin brand

We appreciate the suggestions we have received from our readers and will use the feedback to make improvements to our newsletter and website. Keep them coming.

You may contribute your suggestions by contacting JerryBednarowski@new.rr.com, Amanda.Hillestad@wisconsin.gov or Chisim.Metternich@wisconsin.gov.
The 2019 Copper Lake School/Lincoln Hills School Greenhouse Education Program opened for the season in early March, beginning with seed planting, splitting and repotting. The students have been learning about all aspects of the greenhouse operations including Agriscience, finance, and teamwork. Teachers Michael Sessler and Shane Kauzlaric have been assisting kids in growing multiple types of flowers and vegetables. The youth have also been able to produce fresh greens like spinach, lettuce, and chives to supplement the facility’s main kitchen a couple of days a week. So far this season, the greenhouse has produced 18 different types of annual and perennial flowers. Vegetable production is around 12 different types with more than 1,500 individual tomato plants. These plants will be available for staff and visitors to purchase, while also being used in the main institution garden.

New this year, many living units are participating by utilizing raised gardens that are located around their buildings. Many items are also donated to the Neighbors Place in Wausau, the community garden in Merrill and other community garden programs throughout Wisconsin.

Reprinted from DOC NET
A New Hope: Job Centers in Our Correctional Institutions

by: Caleb Frostman, DWD News Release

Last week I met Frank, an inmate at Oakhill Correctional Institution (OCI). For the past decade, he’s been serving time for various crimes, including drug offenses and burglaries. He’ll be the first to tell you that he’s done wrong in his past. Having spent the bulk of the last 10 years locked up, he's had plenty of time to reflect on his misdeeds and on his upcoming release.

In 45 days, Frank will be released from OCI, prompting him to ask, "What happens next?" With a criminal record and a 10-year employment gap on his resume, job prospects are at the top of his mind. If he's not able to make a living wage quickly, will he be able to attain and maintain stable housing, afford transportation to and from work or job interviews, and buy groceries and new clothes for the first time in a decade?

Frank's story is similar to many other men and women who have served their time. Based on the latest report from the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC), Wisconsin released 8,952 inmates from DOC institutions in 2016. Between 2015 and 2017, OCI alone released over 750 inmates.

After serving their sentences, many formerly incarcerated people face the same issues that contributed to their criminal behavior. Without adequate support and resources, recidivism becomes far more likely. Even prior to taking office, the Evers administration has been strategizing on how to assist in breaking the cycle of recidivism.

The answer, from stakeholders across the political spectrum, has been nearly uniform — jobs. Quality jobs allow former offenders to earn a self-supporting, living wage jobs that will allow them to pay their bills and their taxes, and invest in their housing, their health, and their retirement. There has been no greater antidote to recidivism than quality, stable employment.

For Frank, he now has that opportunity because of the job center at OCI, which provides career counseling, resume creation, veteran services, and job application assistance. And with access to email, instead of hand-written mail with a prison's return address, ex-offenders have a far greater chance at being considered for employment.

The inter-agency partnership between the Departments of Workforce Development and Corrections effectively connects the dots between reducing recidivism rates and creatively and inclusively addressing Wisconsin's workforce shortage.

This is one of many reasons why I am proud to support Gov. Evers' budget, which funds four more job centers within correctional facilities. Giving soon-to-be released inmates the skills and resources they need to find and keep a job that will provide self-sufficiency while also building our workforce is a win-win for the formerly incarcerated and Wisconsin.
Ceremonies Recognize Educational Achievements

Taycheedah Correctional Institution

Taycheedah Correctional Institution proudly hosted its Ridgewood School graduation for GED/HSED and vocational completers on May 15, 2019. In attendance were Warden Sarah Cooper; Mary Davies, Moraine Park Technical College; and Jason Lederhaus, TCI Educational Director.

