
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION DIVISION OF PRISONS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BULLETIN

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Robeson Correctional Center

Robeson Correctional Center held its first GED graduation ceremony on September 22, 2008. Having a “part-time” class on Monday and Tuesday evenings made it possible for graduates Daren Bryant and David Locklear to achieve their GED’s. The ceremony was held in the unit chapel with members of the ABE and GED classes and instructors from Robeson Community College attending. Other staff members at Robeson Correctional Center attend the ceremony as well.



Inmate David Locklear receives his GED Certificate from John Floyd, Robeson CC Educational Coordinator



Caledonia Correctional Institution

On November 20, 2008, Caledonia Correctional Institution honored inmates who had completed Academic/Vocational Programs between June 2007 and June 2008. A total of 123 inmates completed courses. A total of 59 inmates attended. Fifty-two had transferred and twelve inmates had been released. Out of 123 inmates, there were 23 to complete Plumbing, 20 to complete Small Engine and Repair, 23 to complete Masonry, 18 to complete Facility Maintenance and 24 to complete Food Service. There were 14 inmates who earned their GED.



INMATE DARREN BRYANT RECEIVES GED CERTIFICATE FROM JOHN FLOYD, ROBESON C.C.'S EDUCATIONAL COORDINATOR

Halifax Community College instructors recognized each graduate from their class. Halifax Community College assisted with the program and Hunter Taylor represented the college.

Mr. Dave Thompson, of Dave Thompson Ministries, was the keynote speaker. He encouraged the inmates to overcome diversities by sharing his own personal experiences. Mr. Thompson was an outstanding speaker. The Caledonia Golden Stars Gospel Choir performed and the Food Service Apprentice Program inmates prepared the meal.

Members of Caledonia Resource Council were in attendance and provided the desserts. Also, in attendance was staff from Nash Correctional, Fountain Correctional, Odom Correctional, Tillery Correctional, NC Community College Systems, Educational Services, Program Services and Central Region Dietitian.

During the program, Willey Phillips, Food Service Manager at Caledonia had a special presentation with the Food Service Apprentice Program. Two inmates earned their Journeyman Certificate with the Apprenticeship Program.

Foothills Correctional Institution

Foothills became an ACA accredited institution during the fall of 2008. The Education Program was in compliance with the federal Title I Audit in November. The outcome of the Correspondence and Youthful Offender Program audits conducted by Alison Anders were very good as well. Foothills and Western Piedmont Community College continues to train and prepare for Career Readiness Certificate exams. Implementation for testing is scheduled for January.

Foothills celebrated incentives for inmates in September, November, and January. Teachers honored students for report cards with pizza, snacks, and pictures. Staff also served a meal to inmates in December for incentives. Programs served sub sandwiches to all inmates for the holidays.

Foothills staff attended various staff development opportunities during the last quarter which included; the Exceptional Children's Conference, CECAS training, NC Science Conference, and three sessions of Response to Intervention (RTI).

October was filled with school-wide TABE testing. In addition, a program was held honoring 30 inmates at GED graduation services. Programs also held a cookout for all program staff for appreciation.



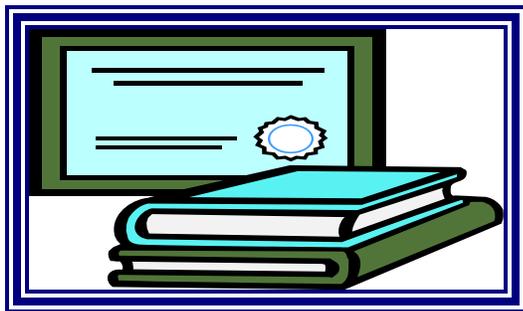
Inmates Testing

In November, FCI held a Health Fair for all employees. The fair had many community resources to offer valuable information. Transition services were provided at FMCU by the visiting Job Link mobile bus. Over 100 inmates were registered with the State Employment Security Commission. The Youth Wellness Committee continues to be strong in looking for ways to improve inmate health.



Job Link Mobile Center

In December, staff celebrated the holidays by sharing with each other in the "Taste of Christmas" contest sponsored by the Employee Activity Committee. Education also honored Ms. Diane Richardson, Library Technician, upon her retirement. We wish Ms. Richardson a joyous retirement; we will truly miss her dedication.



