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# NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

## DIVISION OF PRISONS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BULLETIN

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*Arthur Clark, Editor*

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### **JobStart Project Underway at Sandhills YC and Other Pilot Sites**

J. P. Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Programs and senior administrator for JobStart at Sandhills Youth Center, reports that JobStart, a prison-to-work transition project, is fully underway at SYC. (See photo below.) The first training cycle of the program began in September, with a second cycle slated to begin in January 2001. The goal of JobStart at SYC and the other pilot sites (Morrison Youth Institution, Polk Youth Institution, and Western Youth Institution) is to prepare a selected group of inmates to secure and retain employment upon release from prison and to utilize those resources available to them in the community for meeting their transitional needs. Local entities that Sandhills Youth Center is working with to establish a network of aftercare support for JobStart graduates include the Division of Community Corrections, Vocational Rehabilitation, JobLink Career Centers, Welfare-to-Work offices, prison ministries, business and industry representatives, and other pre- and post-release agencies.



Dennis Deese, Program Assistant II at Sandhills Youth Center and JobStart Mentor-Coach at SYC, at right, conducts an Employment Skills session for program participants. See above story.

### **Self-Determination Workshops Conducted**

Dr. David Test, Professor of Special Education, UNC-Charlotte, conducted a workshop for DOC teachers and education staff on methods and strategies for teaching students how to make sound decisions about their lives, in Morganton on October 4 and in Raleigh on October 30. The training, which was funded by DOP's Exceptional Students Program, focused on the purpose for teaching self-determination skills and on the materials and techniques for integrating this learning into each teacher's lesson planning. Attendees included Special Education staff and other classroom teachers from Foothills Correctional Institution, Morrison Youth Institution, NC Correctional Institution for Women, Polk Youth Institution, Sandhills Youth Center, and Western Youth Institution.

### **Central Carolina CC/Harnett CI Students Win Welding Award**

Three Central Carolina Community College/Harnett Correctional Institution students "brought home the Silver" for their project, Playground Vehicles, which was deemed "outstanding" by judges of the James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Contest 2000. The prestigious award was presented to the students for their fabrication of two playground cars and a playground fire truck for elementary schools in Lee and Harnett counties. After fabricating these items, the students were required to submit a 25-page report containing blueprints, bill of materials, step-by-step construction instructions, and photographs of the completed products. The students, who are enrolled in CCCC's diploma curriculum in welding, competed against college entries from across the United States. The welding program at HCI, which includes participation in the American Welding Society's Entry-Level Welding Program and the Association of General Contractors' Wheels of Learning registry program, has a history of award-winning students, which CCCC Instructor Charles Bell fully expects to continue. For more information on the School Shop Awards, visit Lincoln Electric's web site: [www.lincolnelectric.com](http://www.lincolnelectric.com).

### **Morrison YI Cognitive Behavioral Instructors Present at Programs Symposium**

Two cognitive behavioral instructors at Morrison Youth Institution, Nancy Boling who facilitates the CHOICES/CHANGES program and Kim Russell who teaches THINKING FOR A CHANGE, conducted a workshop on Cognitive Behavioral Intervention at the NC Division of Prisons 2000 Programs Symposium in Asheville, September 17-19. The workshop provided an overview of the effectiveness of CBI programming, including the use of CBI as a practical tool that enables staff to aid the offender in managing conflict situations. MYI is one of the few units currently providing CBI training that also conducts cognitive skills-maintenance programming for graduates of CHOICES/CHANGES, information about which may be received by contacting Nancy Boling in the guidance counseling office at MYI.

### **JobStart Community Resource List Web Address**

The web site established in support of the JobStart program for public access of the county-by-county listing of community-based agencies that provide services to ex-offenders throughout North Carolina is [www.doc.state.nc.us/DOP/education/JobStart.htm](http://www.doc.state.nc.us/DOP/education/JobStart.htm), and is also available to DOC staff at [www.internal.doc.state.nc.us](http://www.internal.doc.state.nc.us) by clicking on JobStart.

### **2000 Annual Report Input Now Being Sought**

All wardens and superintendents in the Division of Prisons recently received notification concerning input on educational programming for the 2000 Educational Services Annual Report. In addition to submitting program highlights for the calendar year, each unit is requested to update the information for its program offerings and to verify these data with the local community college where applicable. The deadline for submission is January 15, 2001.

## **Class of 25 Completes NIC Offender Employment Specialist Certification Training**

September 25-29 at the DOP Randall Building in Raleigh, a class of 25 trainees drawn from Division of Prisons, Division of Community Corrections and various non-DOC community-based organizations committed to serving the employment needs of ex-offenders, including JobLink Centers and community colleges, completed 32 hours of satellite and on-site instruction provided by the National Institute of Corrections to become certified as Offender Employment Specialists. The training focused on strategies for pre- and post-release program planning for transitioning inmates to employment, with a special emphasis on interagency collaboration and the sharing of resources. Participants were also required to develop an action plan for implementation upon returning to their respective jurisdictions.

