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# NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

## DIVISION OF PRISONS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BULLETIN

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### **Brown Creek Correctional Institution**

Brown Creek Correctional Institution has initiated a one-on-one tutoring program in conjunction with the Literacy Council of Union County to meet the varying needs of adult learners. At the present time, there are three inmate tutors who work daily with three inmate students each. The students' reading abilities range from zero to a fourth grade reading level.

The tutors were trained by Mrs. Kelly Norton, volunteer trainer, and Mrs. Linda Moyer, Executive Director of the Literacy Council of Union County. The program utilizes the Laubach Way to Reading series which consists of four levels. The tutors are provided with a Teacher's Manual and the students are provided with skill books and supplemental materials as needed for each level. The program is self-paced with hopes for inmates to complete the program and move into an Adult Basic Education program run by South Piedmont Community College (SPCC). Although the program is in its infancy, the reported results from tutors and students are encouraging. Plans are to train more tutors in the near future and expand the program so more inmates can participate.

### **Sampson Correctional Institution**

The inmates assigned to the Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Technology Program at Sampson Correctional work to acquire basic knowledge to develop skills necessary for working with residential and light commercial systems. The inmates study heating and cooling theory, but they learn practicality as well. Mr. John Mabry paces each student through a series of hands-on exercises that are held in the adjacent laboratory to the classroom. It is the goal of the students to receive certification in the HVAC curriculum and to eventually service air conditioners and heaters when they transition back into society.



**Students at work at Sampson CI.**

### **Educational Updates at Foothills Correctional Institution**

Foothills Minimum Custody Unit has expanded and improved educational services by adding JobStart to its program offerings. JobStart has brought in community resources that share employability needs. This unit continues to show outstanding interest and involvement with college correspondence courses.

In December, the Horticulture program donated flowers and plants to the North Carolina School for the Deaf. These plants were used for decoration during the Christmas holidays. The Horticulture class is taught by Selby Hawk, instructor at Western Piedmont Community College at Foothills. This program provides employability skills for inmates upon their return to society.

Our Security Threat Group Management Unity (STMU) has education services for exceptional and regular education students. This unit also offers courses in CBI and employability skills. We also have five students on this unit enrolled in college correspondence courses.

On March 7, our school honored the Read Across America Campaign entitled, "DEAR Drop Everything and Read Day". The school had volunteers from Programs staff and administration to go into the classrooms and read to students. This day was well received by students who enjoyed having a different face and voice sharing in the classroom experience.

Staff members at Foothills have participated in numerous training activities. Some of those activities include the Reading conference in Winston-Salem, workshops at the Hill Center in Durham, and technology classes taught by Curt Smith at Foothills. Future training for staff will be in ESL or Spanish language presented by Johan de Brigard, Education Services.

We have a professional staff that sets high expectations for our students and program. Our teachers believe in providing students with a positive educational experience that will enhance their skills to make them a productive citizen in society.

### **Tillery Correctional Center**

We started a full-time ABE class at Tillery on March 21, 2006. This class should help lower level functioning inmates obtain the basic skills needed to progress to the GED level class. There, they may take the necessary tests to obtain a GED.

## Harnett Correctional Institution

Harnett Correctional Institution offers a Carpentry course through Central Carolina Community College which helps inmates build constructive lives. Sixteen inmates a year are admitted to the program. The inmates request to be placed on the referral list by their Case Manager and must pass a college placement test. Upon completion, the students receive a diploma and can earn a certificate through the Wheels of Learning Program issued by the National Center for Construction Education Research.

Daniel Thomas, Director of Correctional Education at the prison, states that Carpentry is one of the more popular programs with about 50 inmates on the referral list hoping to be admitted. The purpose of the course and other programs offered at the prison is to prepare inmates for the job market by teaching them a trade. In the course, inmates learn how to draw blueprints, use hand and power tools, and refurbish and produce furniture.

