
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

DIVISION OF PRISONS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BULLETIN

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Celebration for Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15 through October 16 has been designated National Hispanic Heritage Month. On September 16, a celebration was held at the North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women. Latinas at NCCIW developed and participated in presentations, dancing and singing under the direction of Ms. Judy Winston, DOP instructor. The theme for the occasion was "De Colores" (of many colors), and the speaker was Ms. Johan deBrigard of Educational Services. Ms. deBrigard is Director of English as a Second Language, Director of Title I and Principal Mentor, and her native country is Colombia, South America. The finishing touch to the program was the delicious food prepared by the participants. Dishes from different Hispanic-speaking countries included arroz con pollo, pupusas, chile rellenos, platanos fritos, with fresh horchata to drink and arroz con leche for dessert.

Educational News from Pamlico Correctional Institution

Pamlico Correctional would like to welcome Mr. Gliston Morrissey, Correctional Program Supervisor, as their new Educational Coordinator effective August 1, 2005. Mr. Morrissey transferred to Pamlico CI from Pender Correctional and will serve his new position well.

Other events at PCI:

- GED instructors have begun taking a cap and gown picture of all inmates completing their GED each month. This is one way to show recognition of their positive accomplishment.
- Class enrollment was good for the fall semester. Staff members are currently reviewing inmates for recruitment for spring semester classes.
- Ms. Rosa True, Director of Education Services, along with Ms. Tracey McPhereson, Community College System Liaison, visited Pamlico CI on November 8th to discuss funding as well as alternatives in continuing to improve educational services for the inmate population.

Sampson Inmates are Working on "Getting it Right"

On August 29th, 2005, Sampson CI instituted a pilot program entitled "Getting it Right". This program is for inmates who have successfully completed Thinking for a Change courses. This aftercare program is a journaling program that helps to enhance principals learned in the Cognitive Behavior Classes at Sampson CI. The participants are upbeat about the material being presented and feel that this program is making a positive impact on their lives.

Duplin Correctional Celebrates National Recovery Month

September was the 16th annual national Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month sponsored by the federal government Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. In celebration, the DART program at Duplin Correctional hosted a day long information booth in on September 30th. During the day, 113 inmates stopped by to receive information about substance abuse and recovery and to view the art display created by those in the DART program.

The link between alcohol and illicit drug use is unquestionable. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation published findings that suggest that overall, about three-quarters of all prisoners were involved with alcohol or drug abuse in some way in the time leading up to their current offense. At least half of the adults arrested for major crimes such as homicide, theft and assault tested positive for drugs at the time of their arrest. Substance abuse treatment is critical in helping inmates return to their communities to live a life free of substance abuse and crime. DART is fortunate to have the strong support of Duplin CC in Kenansville, NC to help facilitate that goal.



Superintendent Travis Outlaw receives packet of substance abuse materials.

GED Classes Begin at Central Prison

With the approval of Mr. Marvin Polk, Warden, and the collective leadership from Education Services and Wake Technical Community College, Central Prison began a part-time GED program on July 12, 2005. The program has 15 students enrolled and the inmate population is very enthusiastic about being afforded this opportunity. The classes are conducted on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. The current participants have taken a "block test" already with a 100% pass rate.

Accreditation for the Education Program at Foothills Correctional Institution

An audit team representing the Correctional Education Association visited Foothills CI on October 26, 2005, for the purpose of recertifying the education department's national accreditation. The CEA is a "non-profit professional association which serves teachers and administrators who provide services to students in correctional settings." In preparation for the audit, the members of the education department toiled a total of 957 hours in an effort to successfully meet the 67 standards required by CEA. After reviewing the standards and interviewing the school's teachers and students, the audit team reported that the education department at FCI successfully met 100% of the standards and commended the department's efforts and educational practices.

Educational Services at Davidson Correctional Center

Davidson Correctional Center is a minimum custody security facility. The inmates at Davidson CC are excited about the programs that are available for them and are encouraged to take programs for the purpose of enhancing their vocational skills. It is believed that these programs will help build self-esteem, increase motivation and challenge them to do good works in society.