Franklin Correctional Center

Franklin Correctional Center celebrated an educational achievement with a ceremony honoring 9 inmates who completed the Youthful Offender Program, YOP course on December 11, 2008. The YOP program is a new program at Franklin Correctional Center which started in August of 2008.

One of the many goals regarding Franklin Correctional Center Educational Objectives is to create an atmosphere that is conducive to reshaping the attitudes, morals and daily habits of the inmates so that they will desire another chance to prove themselves to society, that they can achieve some useful purpose in life. Kenneth Phillips, Director of YOP with the Division of Prisons Educational Services made remarks to encourage the inmates.

Mr. Phillips reiterated that they have obtained 3 college credits for completion of the program and that they should continue to pursue educational opportunities. Closing remarks were made by Timothy McKoy, Superintendent III. He praised the inmates on their accomplishments and urged them to continue developing their educational skills.

The ceremony also included a special awards presentation from the Assistant Superintendent of Programs, Gary Vaughn and the Assistant Superintendent of Custody, Rickie Robinson to Demetrius Marlowe, NCSU Instructor, Kenneth Phillips Director of YOP and Ruth Duncan of the Division of Prisons' Educational Services for their hard work and dedication.



Pictured L-R: Asst. Supt. Gary Vaughn, Dir. Of YOP Ken Phillips, NCSU Instructor Demetrius Marlowe, Supt. Tim McKoy, and Asst. Supt. of Custody Rickie Robinson

At the end of the course, the inmates were individually required to give a minimum 5 minute presentation to articulate their perspectives on a reading requirement based on the novel written by (Nathan McCall) "*Makes Me Wanna Holler: A Young Black Man in America*". The inmates who completed the course were among different ethnic backgrounds and were excited about this course; they felt that the course allowed them an opportunity to develop team building skills, presentation skills delivery, as well as understand societal expectations and different cultures.



Mr. Ed Hoy, GED instructor-coordinator and
2008 GED Graduates

Johnston Correctional Institution



Johnston Correctional Institution held its GED graduation on January 16, 2009 to honor graduates from July 2008 to November 2008. The guest speaker was Ruth Duncan from Educational Services. Ms. Duncan shared with the graduates that their accomplishment was a means for them to be better prepared for any obstacles they will face in the future.

Mr. Ed Hoy, GED instructor and coordinator presented diplomas to the graduates. Instructors from Johnston Community College, Johnston CI staff and family members enjoyed an original song written by one of the graduates. Refreshments were provided by Holt Lake Bar-B-Que and were enjoyed by all.

North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women

North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women held its Commencement Ceremony on Friday, November 7, 2008. Certificates were awarded for completion of various programs offered at the facility. Education Director, Dr. Valerie Villines presided over the ceremony, which began at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium.

The theme for this year's graduation exercises was "Building the Foundation to a Brighter Future." The service began with the processional of graduates, followed by the singing of our National Anthem by resident Catherine McMillian. NCCIW Chaplain, Reverend Gloria Aghogah delivered the invocation and Dr. Armayne Dunstun, Medical Director, welcomed visitors and staff. NCCIW's Chapel Choir sang two musical selections.

Mr. Samuel Strickland, Vice President of Continuing Education for Wake Technical Community College delivered an inspiring commencement message to the graduates,

after an introduction from, the Assistant Superintendent for Programs, Ms. Helen McNeill. In his commencement message, Mr. Strickland praised the women for their achievements, and in keeping with the theme, reminded them of the importance of building a foundation of education. Mr. Strickland concluded his message by reiterating that if the ladies worked hard and stayed focused, they could accomplish anything.



Certificates were awarded to 72 graduates who completed programs in eight distinct areas including: General Equivalency Diploma (GED), Apprenticeship Program in Travel & Tourism, Applications, Computer Information Technology and Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Horticulture, Manicuring, and Small Business.

Once all the participants were recognized, Dr. Valerie Villines gave a charge to the graduates, encouraging them to continue to pursue their education. She reminded the women that, although a foundation has been laid, they should continue to build their academic futures.

Warden Annie Harvey delivered closing remarks and expressed the pride she felt for the graduates. Ms. Harvey also addressed the families and visitors and acknowledged the role they played in supporting the women in their endeavors. She applauded the ladies for their determination and ability to be successful in a restrictive environment. The Warden commended the women for a job well done. Graduates were able to celebrate their accomplishments with family and visitors at a reception following the ceremony.

