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# NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

## DIVISION OF PRISONS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BULLETIN

*Theodis Beck, Correction Secretary*

*Boyd Bennett, Prisons Director*

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### CAREER COUNSELOR FROM JSCC AT DUPLIN CC

Numerous facilities throughout DOP, such as Duplin Correctional Center, are fortunate to have full-time community college instructors and administrators on site; however, Duplin CC may be the only facility with a career counselor assigned to its educational program. Jeff Myers, certified guidance counselor from James Sprunt Community College, spends half of each working day at DCC, advising and assisting inmates in making their career and employment plans. Myers also works in the Job Link and Career Center at JSCC, a division of duties which allows him to bring to the inmates at DCC the latest information on employment trends and new career opportunities as well as access to the many services and programs offered by the Job Link Center. Acting Superintendent Carla O'Konek-Smith is very appreciative of the added commitment JSCC has made by including career counseling as part of its partnership with the facility, and she is likewise very grateful for the valuable services rendered daily to inmates by Mr. Myers.

### NEW HRD COURSE SERIES REPLACES PRE 3701

The NC Community College System has announced that a popular Occupational Extension, non-credit course conducted at many DOP facilities to prepare inmates for returning to the workplace upon release will be phased out over the coming months and may be replaced by one or more of the newly redesigned Human Resource Development (HRD) courses available from most community colleges. The course being phased out is PRE 3701: Employment Readiness while the new HRD series includes the following courses:

- HRD 3301: EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS -- addresses

the following components: assessment of individual assets and limitations, development of a positive self-concept, employability skills, communication skills and problem-solving skills; and awareness of information technology in the workplace.

- HRD 3003: CAREER PLANNING & ASSESSMENT--

assesses interests, attitudes, aptitudes and job readiness as they relate to career, employment and educational goals.

- HRD 3006: EMPLOYABILITY MOTIVATION AND RETENTION--is based on four post-employment strategies--transition, retention, advancement and re-employment.

Facilities wanting to learn more about the new HRD series, which consists of six courses and is intended for inmates 24 months from release, and how it may be added to their

educational program plan, should contact the Office for Continuing at the local community college.

### RUTH ROGERS RETIRES FROM MORRISON YI

On Friday, December 7, the faculty and staff of Morrison Youth Institution honored Ruth Rogers with a retirement luncheon at the Lone Star Restaurant in Southern Pines, NC. Ms. Rogers began teaching in 1984 in the Fayetteville area. She was the Special Education Coordinator at Southern Correctional Institution (SCI) from 1991 until joining the faculty at MYI in 1996. During her retirement celebration, which was also attended by staff from SCI as well as friends from the community, MYI Assistant Superintendent Greg Parsons and Education Director Elviera Grzyb both spoke of Ms. Rogers' dedication to her students and her professionalism and how much she will be missed by students and colleagues alike at MYI.

### SANDHILLS YOUTH CENTER HOLDS JOB FAIR

On December 7, Sandhills YC held its second job fair for inmates from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. Participants in the job fair met with representatives from the U.S. Army and Navy recruiting offices, Oakwood Manufacturers, McDonald's, Kolerraft Industries, Sandhills Community College, Perdue, Unilever, Sam's Club, and the Southern Pines Fire Department which also provided a fire truck. Further details about the job fair and how to organize such an event may be received from Johan de Brigard, SYC Education Director.

### DEBBIE SEWELL RUNS MARATHON IN FLORIDA

On January 6 in Orlando, FL, Exceptional Student Program Compliance Specialist Debbie Sewell of the Educational Services central office staff ran a fund-raising marathon sponsored by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. One of over 18,000 runners participating in the 26-mile run, Sewell raised \$3,000 in pledges for her first-ever marathon, which she trained for over a four-month period with a team of 15 other runners from the RTP area. A runner for 20-plus years, Sewell says she would gladly run another marathon to raise funds for the same good cause.

### MYI STUDENTS SHOW CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Students at Morrison Youth Institution were given the opportunity to participate in two Christmas activities during the recent holiday season. While some students made Christmas tree ornaments (angels, candy canes and reindeer) and dollhouse furniture for delivery by staff to the Sandhills Children's Center in Southern Pines, other students participated in a Christmas door decoration contest in the

school area. The wining decorations were entitled: "The Grinch," first place; "The Three Wise Men," second place; "Watch Out for Santa," third place; and "Christmas Greeting Cards," honorable mention.