The educational programs available are as follows: Human Resource Development, Horticulture and the part-time GED program. There have been a total of four inmates to graduate from the GED program and others are very close to completion. The inmates are excited about this and have shown great discipline in obtaining their goal. Another class available is the Financial Literacy class. This class is designed to help inmates enhance their money management skills, build and keep good credit and prepare them with other skills that will help them with personal fiscal responsibilities. The Program staff would like to thank Davidson Community College for their support and hard work in making the education program a success.



GED Class of Fall 2005

Hurricane Tracking at Polk Correctional Institution Library

When the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced that the 2005 hurricane season would be one of the busiest, Mr. Sorrell, Carpentry instructor, and Ms. Simon, the librarian, teamed up to create a workshop for the entire Polk staff in preparation for the season. On April 20, 2005, North Carolina Emergency Management presented a Hurricane Preparedness Presentation. Following the presentation, Ms. Simon created a bulletin board in order to track hurricanes as they occur. From Arlene to Alpha, the library has tracked 21 named storms. As the season progressed, the inmates learned how storms start as a tropical depression, develop into a tropical storm and finally to hurricane strength using the Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale. In addition, the inmates learned about sea temperatures, barometric readings, eye walls, storm surge, knots, and the 1-2-3 rule that Mariners use to track developing storms. In addition to the meteorology language, inmates were able to view current satellite pictures of hurricanes from the NOAA website as updates were posted in the library during the day.



Hurricane tracking chart posted in Polk Correctional Institution's library.

Pre-Employment Classes at Fountain CC Prepare Students for Various Occupations

The Pre-Employment Readiness instructor continues to work closely with DOC on the Going Home Initiative and Job Start Programs and is looking forward to continuing this work in the coming year. The Horticulture class enjoyed another year of successful gardening, landscaping and plant selling. They were also involved in decorating for numerous DOC and community college events. The Office Systems Technology class was changed to Workforce Systems Development to better cater to the needs of inmates who may pursue employment in the office setting. In addition, a Customer Service class was introduced to prepare inmates for dealing with the public. Finally, The Home Companion Aide class continues to be successful in teaching inmates about the work involved in caring for people in healthcare settings. Students who complete the eight-three hour block of instruction are prepared to work in a variety of home settings with acute, chronic, terminally ill and developmentally disabled clients in their home.

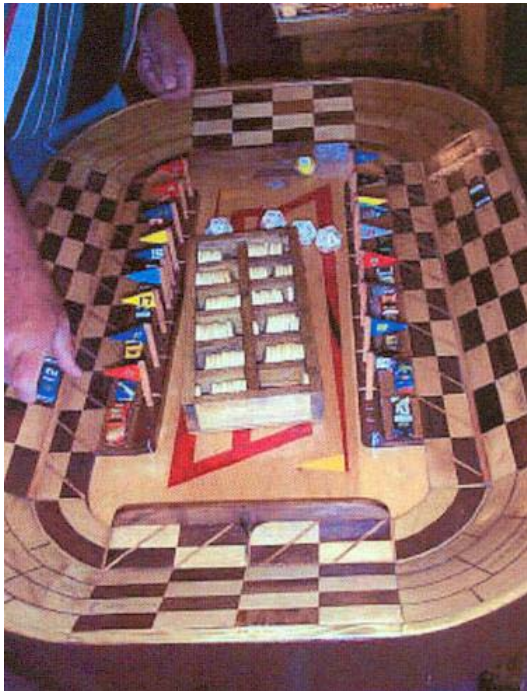
Handmade Games Donated to Organization

The Cabinetmaking class at Marion Correctional Institution, instructed by Glen Grindstaff, McDowell Technical Community College, donated hand-made games to South Mountain Children and Family Services in McDowell county which operate group homes for children. Two games donated included a table top race track complete with lap counter, hand-built wooden cars and a tic-tac-toe board. Both games were designed by students in the MCI cabinetmaking class. The students also developed a complete set of rules for the race track game.



Pictured above: Danny Marriot, Ben Grazza, Mike Barnes, and Ashley Huffman of South Mountain. MTCC instructor, G. Grinstaff is shown second from the right.

Below: A close-up look at the tabletop racetrack hand-made by students at MCI.