Jason Lederhaus acknowledged education staff, not only for making sure their students are successful, but also for helping him to be successful in his role as education director. Jason also recognized the tutors that assist the educators and students. Warden Cooper greeted staff, family, and friends, and acknowledged their attendance and the importance of their support. She encouraged the graduates to be proud of what they have accomplished, for education is something that cannot be taken away from them.

Mary Davies from MPTC addressed the vocational students, congratulating them on being college graduates. She encouraged all graduates to take advantage of the opportunities offered to them. She welcomed the group to continue their education at the MPTC in the future.
Redgranite Correctional Institution

A small ceremony was held by the education department at Redgranite Correctional Institution to recognize the accomplishments of four students. Adam Kuczynski, Antwan Robinson, David Tarlo, and Larry Wright all received a 4.0 GPA for the 2018 Fall semester at Milwaukee Area Technical College. The students are enrolled in classes through the Second Chance Pell Grant program which allows incarcerated individuals the opportunity to attend college-level classes. The goal is to have each student complete an Associate’s Degree in Arts or Sciences. Finishing that degree level will allow those students to continue their education and enroll into a four-year college as juniors or to move directly into the workforce with the skills so many employers are now requiring.
Waupun Correctional Institution

Waupun Correctional Institution celebrated the accomplishments of their graduates on May 15 with family and friends of the graduates in attendance. During the 2018-2019 school year, WCI recorded 31 GED/HSED students achieving their credentials and five students earning a Technical Diploma in Building, Maintenance, and Construction.

Kevin Carr, Secretary of the DOC, was the keynote speaker and shared his inspiring message with students and guests. Several graduates had the opportunity to speak during the ceremony, sharing their perspectives and thoughts on the positive changes associated with Education. As one student speaker stated, “Today we’ve proven that our failures don’t define us, because we are here right now celebrating our success.”

2019 WCI Graduates

Reprinted from DOC NET
Thanks for Making the CEA-Wisconsin Training Day a Success!

The board of CEA-Wisconsin wishes to thank all of the attendees, presenters, vendors and Silent Auction donors for making the CEA-Wisconsin Training Day, “Education: The Path Forward,” a success.

The 195 Training Day participants were able to choose from 20 breakout sessions to attend.

At the luncheon, Laurie Jarvis was honored for her selection as Wisconsin and Region III Teacher of the Year.

Many of the conference participants bid on 43 items that were donated by businesses, individuals and correctional facilities for the Silent Auction. All proceeds from the Silent Auction will be used to help support CEA-Wisconsin initiatives to provide professional development opportunities for correctional educators.

Five vendors displayed the latest in education and technology products that can be used to instruct correctional students. The CEA-Wisconsin Board would like to thank:

- Essential Education - Rich Palmer
- New Readers Press - Ann Beeson
- Data Recognition Corporation - Michele Ruszkowski
- GED Testing Service - Scott Salesses
- Miller Electric Manufacturing - Steven D Hidden
Evaluations completed by 86 Training Day participants showed that these percentages Agreed or Strongly Agreed with the following statements:

- The selection of training presentations met my needs - 79%,
- The presenters met my expectations - 82%
- There were an adequate number of sessions in my area of interest – 62%
- The length of the sessions was adequate – 87%
- There was sufficient time to network with colleagues – 67%
- The training facilities met expectations – 92%
- The location of the training was convenient – 88%
- The food and refreshments met expectations – 67%
- The training rooms were adequate for the presentations – 64%

Thank all of you for your support of CEA-Wisconsin’s efforts to strengthen the skills of correctional educators and support effective and innovative educational programming.

At our July meeting, the CEA-Wisconsin Board will begin planning next year’s professional development event. To make you future experiences at Training Days more enjoyable, we will also address some of the common complaints made on the evaluations, such as speed of registration, size of breakout rooms, serving breakfast, and variety/scheduling of sessions.

