It’s Time for a New Look

As the CEA-Wisconsin newsletter enters its 33rd year, the Parenting Connections newsletter becomes 15 years old and the CEA-Wisconsin website turns 19, it is time to throw off the dated fashions and create a new look.

In the early years of its existence, the CEA-Wisconsin newsletter went through 6 rapid reincarnations as publishing technology quickly developed. In May 1986, the newsletter was typed on thermo fax stencils, printed on a mimeograph machine, and mailed to CEA-Wisconsin members. As printing technology evolved and computer software programs became available, the newsletter format was revised approximately every two years. In July 1998, Sandy Sterr-Heavener, Program Assistant at WRC, created the newsletter format that has been used until the newsletter’s most recent issue.

Until about 10 years ago, the main way the newsletter was distributed was to print hardcopies and have them delivered to the institutions or mailed to CEA-Wisconsin members. Over the past decade, there was a shift from printed to electronic publication. Today, almost everyone reads the newsletter electronically. The newsletters are emailed to approximately 300 DOC staff, 190 county jail staff, 210 Wisconsin community individuals and 210 individuals nationwide. The newsletters are also posted on the CEA-Wisconsin, CEA National and Fair Shake websites.

Unlike the CEA-Wisconsin newsletter, the Parenting Connection newsletter has maintained its original format since its founding in November 2004. Sandy Sterr-Heavener was also responsible for creating the format for the Parenting Connection newsletter. The Parenting Connection newsletter is emailed to the same distribution list as the CEA-Wisconsin newsletter.

Story Continued on page 2
With this issue, the CEA-Wisconsin and Parenting Connection newsletters will have its first new look. Amanda Hillestad, a teacher at Jackson Correctional Institution, has accepted the challenge to redesign the format for both newsletters. Amanda’s goals are to continually create a modern look with enhanced graphics and added pictures. Amanda will share the editor duties with Jerry Bednarowski and will also serve as proofreader for both newsletters.

CEA-Wisconsin’s website has also maintained its original appearance for a long time. Since the website was created in October 2000 by Randy Kowalsky, a teacher at JCI, he has been responsible for its development and maintenance. Randy’s creativity and hard work has resulted in CEA-Wisconsin having the most comprehensive website of any CEA state chapter.

The website has continually added menu items and content over the past two decades. As the amount of material on the website has grown, the website’s appearance has become congested. The navigation menus in the header and sidebar have expanded to 22 content areas that include 98 CEA-Wisconsin newsletters, 86 Parenting Connection newsletters, a 12-page Directory of Education Programs in Wisconsin County Jails and Detention Centers, a 36-page Reaching Beyond Bars handbook, and a 70-page Prison Parenting Programs handbook. All of this content has detracted from the attractiveness of the website and made it less user-friendly.

To modernize the CEA-Wisconsin website and make it more dynamic and user-friendly, the CEA-Wisconsin Board has named Chisim Metternich, a teacher at Wisconsin Resource Center, as its new webmaster. Chisim will be responsible for managing the content of CEA-Wisconsin’s internet presence. He will also perform day-to-day site maintenance, set standards for design, perform navigation and browser compatibility, perform quality-control for third party content, and maintain and develop small web applications.

Chisim hopes to take advantage of the website’s retooling and use it as an opportunity to extend CEA-Wisconsin’s brand and presence with correctional educators in Wisconsin. He envisions the website as a platform open to members and to non-members to showcase correctional educators’ projects, programs, and successes. Chisim sees the transformation of the website occurring in stages: (1) update and modernize the layout and appearance of the website, (2) build-on added functionality, and (3) remain lean and flexible to adapt the website to the needs and changing interests of the community and the membership.

The CEA-Wisconsin Board is looking forward to working with Amanda and Chisim as they re-energize our newsletters and website to better serve the needs of correctional educators. You may contribute your suggestions by contacting them at Amanda.Hillestad@wisconsin.gov or Chisim.Metternich@wisconsin.gov.
Laurie Jarvis Chosen
Region 3 Teacher of the Year

On April 7-9, 2019, Wisconsin Correctional Teacher of the Year Laurie Jarvis represented Wisconsin correctional educators at the CEA Leadership Forum and Region 3 Conference at the Kalahari Convention Center in Sandusky, Ohio. Laurie came away with the honor of being selected Region 3 Teacher of the Year.