Students Participate in Book Club at Polk

The ESP (Exceptional Student Program) Book Club at Polk Correctional Institution sponsored by Ms. Judy Crispo, speech therapist, and Ms. Lawanna Johnson, ESP teacher, is open to all ESP students by invitation. All reading levels are accommodated by using recordings of books when needed. Each cycle includes the initial meeting where the book is introduced and the students are prepared for the themes and ideas they will encounter in the book; a second meeting is to check progress and discuss any problems or misconceptions the students may have; the third and final meeting includes an in-depth discussion where students are encouraged to state and defend their beliefs and ideas. A movie version of the book may be shown if the teachers feel it serves to further the goals and objectives of the club. Books read so far include The Giver by Lois Lowery, The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton, To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee, Daniel's Story by Carol Matas, and A Light in the Forest by Conrad Richter. A second motivational reading book club has begun because of the excitement and overwhelming response to the original one.

In addition:

During the month of September, Polk CI had thirty students to submit works of art to be considered for entry in the Inmate Art Contest. Out of thirty pictures submitted, eight were selected to be shown in the 29th Annual Inmate Art Show on October 18-20, 2005, at the Baltimore Square Mall in Asheville, North Carolina.

Educational Offerings at Columbus Correctional Institution

Columbus Correctional Institution continues to strive toward its mission of preparing the inmate population with educational opportunities that will enhance career development for their eventual return to the community. With the ever changing demands upon academic and vocational trends in society, the staff at Columbus CI recognizes the need to keep pace. One example of this is the addition of a second Computer Learning Lab during the past year.

Graduation Ceremonies

Columbus Correctional Institution:

On August 26, 2005, Columbus Correctional Institution held its annual graduation ceremony. Receiving recognition were approximately 75 graduates from the Masonry and Plumbing programs, 60 graduates from the Computer program, 56 graduates from the Human Resources Development program and 30 inmates who received their GED.

Foothills Correctional Institution:

Between the months of June and October, the students at Foothills CI took 258 GED tests with a passing percentage of 91%. This high percentage of excellence resulted in 33 inmates earning their GED.

Marion Correctional Institution:

Marion CI held its annual graduation ceremony on August 12, 2005. Mr. Don Ramsey, McDowell County Clerk of Court, delivered an inspirational commencement address to the family, friends and staff in attendance for the ceremony. Certificates and diplomas were awarded to 37 graduates completing the Information Systems, Cabinetmaking, Horticulture and GED programs.

Morrison Correctional Institution (Minimum):

Morrison Correctional Institution welcomed back an old friend for the minimum custody summer academic graduation ceremony. On July 29, 2005, Dr. Robin Moore, correctional educator and administrator for 23 years, presented Morrison’s GED graduates with a challenge, “Good or Great...What do You Want to Be?” Twenty-four inmates received their GED certificates, five with honors and on with high-honors. Richmond Community College President, Dr. Diane Honeycutt and Vice-President, Jim Chavis also attended the graduation and congratulated the students on their achievement. Both encouraged each graduate to continue their education on the college level. Refreshments were provided and the graduates had time to visit with their invited guests after the ceremony.

Durham Correctional Center:

On September 8, 2005, a GED graduation ceremony was held for the inmates at Durham CC. There have been a total of 14 inmate GED graduates to date in the year 2005. The inmates invited family members to celebrate with them. The guest speaker was Mr. Gregory Bellamy, Program Director of Inmate Education, and Durham Technical Community College. Mr. Bellamy’s topic was “Famous Celebrities who Have Their GED Diplomas” and the fact that it was up to the graduates to go beyond this diploma to achieve greater successes. Mr. Richard Jackson, GED instructor of Durham Tech. Community College presented the awards to the graduates. Also in attendance from Durham Correctional Center were: Ms. Doris Daye, Program Director, Ms. GiGi McCoy, Programs Supervisor, Ms. Gznee Jones, Case Manager and Mr. Mac C. Fennell, Case Manager/Education Coordinator. The event began at 6:30 p.m. and concluded at approximately 8:00 p.m. Refreshments were served after the conclusion of the ceremony.

Robeson Correctional Center:

Robeson Correctional Center had three inmates to receive their GED in October. There were also eighteen inmates to complete the Napoleon Hill class. All inmates were recognized with certificates and/or diplomas and all inmates received a graduation meal that was furnished by the Eagle Claw Men’s Club.

Gates Correctional Center:

Gates Correctional Center has a part-time GED program. Seven inmates have received their GED certificates since January 2005.