Nonprofit groups such as churches and civic clubs provide the materials for item such as chairs, podiums, bookcases and desks that the students make at no cost. The groups must deliver the materials and pick up the finished products.

Other courses offered through Central Carolina include Welding, Masonry, Small Engine, Equipment Repair and Business Administration. The college hopes to add a Barber School at the prison in the near future.

## Caswell Correctional Center

On December 5, 2005, the students assigned to the Horticulture program at Caswell Correctional Center were thrilled to meet and have as a guest speaker, Ward Burton, former NASCAR driver. Mr. Burton, founder of the Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation and winner of the 2002 Daytona 500, was a knowledgeable speaker. He emphasized to the class that he is now racing for conservation to preserve wild lands and wildlife. He discussed the importance of land stewardship and being the caretaker of the land while on earth. He also discussed the need to educate young people on the value and importance of conservation which will assure that future generations are able to enjoy all of our natural resources.



**Left: Mark Rembold, Horticulture Instructor**  
**Right: Ward Burton, former NASCAR driver, Wildlife Conservationist**

## Southern Correctional Institution

On April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of 2006, Ms. Karen Hare, Programs Director, and Ms. Nora McGuine, Program Supervisor for Education, conducted an informal “refresher training” class on Undue Familiarity with Inmates and Professional Boundaries. Handouts regarding Do’s and Don’ts were provided to the Montgomery Community College instructors. Approximately 22 instructors attended this training.

During this informal discussion, several topics were covered to include, but were not limited to: the need for instructors to inform staff when they experience any kind of problem with inmates in their classes, monitor/avoid discussions of a personal nature, be more aware of the manipulative games of inmates and that the staff are there for the instructors to provide assistance whenever needed to create a more conducive atmosphere for the learning process.

## Robeson Correctional Center

Staff persons at Robeson Correctional Center are glad to announce that a Basic Literacy Computer class began on March 1, 2006. The course is designed for the beginning student and introduces him to the capabilities of the computer and its disk operating system.

## Davidson Correctional Center

Davidson Correctional Center continues the excitement in the Educational Programs. The programs offered are: Human Resource Development, Horticulture, Part-time GED and Financial Literacy. These programs have been very successful.

On January 20, 2006, Davidson CC added the Project Re-Entry Program which is offered to inmates who have 6 to 18 months remaining on their sentence. The Project Re-Entry Program’s mission is to improve reintegration of ex-offenders, reduce criminal justice costs and increase public safety through a pre-release and post-release system that coordinates NC Department of Correction, ex-offenders, community colleges, Job Link Systems, faith-based ministries, employers and community organizations and residents.

The Project Re-entry’s vision is also to support the restoration of ex-offenders to become self-reliant, contributing members of their community and families. Davidson CC had its first graduation ceremony on April 7, 2006, and all inmates who participated enjoyed the program and look forward to total restoration in their lives through the skills they learned in this program.

Davidson CC would like to give a special thanks to Mrs. Sophia Feastser, Piedmont Region Social Worker for Division of Prisons, and Mrs. Becky Sauter and Mr. Michael Thomas, Program Facilitators, for all the hard work they do.

## Craven Correctional Institution

The Fatherhood class at Craven Correctional Institution held a special Father/Child program on March 31, 2006. Seven children (ages six months to 10 years) and four Fatherhood students attended. Fatherhood is a literacy program that helps fathers and children improve their literacy skills while relating to each other through children's literature. The Father/Child program is a culmination of the 12 week Fatherhood curriculum in which fathers have the opportunity to put into practice the strategies they have learned in class.

In the first part of the 90-minute program, the fathers presented to their children the books they had written as part of the Fatherhood class. Depending on the ages of the children, some fathers created alphabet books or story books. Fathers were responsible for text and illustrations, as well as formatting and creating a cover. Next, the fathers read books from the Fatherhood curriculum to their children. The diverse curriculum includes classics such as Where the Wild Things Are, and modern updates of classics such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears. After a light snack, fathers and students moved to the arts and crafts table where they created take-home favors including a bookmark and a picture of their design to commemorate the occasion. The Inmate Service Club took pictures and provided two for each family. Fatherhood students kept one photo and their children took the other picture home.

