
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

DIVISION OF PRISONS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BULLETIN

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Boyd Bennett, Prisons Director
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CONGRATULATIONS! FCI AND WYI RECEIVE CEA ACCREDITATION

Foothills Correctional Institution and Western Youth Institution recently completed all the requirements for Correctional Education Association (CEA) accreditation. The accreditation process all started during a one day training session held on October 25, 2000 by Jim Keely who was president of the CEA at that time. Procedures that the auditors would use and all 78 standards were discussed at length in preparation of the audit. The accreditation visits were held at the sites on June 12th and 13th. DOP representatives recently traveled to the CEA Conference in Portland, Oregon to receive the Accreditation Awards.



Pictured left to right receiving CEA Accreditation Awards: Arthur Clark, Debbie Sewell, Robert Merrill (WYI), Anne Tew, Rose True, Millie Shuffler (FCI) and Jack Littlefield, Chair of the Standards Commission. Back row: Steve Steurer, Executive Director of the CEA

Comments from Theodis Beck, Correction Secretary



"The Department of Correction is committed to providing inmates with educational programs that prepare the inmate to become a contributing member of society upon release," said Secretary Theodis Beck. "I commend the staffs of Western Youth Institution and Foothills Institution for the

hard work and dedication required to become internationally certified by the Correctional Education Association. CEA accreditation puts Western and Foothills in an elite group of correctional and rehabilitation facilities recognized for providing educational programs that meet the needs of both the student and the greater community."

From the Desk of Anne Tew: I am extremely proud of the accomplishments at Foothill CI and Western YI. It was especially gratifying to see the determination of staff members to make absolutely certain that Correctional Education Association standards were completely

documented for the audit. It worked beautifully; both facilities passed all 78 standards. Modifications that were needed to meet the standards sometimes required the assistance of those who work in other sections at both facilities, and their contributions are also appreciated. Dianne Spence, the CEA auditor, was lavish in her praise of all the "intangibles" that she observed at both facilities, especially the outstanding staff. The audit experience was not without stress certainly, but I hope and believe that all who worked so hard to accomplish this achievement are pleased at their efforts, as I am.

Comments from Foothills Correctional Institution

"CEA was a team building experience." Sheila Williamson

"The CEA process helped enhance communication between our education staff and various other departments within the institution." Mary Ann O'Neil

"The CEA process allowed us to examine different aspects of our education program and evaluate them for quality. It was often the case that we made changes, some great, some small, that added to the overall effectiveness of our program." Millie Shuffler

"The CEA experience reinforced my belief in team work. I learned the importance of organizational skills, time management, and total cooperation among staff within this facility. It also reinforced my belief that if you have a high quality program, the justification of the program already exists. We did not all of a sudden meet the standards of the accreditation board, it was a matter of showing through documentation that the standards were already incorporated in our day to day operations. It is professionally rewarding to be recognized by others for the quality program that we know we have!" Barbara Lingerfelt

"The CEA notebooks have become excellent resources for new or career employees providing valuable information and answering questions for education staff and employees." Wanda Willis

"This experience was an opportunity to look at the framework of the education program at FCI. It was also an opportunity to analyze how each standard interrelates with other departments in the institution." Ann Washington

Comments from Western Youth Institution

"At first, I was overwhelmed by the work involved in meeting the requirements for CEA accreditation. As time passed, I began to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Now I am proud to say we are the first school in the DOC to be accredited. I learned a lot and found the experience rewarding." Brian Hudson

"Even though the CEA accreditation process was time consuming, I found it to be a rewarding experience. I have worked in DOC education for over twenty years and I still learned a lot about the nuts and bolts of education at WYI. I also believe that the committee members helped to streamline the delivery of educational services to our students as we clarified local policies and procedures."

Fred Horton

"CEA was a long arduous project with positive results."