Keep an eye on the CEA-Wisconsin newsletter and www.ceawisconsin.org website for information as the plans develop.
RYOCF Holds a Reentry Resource Fair

Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility held a Reentry Resource Fair on May 23. More than 25 agencies and organizations came to RYOCF to share community resources that are available to releasing offenders. Approximately 100 offenders participated in the fair. Both offenders and agency participants enjoyed the positive interactions. (Reprinted from DOCNET)

CEA-Wisconsin Grant Supports Professional Development

Last year, the CEA-Wisconsin Board announced a new grant for members who wish to pursue professional development.

At least two $500 Professional Development Grants will be awarded to CEA-Wisconsin members per calendar year. The CEA-Wisconsin Board may elect to award additional Professional Development Grants depending on the number and quality of scholarship applications and funding available. Activities which may qualify for the grant include educational or correctional conferences, skills training, industry trade shows, or other activities that relate to the member’s teaching responsibilities. Applications for the CEA-Wisconsin Professional Development Grant may be made at any time of the year. There is no application due date.

Since CEA-Wisconsin also offers a CEA-Wisconsin Scholarship that is available to CEA-Wisconsin members enrolled in undergraduate or graduate courses, the Professional Development Grant may not be used for credit courses. The $1000 CEA-Wisconsin Scholarship was announced in the May/June issue of the CEA-Wisconsin newsletter with a due date of July 1, 2019.

Complete application directions and forms for the CEA-Wisconsin Professional Development Grant may be found on the www.ceawisconsin.org website.
TI-30SX: An Essential Tool for Improving GED Student Success

by: SCI Teachers Lori Koenig & Thomas Arthur

How many of your students have struggled on the GED Math exam? I am guessing that the majority of students that you serve fall into this category.

As you well know, funding for Adult Education within Corrections is often very tight. Funds are carefully budgeted and spending is analyzed carefully.

Recently, at Stanley Correctional Institution we were awarded money to purchase a large number of the calculators which are allowed on the GED mathematics exam. We were fortunate to receive grant funds from the Office of Program Services to spend toward these items and also additional math textbooks. With this purchase, our two GED Math teachers received classroom sets of the TI-30SX calculator.

The outcome of this purchase has made a big difference in the success rate of our students who are taking that GED math exam. The availability of this TI-30SX within the classroom allows our students valuable time to explore and learn its features fully.

Statistics can be generated on-demand with the GED Testing Service website. Within the first six months of 2018, SCI students testing in math passed at only a 77%, below the national percentage rate. After implementing this calculator purchase, our passing success rate rose to 89% which is now above the national average. This amounts to an additional 15% of our students being successful on their exam.
There are three mathematical concepts that our students benefit from most. The first revolves around the geometry of circles where they need to utilize pi for calculations. The second incorporates functions and calculating a table of values for a linear equation. The third application with the TI-30SX would be to calculate out quadratic equations.

Even the classroom math tutor has seen a difference — student confidence has increased and the number of questions students have for the tutor have decreased.

To help with inventory and accountability, we purchased a shoe hanger for the classroom wall where the calculators can easily be visually inspected. At the beginning of class, a student who wishes to use the calculator will trade their ID for it, which they then get back when the calculator is returned. With this visible wall display, it is easier to notice when one is missing.

Our goal for writing this short article is to help another teacher petition or persuade their purchasing agent that a purchase of a classroom set of the TI-30SX is a wise investment. It can only help your students build their math confidence through practice.
Professor and Student Make an Argument for College in Prison

When Carmen Heider, a professor in the Communication Studies Department at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, considered submitting an article for the *Critical Education* Special Series, “Radical Departures: Ruminations on the Purposes of Higher Education in Prison,” she immediately thought of involving Karen Lehman, an inmate-student at Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center.

*Critical Education* is a peer-reviewed, open-access, international and multidisciplinary journal published by the Institute for Critical Education at the University of British Columbia. Contributions critically examine contemporary education methods and theories that advance educational practices and challenge the existing state of affairs in society, schools, higher education, and informal education.