#### GRADUATION HIGHLIGHTS FROM ACROSS DOP

- NEUSE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION: As guest

speaker for graduation ceremonies held Nov. 29 at NCI, DOC Secretary Theodis Beck exhorted the graduates to have the will power and determination to overcome obstacles to their continued success. Nine GED recipients were honored while students completing classes in Computer/Employment Readiness (17), Character Education (10), Napoleon Hill (10), Parenting (20) and Think Smart (2) were also recognized **Photo below shows GED graduating class.**



- SANDHILLS YOUTH CENTER: Nineteen students,

including two honor graduates, received GED certificates in ceremonies held Nov. 30 at SYC, while 10 students were awarded certificates for completing courses in Advanced Computers, 19 for Computers for Beginners, and 16 for Job Readiness, making this the largest graduating class ever at SYC. As guest speaker, Herman Thompson, attorney from Southern Pines, urged the graduates to persist in pursuing their goals, "to make it happen!" Don Wood, SYC Superintendent, gave closing remarks for the ceremonies, which included entertainment by the SYC Choir.

- MORRISON YOUTH INSTITUTION: MYI held its

annual winter graduation on Dec. 18, graduating 53 inmates who had successfully completed the requirements for the GED over the past six months, 46 of whom were present to receive their certificates. Guest speaker, Rick Glazer, an attorney and school board member from Fayetteville, stressed the importance of setting educational goals and how to better oneself in the face of adversity, while MYI Education Director Elviera Grzyb, in her remarks to the graduates, spoke about the word "TEAM," saying, "There is no "I" in "TEAM;" instead, we use such words as "we," "us," and "our;" and because teachers, staff and students have worked as a team, we have accomplished our goal."

**POLK YOUTH INSTITUTION:** Myra Tillman, Technical Recruiter for the Gregory Poole Company in Raleigh, gave the commencement address in graduation ceremonies held Dec. 18 at PYI for a class of 69 graduates, 42 of whom were present to receive their certificates in the presence of family

and other special guests. Special remarks were also delivered by the class valedictorian and salutatorian, while PYI's Young Men of Vision sang musical selections. A special award for excellence in teaching was also made by Dean Leo Kelly of Vance Granville Community College to Ms. Ruth Duncan, VGCC instructor, for her valued contributions to the education program at PYI.

- JOHNSTON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION: JCI,

in partnership with Johnston Community College, conducted graduation on Dec. 20 for 96 vocational program completers in the following trade and technical areas: Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration (15), Electrical/Electronics Technology (18), Food Service Technology (16), Horticulture Technology (16), Masonry (12), Office Systems Technology (10), and Plumbing (10). Thirty-two graduates were also honored for maintaining straight A averages in their studies, while 54 students were recognized for perfect attendance.

- FOOTHILLS CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION: FCI

had to hold two graduations in January, one the 11th and the 18th, due to the large number of graduates and guests participating in the two ceremonies. On Jan. 11, with FCI's community college partner, Western Piedmont CC, students were graduated from the following programs: GED (13), Furniture Upholstery (4), Business Administration (6), Information Systems (15), and Mechanical Drafting Technology (3). The second commencement program was for GED graduates only, 50 of whom were awarded their certificates of high school equivalency. According to Dennis Leonard, FCI Education Director, the primary reason for the larger than usual number of GED graduates was that the FCI faculty had made a concerted effort to prepare as many students as possible to successfully complete the GED test series that was replaced by a new series as of Dec. 31.

#### TEAM EFFORT SUPPORTS TRANSITION INITIATIVE

Since the beginning of the new year, Programs and Educational Services staff have been engaged in carrying out DOP Director Boyd Bennett's mandate to establish basic procedures for transition services for all inmates being released from all DOP facilities. With the assistance of the Region Program Coordinators, David Karasow, DOP Case Management Director, and Arthur Clark, Education Specialist, have been making presentations to Programs staff in each region on the Division's new policy and procedure on Transition Services, as developed by Keith Hester, Chief of Program Services, and on revisions to the Case Management policy and procedures, as well as on implementation of the newly developed Transition Documents Envelope. Central office staff have also collaborated on the assembly of the **JobStart** Community Resource List manual, as updated by Nancy Beatty, Administrative Secretary II in Educational Services, which is being distributed throughout DOP as a tool to be used in preparing inmates for return to their communities of release. The goal of the transition services initiative, as stated by

Director Bennett, is to reduce recidivism by ensuring that all inmates released from DOP have planned and prepared for making a successful reentry to the community, increasing their chances of remaining incarceration-free.

**NOTE:** News items for the next issue of this bulletin must be received by March 8 by e-mail: [cal15@doc.state.nc.us](mailto:cal15@doc.state.nc.us) or fax: 919-838-4764.