Thomas Walters

GRADUATION HIGHLIGHTS

- **AVERY MITCHELL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION**

Avery Mithcell CI held its largest graduation ever on May 24th with 258 graduates. The institution awarded 55 GED certificates along with vocational certificates in the following areas: Advance Computer (21), Computer Applications (75), Into to Computers (20), Commercial Cleaning (43), Horticulture (8), Heating and Air (11), Industrial Maintenance (10), and E.P.A. Certification (15). Anne Washington from FCI was the guest speaker.

- **ORANGE CORRECTIONAL CENTER**

In association with Piedmont Community College, Orange Correctional Center held its graduation ceremony June 18, 2002. Certificates and diplomas were awarded in the following areas: GED (1), HR Development (21), Building Trades/Light Construction (5), Food Service Technology (10), and Office Systems Technology (2). The speaker for the event was Arthur Clark, Community Dev. Projects Mgr.

- **FOUNTAIN CORRECTIONAL CENTER**

FCI is proud to announce their first ABE student to receive her GED on April 23, 2002. Through preservance and determination, the inmate received her GED under the instruction of Susie Wiggins, Edgecombe Community College. She is an inspiration to other ABE students and to all those enrolled in the educational program at Fountain. Once released, her goal is to study mortuary science through the community college in her hometown, to become a licensed mortician, and to own her own funeral home.

- **NC CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN**

The Shaw University graduation was held on June 4, 2002 at 1:00 p. m. in the Chapel of the Nameless Woman, located at NCCIW, Raleigh, N.C. The speaker for the event was N. C. Senator Eleanor Kinnaird. Associated with the graduation was the Baccalaureate celebration, held on May 31, 2002. Nine women received Associate of Arts Degrees and one received a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

- **SANDHILLS YOUTH CENTER**

Ten students at SYC received their GED certificates at the May 31st graduation ceremony. Three were honors graduates. In addition to the GED recipients, students received certificates for Advanced Computers, Computers for Beginners, Job Readiness and Electrical Wiring. The guest speaker was Dr. Ted Mataxis, Director of Workforce Development of Moore County Schools. One of the honor

graduates delivered the valedictorian speech. Certificates were given by Ms. Johan de Brigard and Marty Wase.

- **MOUNTAIN VIEW CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION**
Graduation was held at MVCI in partnership with Mayland Community College on June 11, 2002. Certificates were awarded in the following areas: GED (13), Carpentry (10), Computer Apps (20), Horticulture (16), Welding (11), and Masonry (6). Arthur Clark was the commencement speaker.

- **LUMBERTON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION**
LCI held its graduation ceremony on May 30, 2002. The guest speaker was Nancy Blue, a HR Development Instructor at Robeson Community College. Ten inmates were awarded GED certificates and sixteen were recognized for completing vocational courses and the Horticulture program. Thirteen additional inmates earned their GEDs during the past year but were transferred or released.



LCI Academic/Vocational Graduates

- **POLK YOUTH INSTITUTION**

This year's summer graduation yielded 36 graduates using GED tests between March 2002 to July 2002. The theme for the graduation ceremony was "Making a Pledge for your Future", and the highlight of this celebration was our guest speaker, Mr. Abdul Hafeez Waheed. Mr. Waheed, an Imam from Durham, NC and a recent recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr., Humanitarian Award made a very heartfelt and noteworthy and speech. In his presentation, Mr. Waheed spoke candidly to both our student population and the listening audience. He urged us all to make better decisions and to make a pledge to improve our lives. To aid in his speech, he utilized his personal experiences of incarceration and eventual success to demonstrate everyone's ability to make positive changes. The ceremony ended joyfully with the graduates being allowed to visit with their families and friends who attended this gala celebration. Most parents expressed excitedly, that witnessing the graduation of their loved one here today, fulfilled some of the dreams that they thought, up to now, were not probable.

- **SAMPSON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION**

A graduation ceremony hosted by Sampson Community College was held at SCI on June 18, 2002 for graduates receiving certificates in the following academic/vocational programs: Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration (16),

Horticulture Technology (32) and GED (10). Five graduates were also honored for receiving certificates in two areas. Dr. Alfonza Williamson was the guest speaker and a luncheon was held to honor the graduates.