The Region 3 Teacher of the Year luncheon had a safari theme, with the tables decorated with toy African animals and a picture of each state’s Teacher of the Year at the table reserved for the candidates and their guests. The Teacher of the Year committee chairs, Larry Pickard from Region 3 and Mary Feeney Wilfer from Region 4, took the audience on a safari using binoculars to search out each candidate in the audience. They introduced each Teacher of the Year candidate and described the characteristics that made each candidate a great teacher. They then announced the Region 3 and Region 4 winners.

To give her Wisconsin colleagues a chance to show their appreciation for Laurie’s dedication, she will be honored at a luncheon on May 6 at the CEA-Wisconsin Training Day at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake. Laurie will then go on to represent Wisconsin and Region 3 at the 74th CEA Annual Conference & Training Event at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center on July 28-31, 2019.

The CEA-Wisconsin Board congratulates Laurie Jarvis on her well-deserved award!

Other Region 3 TOYs from Wisconsin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Laurie Crescio</td>
<td>Waupun Correctional Institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>DeNeal Erickson Perez</td>
<td>Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Ken VanMieghem</td>
<td>Wisconsin Resource Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Sharon Abel</td>
<td>Lakeshore Technical College/Sheboygan County Detention Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Mary Stierna Davies</td>
<td>Wisconsin Resource Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Mel Free</td>
<td>Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Anita Wilcox</td>
<td>Blackhawk Technical College/Wisconsin Resource Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Phil Leader</td>
<td>Wisconsin Resource Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2019 Friends of Correctional Education Award

Do you know someone who has been noteworthy in their support of correctional education?

This person may be a volunteer who contributes time and effort to an education program, a community agency employee who has presented special workshops, a business person who has donated funds or materials to make programs more effective, or an advocate of correctional education in some way. If such a person has contributed to your facility's education program, submit his/her name for the Friends of Correctional Education Award.

Nominees cannot be employed by the Department of Corrections, Department of Health and Family Services, or a county jail.

To nominate a Friend of Correctional Education, go to www.ceawisconsin.org and complete a description of the Friend's contribution to correctional education on the Nomination Form. For more information, contact Willa MacKenzie, Western Technical College, 608-789-6033 or mackenziew@westerntc.edu.

Submission Deadline is: July 1, 2019

Check out our website!

www.ceawisconsin.org
Lana Hamilton spent time in jail and struggled with heroin addiction.

“I have not gone to prison — thank God, I didn’t have to — but almost everything else, pretty much, I’ve experienced,” she said.

Hamilton has since become a peer support specialist, and attended classes and training sessions. But earlier this week, she showed up for more; attending the first session of a pilot program meant to teach formerly incarcerated women about holistic wellness.

She wanted to learn more from her peer support “coachees,” as the program calls them, and because she believes “knowledge is our best asset.”

“Anything that’s on the subject and is something I’m available to get to, I’m in,” she said.

Women returning home after serving prison sentences face a barrage of challenges that continue for years, said Alice Pauser, founder and executive director of the Demeter Foundation, so the more consistent help they can get, the better. Demeter, an advocacy organization for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women in Wisconsin, created this eight-week holistic wellness workshop to help women deal those challenges in a comprehensive way.

“I know we get grouped to death. I know we do,” Pauser told the women. “But I think sometimes groups can be incredibly beneficial for us because you develop that peer support.”

The Need
According to a 2018 report, almost 800 female former inmates are on probation or post-institution release in Dane County. There are many local resources for them, Pauser said, with organizations like Madison-area Urban Ministry and the Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership Development.

But no one organization can do everything, Pauser said, and she has noticed gaps in services and support, especially for women.