Western Youth Institution

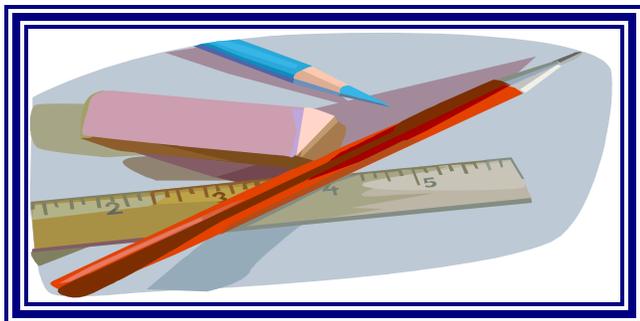
Educational Director, Gloria M. Upperman and Exceptional Students Director Curtis Garland nominated, with much pride, Mr. Art Dunn, for the 2008 Exceptional Children Teacher of Excellence Award. Mr. Dunn is a veteran teacher of twenty-nine years. He has spent these years teaching the incarcerated youth with a diligence and a passion that is a key factor for success in our environment. He truly believes that in order to turn one's life around, it must be through education. His actions emphasize his educational philosophy. He expresses and demonstrates the importance of education within his classroom. In his personal life, he exhibited his own quest for further education when he earned his Masters of Special Education from Appalachian State University.



Pictured L-R: Dr. Rick Smith, Mrs. Sheila Scott, Nominee Mr. Art Dunn, and Dr. Steve Moody

Mr. Dunn teaches all areas of Special Education in his prison classroom. He also provides services in maximum segregation at Western Youth Institution in Morganton, North Carolina. These youth truly need a positive role model and a strong education to change their lives. Mr. Dunn is committed to teaching at-risk students who also have learning disabilities.

He has developed his own curriculum to individualize each student's modality of learning. He designed and now facilitates a special curriculum to teach division along with other difficult mathematical skills. This specialized program produces positive results as his students develop mathematical skills that once were too difficult for them to comprehend.



“Just Teaching”

Mr. Dunn describes his rare ability to connect with his students as "just teaching". This modesty makes Mr. Dunn a well-respected colleague among the staff. Along with teaching the educational basics, Mr. Dunn incorporates strong transitional skills in his classroom. He is a leader of character education as he imparts needed life skills to his students as he prepares them for release from prison. Transition from prison is a vital part of success for his students, as they become productive citizens within their communities.

Mr. Dunn's convictions extend past the classroom. He is a volunteer carpenter for Hurricane Relief and goes into West Virginia areas of poverty to assist with building housing for people in need. His goal is to ensure that all children have a "roof over their heads". This is only one example of Mr. Dunn's giving and caring actions that are evident in his classroom and personal life. Mr. Dunn is a considerate and exceptional teacher and we are fortunate to have him as part of our educational staff.

WYI Educators Receive NC Service Awards



Pictured L-R: Wayne Austin, Fred Horton, Harold Horton, Amanda Franklin, Tom Walters, and Guy Schwarting

Six members of the education staff at WYI received service awards on Tuesday, December 2, 2008. Mr. Guy Schwarting and Mr. Fred Horton were awarded framed certificates honoring their 30 years of service. Mr. Harold Hudson received a certificate for 25 years of service. In addition, Mr. Wayne Austin, Ms. Amanda Franklin and Mr. Tom Walters received a certificate for 10 years of service. Prior to the awards ceremony, a retirement reception was held for Mr. Guy Schwarting in which he was presented the coveted Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Pamlico Correctional Institution

The Re-upholstery class at Pamlico CI continues to excel. They took on a special project this semester. An antique sofa was donated to the class and was in need of some repair. The class stripped the existing stained fabric, made all necessary repairs to the frame and fitted the once white sofa in blue complete with matching pillows.



The students in the plumbing class continue to make progress well. They have applied various hands on techniques and successfully installed a working sink and toilet. Plans are still in the works for a plumbing apprenticeship program here at Pamlico. Once the program is establish, inmates will be eligible to receive journeyman certification upon completion. Our plumbing program has also become a point of interest with ICP. Pamlico strives to continue producing qualified candidates with the skills needed to succeed both in ICP and life beyond the prison walls.



Plumbing Class Project

You cannot prevent the birds of sorrow from flying over your head, but you can prevent them from building nests in your hair.

- Chinese Proverb



Editors Note: Please submit any articles for the next newsletter by March 31, 2009. Ruth Duncan