• **SOUTHERN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION**

Thirty-five students completed requirements to obtain a GED, diploma, certificate or Associate Degree in Business Administration through Montgomery Community College this past year. Seventeen of the thirty-five inmates participated in the graduation ceremony on May 31, 2002 at SCI. Six received GED certificates, eight received Culinary Technology certificates, one received a certificate in Business Administration and one completed requirements for an Associate Science Degree in Business Administration.

Dr. Mary Kirk, MCC president delivered the Commencement address.



SCI GED Graduates



Business Administration Graduates



SCI Culinary Technology Graduates

VEGETABLE GARDENING AT MCI

Inmates in the Exceptional Students Program at Morrison Correctional Institution have planted a vegetable garden of zucchini, watermelon, cucumbers, spinach and tomatoes. The students have made salads and enjoyed the "fruits of their labor". Some sunflowers sprouted which were planted last season. The students also made a birdhouse with 13 luxurious apartments and a birdfeeder both located near the garden. The condo and feeder has attracted many species of beautiful birds and has been enjoyed by the staff and students.

SYC HOLDS ITS FIRST CHESS TOURNAMENT

The Drake Educational Center of Sandhills Youth Center held its first chess Tournament on June 20th- 21st. There were twenty inmates competing in the tournament which was monitored by Larry Grant and Ron Utley, both experienced chess tournament players. Ada Harris, who also works for SYC, organized the event for the inmates who were in good academic and behavioral standing. The tournament rules allowed each player to play in two rounds. To advance in each round, each player had to win two out of three games, thereby eliminating his opponent and advancing to the Championship Round. The winner and runner up received a trophy and a Certificate of Appreciation. All

other inmates who participated received a certificate as well. The next SYC Chess Tournament is scheduled for October.

UNIVERSITY STUDIES CLASS OFFERED AT LCI

On June 5, 2002 nine inmates at Lumberton Correctional Institution began a University Studies class that is offered through Fayetteville State University. This course is funded by a federal grant through the US Department of Education. The grant enables Educational Services to develop a plan for providing post-secondary education, employment counseling and other related services to inmates who are 25 years of age or younger and within five years of release or parole. The Youth Offenders Program is coordinated by Sandra Haskins, an Education Specialist with the DOP.

LCI RECOGNIZES INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR

Ms. Nancy Freeman, GED Instructor at Lumberton Correctional Institution has been recognized by Robeson Community College as one of two Continuing Education Instructors of the Year (2001-2002). Ms. Freeman has taught GED studies at LCI since 1995 and is an asset to Lumberton's educational department. She has proven to be a dedicated and disciplined teacher and her recognition as Instructor of the Year is deserved and commendable.

ESP STUDENTS AT MCI CELEBRATE US HISTORY

Students in the Exceptional Student Program at Morrison Correctional Institution are getting a hands-on view of the United States History. They are working on two projects centered on the U. S. History. A photo journal is being kept as progress is being made and students eagerly wait to see each day's pictures. The first project is on the American flag. Students read and researched the history of the flag and its different designs. They have written reports, designed a bulletin board and painted a flag mural on a wall in the school. The second project is on understanding a timeline. A timeline has been drawn on a wall depicting historical events with pictures and written summaries beginning with the Declaration of Independence through the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The students plan to explore additional events as the year progresses, to have "historic interpreters" to portray the different eras of U.S. History, and to study patriotic music. Deborah Williams, ESP teacher, has found the projects to be very useful in allowing students to explore a variety of learning styles and to engage in hands-on experience while learning about our country.

SANDRA HASKINS RESIGNS

Sandra Haskins, DOP Education Specialist, has resigned from her position as the Youth Offender Program Coordinator, effective August 9th. She is currently pursuing educational opportunities at Fayetteville State University. Sandra has been a tremendous asset to DOP educational services and will be missed by everyone who knows her. On behalf of the educational staff within the DOP, we wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

NOTE: News items for the next issue of this bulletin are due by Nov. 1st. Email to sdb13@doc.state.nc.us or fax: 919-838-4764.