## Piedmont Correctional Institution

Piedmont Correctional Institution, in partnership with Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, continues their mission to prepare students with educational/vocational opportunities that will enhance career development. Piedmont CI began the year of 2006 with six students obtaining their GED. The Light Construction class recently built an entertainment center for the library and a beautiful bench for photo sessions during visitation. Students also learn to read blueprints as they build their dream homes.



**Model home constructed at Pamlico CI.**

The Auto Body program is always busy with projects throughout the community. This year, they have painted a 1989 Ford Road tractor, a 2004 Ford truck, a water hauler and a fork lift for the NC Forest Service. These worthwhile projects not only brings satisfaction to inmates who ordinarily would not have the opportunities to utilize their talents and skills, but also gives back to the communities.

## Pamlico Correctional Institution

Pamlico Correctional Institution has a new Education Coordinator via lateral transfer from Recreation. Ms. Lakeshia Jones, CPS, has assumed the role and will be working closely with Pamlico Community College staff in implementing new courses as well as looking for ways to enhance the current courses offered.

Pamlico CI is exploring the possibility of partnering with Piedmont Correctional, the NC Department of Labor and DOP Enterprise in offering a 480 hour Upholstery class. This will offer inmates an opportunity to achieve an apprenticeship credential through the DOL upon successful completion of the class portion and an on-the-job training requirement of approximately 3,000 hours. The class instruction portion will include a demonstration of the upholstery and re-upholstery process from start to finish. The class is tentatively scheduled to start in the fall semester.

Pamlico CI's Carpentry and Horticulture classes assisted with the decoration and door prizes for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Volunteer Banquet held on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Powell's Horticulture class donated several potted plants for door prizes and arranged the beautiful center piece for the podium. Mr. Quinn's Carpentry class designed an outdoor plant stand which was used for décor.



**Plant stand built by students at Pamlico CI.**

Pamlico will be holding its annual PCC/PCI graduation ceremony on Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. Inmates participating in the graduation will be allowed to invite 2 guests to the ceremony. Upon completion of the awards ceremony, light refreshments will be served.

## **Graduation Ceremonies**

### **Fountain Correctional Center for Women:**

Fountain Correctional Center for Women will be holding its spring GED graduation on Thursday, May 18, 2006. Fountain's Education Department, through Edgecombe Community College, has graduated seventy-seven inmate students, including day and night school since July 2005. Since January of 2006, the following classes have had students to receive certificates: Horticulture (15 completed), Job Readiness (300 day/night students completed), Home Companion Aid (28 completed), Simple Computers (42 completed), Office Systems Technology (14 completed) and Customer Service (14 completed). All of the education programs through Edgecombe Community college are continuing to meet the needs of the female population at Fountain.

FCCW held its annual Transition Expo on Friday, April 28, 2006. Many organizations came out and provided information on educational opportunities, halfway houses, shelters, vocational rehabilitation and employment for ex-offenders.

### **Franklin Correction Center:**

On Tuesday, February 21, 2006, Franklin Correctional Center held its GED graduation. A total of 16 inmates received their GED, and out of that number, 11 inmates were part of the graduation ceremony. The guest speaker was Mr. Anthony Pope, Assistant Director of the Franklin County Campus of Vance-Granville. This was the first graduation FCC has had since Vance-Granville Community College took over the GED program in July of 2005. Since the arrival of VGCC, FCC has experienced an increase in interest in the program and a higher number of inmates taking the GED with a higher success rate of passing scores.

### **McCain Correctional Hospital:**

A great time was had by all as McCain Correctional Hospital held its annual GED graduation on February 2nd, 2006, in the auditorium. During the last year, McCain and Sandhills Community College have seen 12 McCain inmates earned their GEDs, of which five of them were on hand to receive their GED certificates. The five graduates walked down the aisle in caps and gowns and were presented their GED certificate by Ms. Jan Hiltner, Professor of Literacy at Sandhills Community College.