Non-DOC participants and their employer affiliations were: Lisa Harris, Wake County Human Services; James Clay, Jr., Burke County Day Reporting Center; Keith Hines, Piedmont Community College; Carmen McLean Hubert, Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Department; Jeffery Myers, James Sprunt Community College; Angela Nicholson, Richmond County Community Resource Center; and Rebecca Sauter, Winston-Salem JobLink Career Center.

Probation and Parole participants from Community Corrections and their base counties included: Bruce Crouse, Chatham; Darrin Davis, Hoke; Joan Jackson, Burke; Gregory Leggett, Cumberland; Barbara Orr, Richmond; Donna Stone, Scotland; Martha Sullivan, Wake; and James Yancey, Person County.

DOP Programs staff came from correctional institutions across the prison system: Robert Aiken, Greene CI; John Crowder, Johnston CI; Sophia Feaster, Piedmont Region Office; Janice Grimes, Harnett CI; Tracy Justice, Black Mountain CC for Women; Kiley Marshall, Wake CC; Villette Roberson, Charlotte CC; Rhonda Robertson, North Piedmont CC for Women; Laura Simons, Tyrrell Prison Work Farm; and Sherrie Williams, Fountain Correctional Center for Women.

The training held in Raleigh, which was co-sponsored by the NC Department of Correction, was one of 65 such classes conducted concurrently by NIC throughout the country via satellite. By week's end, over 1800 trainees were certified nation-wide as Offender Employment Specialists.

## **Youth Offenders Instructor Speaks in Chapel Hill**

Phyllis Utley, employment readiness instructor in the federally funded Youth Offenders Program at Foothills Correctional Institution and Western Youth Institution, addressed a recent conference of SURGE (Students United for a Responsible Global Environment) in Chapel Hill about the program she teaches in at the two Morganton-area institutions. SURGE is an international affiliation of high school and college students, begun at UNC-CH in 1998, that is committed to building a coalition among educational and community groups working for social and economic justice, including employment opportunities for ex-offenders. In addition to her part-time teaching duties in the Youth Offenders Program, which is also conducted at Morrison Youth Institution, NC Correctional Institution for Women, Polk Youth Institution, and Sandhills Youth Center, Utley is an employment specialist with the Henderson County JobLink Career Center in Flat Rock, NC.

## **Dr. Lawrence Jones, NCSU Professor, Conducts In-service for Counselors**

On October 13 at the DOP-Randall Building in Raleigh, Dr. Lawrence Jones, Professor of Counselor Education at North Carolina State University, conducted an in-service workshop on "Transitional Planning for Youthful Offenders" for the guidance counselors from Foothills Correctional Institution, Morrison Youth Institution, Polk Youth Institution, and Sandhills Youth Center. Dr. Jones is the author of *Job Skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A Guide for Students and The Career Key*, an instrument developed for the NC Occupational Information Coordinating Committee for assessing career interests. He has also conducted recent research on motivational skills required for success in the contemporary workplace.

## **Graduation Highlights**

Nash Correctional Institution: Nash Community College held a reception at Nash CI on August 9 to honor the eight graduates of the Electronics Engineering Technology program conducted by the community college at NCI. The graduates were recognized by NCC President Kathy Johnson and NCI Assistant Superintendent of Operations James Hardy for successfully completing all requirements of the rigorous 16-month Associate in Applied Science curriculum.

Sampson Correctional Institution: A class of ten inmates at Sampson CI was recognized in graduation ceremonies conducted October 17 at SCI for successful completion of Character Education training. Assistant Superintendent for Programs Jim Bullock delivered the graduation address while Programs Supervisor Hameed A. K. Shareef presented certificates.

Columbus Correctional Institution: Southeastern Community College and Columbus CI held GED and vocational program graduation exercises at CCI on August 10 with 48 students being recognized for receiving the GED certificate of high school equivalency while 37 students were awarded certificates for successful completion of vocational instruction in Heating and Air Conditioning, Masonry or Plumbing. Harry Foley, Vice President of Continuing Education at SCC, was the guest speaker. Each graduate received an individual photograph, and all attendees enjoyed a buffet luncheon.

NC Correctional Institution for Women: Gwendolyn Chunn, Director of the Juvenile Justice Institute, North Carolina Central University, was the speaker at the Fall 2000 School Commencement held October 6 at the North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women in Raleigh. In her remarks, Ms. Chunn challenged the graduates to "move in the right direction" by applying their new knowledge to practice kindness, respect, dignity, responsibility, perseverance, integrity and optimism in their daily lives. Certificates were awarded to graduates for successful completion of the following programs: GED (15), Cosmetology (3), Dental Laboratory Technology (10), Manicurist Training (5), Travel Agency Operations (6), Industrial Sewing (18), Upholstery (6) and Horticulture (16).

**Note:** Submit news items for the bulletin's next issue by December 29 to A. Clark, DOP Educational Services, Fax: 919-715-5785 or e-mail: [cal15@doc.state.nc.us](mailto:cal15@doc.state.nc.us).