Carmen first met Karen when she was enrolled in the professor’s *Inside-Out Prison Exchange* course. This upper-level, undergraduate elective was offered at Taycheedah Correctional Institution where Karen was one of 10 "inside" (currently incarcerated) students who learned alongside 10 "outside" (currently non-incarcerated) students.

In their article, *Education and Transformation: An Argument for College in Prison*, the university professor and the student who has been incarcerated for more than 20 years explore the dynamics of what it means to learn inside of a prison. The narrative explores the challenges and successes of earning a baccalaureate degree while in prison, including highlights from several courses and the overall significance of the college experience. The dialogue between professor and student emphasizes the value of higher education in prison and the importance of supporting these types of programs.
As a currently incarcerated student, Karen, attempts to answer the question, “What does it mean to learn inside of a prison?”

She concludes that the question does not have a simple answer:

“To say that higher education in a prison setting is an appropriate opportunity for self-improvement is an understatement. It can be seen as a path that opens your mind to possibilities. The knowledge gained then influences the choices we make, to right some wrongs and give back to the society from which we took.

It is also an opportunity to be a positive example and role model for the general prison population and those coming in behind us, to show them we can all choose to be better people. When you are in prison, the real goal, always in the back of your mind, is freedom.

The manner in which you serve your sentence is very indicative of the type of person you will be upon release. That matters. Are you going to be a contributing member of society or are you going to continue a life of criminal activity? Learning inside of prison can change lives.”

Karen concludes her narrative by underscoring the impact that higher education has had on her life. “College courses,” she emphasizes, “have opened my eyes to the harsh realities of my actions and the ripple effects they have produced in my family and community. I am empowered in my own life to help make the change from burden to contributor.”

Carmen believes that these statements encapsulate the shift in perspective that is often indicative of engaging in higher education. “Throughout her narrative, Karen embodies the argument for higher education in prison, which, as she demonstrates, fosters self-development, critical thinking skills, and the potential to create positive change in the broader community, impacting those on both the inside and outside of our prisons. She demonstrates that higher education is a key catalyst in this transformative process, which underscores the value of such programs within our prison system.”
Karen summarizes her perspective as an incarcerated person, “Higher education in the prison system makes us think about and face experiences and decisions in our lives. It makes us look at ourselves in a critical way and acknowledge that we must make our own changes in order to fully re-join society. We can, as a concerted effort between inmates holding themselves accountable and society providing the funding and/or social support, make a difference in our thought process and negative behaviors. Most of us will be released, so at minimum, our communities deserve to have returning citizens who did everything they could while in prison. I feel so strongly that Corrections serves two purposes: punishment and rehabilitation and further, that rehabilitation is rooted in treatment and education. I am just one example of transformation within the prison system. Education is the catalyst that shuts out the negative background noise, helps us to make sense of our current circumstances, and more importantly, to overcome them — in other words, transform.”

The entire article, Education and Transformation: An Argument for College in Prison may be found at https://ices.library.ubc.ca/index.php/criticaled/issue/view/182634.
President’s Message

I would like to thank Dave Hines for his service to the CEA-Wisconsin board for many years, most recently severing as our President. Dave has decided to step away from the board to focus on personal matters. We thank Dave for his dedication to CEA and wish him and his loved ones the best.

In Dave’s absence, the CEA-Wisconsin board has appointed me to finish out the remaining time of Dave’s term and continue to serve for the 2020-2022 term as planned. This change requires me to vacate my former office, and the board has appointed Dave Prochnow to serve as the President-Elect.

I am very excited to get to work with many new and seasoned Board members and to learn more about the needs and wishes of our diverse membership. It is my intention for CEA-Wisconsin to continue to support correctional educators in meaningful ways through improving and increasing the membership benefits and services we provide to those working hard to improve the lives of others everyday.

The work we do is incredibly important and I am honored to serve the members of CEA-W in this role. Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions, feedback or ideas of how we can best serve you!

- Emily Propson