Ms. Nancy Boling, Guidance Counselor at Morrison Correctional Institution and adjunct instructor at Gardner Webb University and Richmond Community College, was the guest speaker and provided inspiring words for the graduates and their family members. After the exercise, a reception was held for the inmates and their family members who were in attendance.

### **Alexander Correctional Institution:**

Fourteen students graduated December 9, 2005. Thanks to Mr. Mike Younghouse (ABE I), Mr. John Brown (ABE II) and Mr. Walt Roberts (GED Preparation), the students participating in the academic program at AXCI who apply themselves are a success. Preparing for successful completion in the GED Program is a difficult ordeal for some students, which causes them to lose interest. The instructors encourage the students on a daily basis to stay the course and meet educational goals. It takes hours of dedicated instruction and encouragement to see a student achieve and complete the course.

The Vocational Programs at AXCI consist of the CE Computer Applications class (Mr. Gerald Springs, Instructor) and the CE Commercial Cleaning class (Mr. Steve Norris, Instructor). These programs cycle every ten weeks, graduating 25-30 students each cycle. These programs enhance skills for a more successful job search upon an inmate's transition to the community and are considered, along with the instructors, to be an asset to AXCI. Inmates who graduate from either program are the first to be considered for a job within the institution. It is gratifying to observe the enhancing qualities that these programs bring to the students. A special thanks to the Administration of AXCI, especially Mr. Patterson and Mr. Walker, for their support of these and other programs offered at the institution.

### **Tyrrell Prison Work Farm:**

Tyrrell Prison Work Farm graduated twenty-nine inmates from the GED program in 2005. Following the testing and notifications, there was an informal ceremony with the inmates still assigned to the unit. Present at the ceremony were staff members of Beaufort County Community College, the Program Supervisor in charge of the program at Tyrrell and the GED instructor. The inmates were given a pizza party and provided with pictures in cap and gown for their successful completion of the program.

The program staff at Tyrrell Prison Work Farm worked hand-in-hand with the GED instructor and Beaufort County Community College to maintain the program at capacity. The part-time night classes were also successful in providing academic opportunities to the inmates at Tyrrell Prison Work Farm who participate in day-time work assignments.

Tyrrell Prison Work Farm is currently engaged in getting several vocational programs started at the satellite unit in Creswell, formerly Washington Correctional Center. Staff members are diligently working with Beaufort County Community College in starting Human Resources Development, Masonry, Computer Applications and Welding programs.



**Morrison Correctional Institution:**

As we enter the spring season, flowers and trees are in bloom. At Morrison Correctional Institution (MCI), education is in bloom. In a span of two weeks, MCI has celebrated two GED graduations. On March 24, 2006, the minimum custody school held a quarterly graduation with 37 graduates, of which 17 were present and participated in the ceremony. Rose True, Director of Educational Services in Raleigh, N.C., was the guest speaker, providing a challenge to the graduates to be successful throughout all their endeavors.

On March 31, 2006, MCI medium custody celebrated all inmates who graduated from January, 2005 through February, 2006 with the first graduation ceremony held in the medium custody school in several years. Thirty-eight students graduated, while 10 were present to participate in the ceremony. Jim Chavis, Vice President of Continuing Education, Richmond Community College reminded the graduates that they should be thankful for their opportunities and encouraged them to continue learning throughout life.

The Food Service Technology program provided much of the food for both graduations. The MCI, medium custody, Men's Club donated monies for the remaining cost of the medium custody's graduation.



**Rose True, Director of Education, hands out certificates to Morrison graduates.**

**Note:** News items for the next issue of this bulletin must be received by July 14, 2006. Items can be sent via email to [bcb09@doc.state.nc.us](mailto:bcb09@doc.state.nc.us) or fax to (919) 838-4764.