Gaston Correctional Center:

Gaston Correctional Center is proud to announce the first cap and gown ceremony for its GED graduates. Gaston Community College furnished the caps and gowns. Instructor Bob Porter furnished the 2005 tassels for each inmate. The ceremony consisted of individual recognition of each graduate and the presentation of GED certificates. A picture was taken of each inmate for a keepsake of their achievement. Congratulations to each graduate plus a giant “Thank you” to Gaston Community College and GED instructors Bob Porter and Susan Daniels.



Graduates at Gaston Correctional Center

Fountain Correctional Center:

Graduation ceremonies were held for the inmates and their guests in April and October 2005. Both events were well supported by staff from the Division of Prisons and Edgecombe Community College. Many programs were represented as graduates graced the stage to receive certificates from Horticulture, Workforce Systems Development, Job Readiness, Simple Computers, Home Companion Aide, Customer Service and GED classes. This year’s keynote speakers were Basic Skills instructor, James Coppedge and the area’s Chief of Police, John Manley. Both speakers’ messages were uplifting and served to inspire graduates as well as potential graduates. At the heart of Mr. Coppedge’s speech was a message of overcoming odds to achieve and make a difference in the world. Chief Manley stressed to inmates the importance of making a difference regardless of where you are from and regardless of the circumstances that placed you where you were at that time.

Avery/Mitchell Correctional Institution:

On June 24, 2005, Avery/Mitchell Correctional Institution held its 6th annual graduation ceremony. Avery/Mitchell, along with Mayland Community College were proud to present the following certificates:

- GED – 68
- Computer Applications – 8
- Certification - 9-
- Computer Repair – 6
- Commercial Cleaning – 42
- Horticulture – 13
- Industrial Maintenance Level 1 & 2 - 11
- HVAC Level 1& 2 – 12
- EPA
- Life Skills - 32
- Masonry - 7

Caswell Correctional Center:

Caswell Correctional Center held its annual graduation ceremony on July 15, 2005. The guest speaker was Ms. Magdeline Ragland. Ms. Ragland is employed as a Student Support Specialist at Piedmont Community College in Roxboro, NC. For the 2004-2005 term, the following number of students participated in the graduation exercises:

- GED – 18 total; 11 students were present
- Welding – 14 total; 11 students were present, six of which are certified welders by the American Welding Association
- AC, Heating & Refrigeration and EPA certification – 19 Total; 17 students were present
- Horticulture – 15 total; 9 students were present
- Industrial Systems Technology – 31 total; 23 students were present
- Human Resource Development (HRD) – 54 total; 46 students were present for the ceremony.

The 2004-2005 graduation ceremony was the largest in history for Caswell CC with a total of 151 students receiving certificates or diplomas. A reception was held after the graduation exercises with refreshments prepared by the Caswell CC Food Service staff. The food was delicious and was enjoyed by the graduates as well as the invited guests.

Nash Correctional Institution:

In partnership with Nash Community College, Nash Correctional Institution continues to strive for excellence in providing educational and training opportunities for inmates. There have been a total of 38 certificates and diplomas awarded during the year, with an additional 18 vocational awards to be given at a December 19, 2005 commencement. The graduate total will consist of the following:

GED – 16
HVAC/Heating, Ventilation, & Air Conditioning – 27
Electrical/Electronics Technology – 6
Information System Technology – 7

***Other news from Nash CI**

- Five inmates are currently participating in the UNC-Outreach courses. Forty-eight have completed the Crossroads Program.
- Four inmates participated in the Annual State-Wide Art Contest and two inmates received second and third place in the Creative Writing Contest.

From the Desk of Rose True, Director of Educational Services

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Holiday. I would also like to thank all North Carolina correctional educators for all that you do to make North Carolina a leader in Correctional Education. Without the hard work and dedication of all of you, we could not offer the quality educational programs that we do.

North Carolina was recently recognized in Learning to Reduce Recidivism (A 50-state analysis of postsecondary correctional education policy). I invite each of you to view this document at <http://www.lhep.org/>. Please read page 15 with pride and know that I sincerely appreciate your efforts!

Note: News items for the next issue of this bulletin must be received by March 24, 2006. Items can be sent via email to bc09@doc.state.nc.us or fax to (919) 838-4764.