Story Continued on page 6
This was drilled home to Pauser after conversations with formerly incarcerated women who told her things like, “I need to learn more about getting a bank account set up,” or “I need to learn more about what kind of healthcare opportunities I have,” or “I’m not getting emotional support.” “That and” — Pauser paused for a deep sigh — “the phone calls and emails and letters from women, not being able to find good support.”

The transition from prison to society is tough, and many service providers and former inmates emphasize the importance of trauma-informed care, social support and the time and space to heal.

“A lot of women, when they go to prison, we see them just needing a lot of therapy — someone to talk to. They need to be built back up, given skills,” Melissa Ludin, board president of Ex-Prisoners Organizing, or EXPO, said at the time. “And when they get released and they still have that baggage, it’s very difficult.”

Once released from prison, moms must quickly re-adapt to taking responsibility for their kids. Women prisoners report higher rates of mental illness than men. National data shows up to 90% of female prisoners have experienced physical, sexual or emotional trauma.

Taycheedah Correctional Institution is Wisconsin’s only medium and maximum-security prison for women. According to the DOC, 88% of the inmates at Taycheedah had some form of mental health need and 35% of inmates had a serious mental illness like psychotic disorder and bipolar disorder as of September 2018.

Pauser went to her board of directors at Demeter and advocated for a comprehensive program covering all the aspects of wellness. Demeter provides care packages and support services for women just released from prison, advocates for legislation, educates the community on women’s incarceration issues and runs wellness workshops.

“So many women have trauma histories before they even go into the criminal justice system, then they’re traumatized by being incarcerated and then having to come back,” she said. “To me, there can never be enough support for them.”

Story Continued on page 7
The Class

The pilot course, which began in March, covered each of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration eight dimensions of wellness, which include physical, financial, emotional and spiritual wellness. Each session contained a “facilitated conversation” on one topic.

“This is not a lecture series. No one will be standing up here for 90 minutes and talking at you,” Pauser told the attendees.

Pauser put in the work to make the class as accessible as possible. The course — supported by the Evjue Foundation, the charitable arm of the *Cap Times* — is offered at no cost to the participants. The Wisconsin Women’s Business Initiative Corporation provided the classroom space. Women get free bus passes, and Pauser sets up snacks and water in the back of the room. Pauser couldn’t pay for childcare, but one woman rolled in with a stroller. Her kid’s feet poked out beneath a quilt during the class.

It’s a bunch of women in this class, if that baby gets fussy, pass ‘em around!” Pauser said with a laugh.

Ten women signed up for the pilot class; some have been recently released and some have been out of prison for years. Pauser told the attendees her own daughter received a life sentence in prison almost 20 years ago.

“I had to make the decision, was I going to curl up and die or was I going to be able to do something about it?” she said.

Pauser gave an overview of the class and talked about social wellness. Local advocates consistently list social support as one of the most important factors for reentry success.

Pauser had struggles with mental health and substance abuse, and emphasized that self-care and good social support are a necessary part of recovery.

“I just want to say that it is so important for us to have social outlets,” she said. “When I was not in recovery, well you can pretty much guess what my social outlet was.”

**Story Continued on page 8**
She asked how many of the women are constantly burning the candle at both ends, and several raised their hands in response.

“It’s really important to cut ourselves some slack here,” Pauser said. “Most of us are overworked, a lot of us are underpaid, a lot of us don’t have natural family support. That is where your family of choice is going to be coming in to assist you.”

Demeter wants to give women a chance to build that family of choice. The group will be hosting social events over the summer, like visiting the UW Arboretum and setting up pontoon rides around the lake with a picnic, Pauser said.

Pauser said she wants the women in the class to leave feeling valued.

“I just want them to be successful, and we have got to stop this revolving door in the prison system,” Pauser said.

For more information on the Demeter Foundation and to support their mission, visit www.demeterfoundation.com
CEA-Wisconsin will, once again, award a $1000 scholarship to a CEA-Wisconsin member or a member’s spouse or dependent.

**Purpose:** The CEA-Wisconsin Scholarship Award Program is designed to assist CEA-Wisconsin members or their spouses or dependents who are pursuing a degree at an accredited university or technical college.

**Scholarship Details:** CEA-Wisconsin will award a scholarship of $1000 to a CEA-Wisconsin member who is furthering his/her education in the education or library sciences fields or to a CEA-Wisconsin member’s spouse or dependent who is pursuing a university of technical college degree in any field. The recipient must provide verification of enrollment in an accredited university or technical college.

**Eligibility:**
- Applicant must be a current CEA-Wisconsin member, member’s spouse, or member’s dependent
- Applicant must be pursuing (full or part-time) a graduate, undergraduate, or technical degree at an accredited university or technical college.
- Applicant must be entering his/her freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior year, or graduate school. First-year students must have been officially accepted by the college or university they plan to attend.
- Past winners are not eligible.

**Application:** Applicants must complete the application form that can be found on the CEA-Wisconsin website, provide the required attachments and submit the entire package no later than July 1, 2019. Incomplete or late application packages will not be accepted for consideration.

**Selection:** The scholarship recipients will be selected by the CEA-Wisconsin Board. Criteria for selection will include education and career goals, academic record, and school and community activities. Recipients will be notified by email.

For more information, contact:

Holly Audley, CEA-Wisconsin Scholarship Committee
Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Division of Care and Treatment Services
608-266-2862
hollyo.audley@dhs.wisconsin.gov
Study Buddies Provide Personalized Learning at TCI

One of the major challenges of teaching in a correctional setting is providing personalized learning for students who have a variety of learning styles and disabilities.

Over the past 15 years, the Brainchild company has established a strong track record of creating products to engage all students and help them find success. Brainchild’s company mission is to provide unlimited, self-paced instructional opportunities that engage students to become active learners and earn high scores.

One of Brainchild’s innovative products is the Study Buddy. A Study Buddy consists of a mobile device and cartridges that can target hundreds of content areas. To use Study Buddies, teachers simply plug in a software cartridge, turn it on, and go!

Study Buddy’s self-paced learning builds confidence and self-esteem. Students are transformed into “active learners” as they discover that they can learn on their own. A deliberate process with carefully crafted, immediate feedback builds strong problem-solving capabilities for lifelong success.
Study Buddy’s three-step self-paced process includes:

PLAY LESSON: A one-minute lesson teaches the concept.

STUDY: Answer questions and receive immediate feedback.

TEST: A 10-question quiz measures progress.

One of the places that uses Study Buddies is the Taycheedah Correctional Institution. Since April 2018, teacher Barbara Wegner has used the Study Buddies with some of her students on a regular basis and with others for review or extra practice. She uses them mostly with lower level students, but also with the students working on Pre-GED materials.

The cartridges most used by Barbara’s students are Math Mechanics levels 1-3 and GED Language Arts, Math, and Social Studies.

As a bonus to helping students learn academic skills, Barbara reports that Study Buddies “have a tendency to promote better behavior due to the fact that students enjoy working on the tablets and it gives them immediate feedback.”

For more information on the Study Buddies, go to www.brainchild.com. To ask Barbara Wegner about how she uses Study Buddies at TCI, email her at Barbara.Wegner@wisconsin.gov.
Success Driven by Innovation

74th International CEA Conference and Training Event

Save the Date

July 28 through July 31

Detroit Marriott at The Renaissance Center

Detroit, MI

http://ceanational.org/conferences
President’s Message

The CEA-Wisconsin Training Day is right around the corner and we at CEA-Wisconsin have been very busy putting the finishing touches on all the details. So, I will keep this message brief. However, I would like to thank the members of the CEA-Wisconsin Board for all the hard work and extra effort in putting this all together. Board members do all of this without extra compensation or reward other than doing their best to improve correctional education. Thank you board members! Having said that, I hope to see you all on May 6th at the Osthoff for a great training day.

I think this quote from Charles Schulz is fitting in anticipation of the training day: “Try not to have a good time. This is supposed to be educational.” --- Charles Schulz, cartoonist

Dave Hines
davhines01@gmail.com