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# NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

## DIVISION OF PRISONS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BULLETIN

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*Theodis Beck, Correction Secretary*  
*Boyd Bennett, Prisons Director*  
*Keith Hester, Program Services Chief*

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*Anne Tew, Education Director*

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### KEITH HESTER RETIRES APRIL 1, 2002

Chief of Program Services Keith Hester concludes a distinguished career with the Division of Prisons on April 1, 2002, spanning 29 years of dedicated service to the field of corrections in North Carolina. Acknowledging the support he has provided to education programming, Director of Educational Services Anne Tew stated, "I know I speak for all administrators, teachers and other staff when I say how deeply grateful we are for the valuable guidance and assistance Keith Hester has consistently provided to the ongoing improvement of correctional education throughout the Division of Prisons." Hester assumed his final position in 1995, having served successfully in a succession of prior management posts in DOP. A retirement celebration in his honor is to be held March 28 at the McKimmon Center, North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

### STUDY FINDS EDUCATION LOWERS RECIDIVISM

The Correctional Education Association, under a grant from the US Office of Education, conducted a three-state, three-year study starting in 1997 on the impact of education on recidivism. The longitudinal study, which followed over 3,000 inmates released in Maryland, Minnesota and Ohio, found that 36 months after release, 22 percent of the ex-inmates who had taken classes while incarcerated returned to prison while 31 percent of those not participating in education were re-incarcerated. The major conclusion of the report, which may be found on the CEA website at [www.ceanational.org](http://www.ceanational.org), is that participating in secondary or post-secondary instruction in prison reduces the likelihood of re-incarceration by 23 percent. CEA Executive Director Steve Steuer said of the report's findings, "We found that for every dollar you spend on education, you save two dollars by avoiding the cost of re-incarceration."

### YOUTH OFFENDERS PROGRAM EXPANDED

Sandra Haskins, coordinator of the federally funded Workplace and Community Transition Training for Incarcerated Youth Offenders Program for inmates 25 years and under who qualify for college courses and are within five years of release, has announced that the program was recently expanded to two additional facilities: Lumberton Correctional Institution and Avery Mitchell Correctional Institution, bringing the current list of participating facilities to eight. The other institutions are: Foothills Correctional Institution, Morrison Correctional Institution, NC Correctional Institution for Women, Polk Youth Institution, Sandhills Youth Center, and Western Youth Institution. In addition to college courses, program participants also receive intensive employability skills and transition training,

### SYC STUDENTS PRODUCE DICTIONARIES including post-secondary education and career planning.



Ms. Kimela Lindsay, Title I teacher at Sandhills Youth Center, shown above with some her students, recently conducted a class activity on the origins of slang expressions as a language arts exercise, for which each of her classes compiled a dictionary of slang words and their standard English definitions. Using computer graphics, charts, and art work, each class developed a different style of dictionary, samples of which are shown by the students.

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATED AT PYI

Pastor Michael A. Walrond, Jr., of Duke University was the guest speaker for the Black History Month program held by the academic and vocational school on February 19 at Polk Youth Institution. In his emotionally charged remarks, Rev. Walrond described his own difficulties as a youth and how close he came to a bad end but for the "grace of God." He strongly encouraged the young men at PYI to focus on determining their goal in life, instead of drifting about, and then to work diligently in achieving that goal. The students also participated in the celebration by speaking on their African-American heroes and by displaying their artwork.

### "GET READY" AT CHARLOTTE CC

One of the most established transition-readiness initiatives in DOP is the "Get Ready" pre-release program at Charlotte Correctional Center, which was started with the support of its Community Resource Council three years ago. Keys to the program's success, according to Program Director Kenn Brown, are the expertise of the presenters from the community who help conduct the training, the timing of the program close to the release date, and the coordination of

"Get Ready" with the facility's work release program. For further details, contact Mr. Brown at 704-357-6030.

### **CIMS REPORT SUBMITTED TO DPI**

On February 15, Rose True, Exceptional Student Program (ESP) Director, and Debbie Sewell, ESP Compliance Specialist, delivered to the NC Department of Public Instruction the voluminous report of the Continuous Improvement Monitoring System (CIMS) Phase, as required of the Division of Prisons as a local education agency. Preparation of the report was a year-long, intensive team effort involving the Exceptional Student Program Coordinators from each of the ESP facilities (Foothills Correctional Institution, Morrison Correctional Institution, NC Correctional Institution for Women, Polk Youth Institution, Sandhills Youth Center, and Western Youth Institution), the steering committees at each site and the Education Directors. The self-assessment portion of CIMS process also identified strengths in the ESP program, as well as areas of needed improvement. Sample strengths included an excellent screening procedure for identifying students in possible need of ESP services; efficient record-keeping; close collaboration between ESP and regular teachers; and use of varied instructional materials. Areas identified for further study included the writing of individual educational plans, the measurement of student growth, and meeting the needs of ESP students in all settings. According to ESP Director Rose, development of the CIMS report represented a tremendous amount of work on the part of many DOP educators, but the benefits resulting from the process far outweighed the effort it required to produce.

### **FRANKLIN CC HOLDS GRADUATION**

On January 31, graduation was held at Franklin Correctional Center for 18 inmates who completed the requirements for receiving the GED certificate. Dr. Katherine Johnson, President of Nash Community College, delivered the commencement address in which she encouraged the graduates to build on their achievement by continuing their education through all available means. FCC Superintendent Selma Townes offered closing remarks and assisted with presenting certificates, after which a reception was held.

### **EACH-ONE-TEACH-ONE AT CRAVEN CI**

The Each-One-Teach-One tutoring program at Craven Correctional Institution has celebrated its first full year of successful operation. At this time, there is a cadre of six inmate tutors in the program, working with 22 inmates in need of developing their basic literacy skills as a prerequisite to further learning. Candidates selected for serving as tutors are trained in the Laubach Literacy method by Marlene Urbaniak of the Craven County Literacy Council, who says that it is necessary to adapt the method to the setting in order for it to work effectively. The high point of the program's success in the past year was the completion of the GED program by one of the tutored inmates. Further details about

Each-One-Teach-One may be received by contacting Larrie Dombros in the Programs Office at CCI (252) 244-3337 or

from the local Literacy Council as found in most counties throughout North Carolina.

### **PENDER CI STARTS NEW HRD COURSE**

Pender Correctional Institution, with Cape Fear Community College, has implemented HRD 3001: Employability Skills as the transition-readiness course for inmates preparing for release as part of PCI's plan for transition services. Fifteen inmates completed the first offering of the 20-hr. course, which will be conducted six more times throughout the year.

The course covers assessment of individual skills, personal development, job skills, communications, problem-solving in the workplace, and use of information technology.

### **COMMUNITY RESOURCE LIST REVISED**

The Community Resource List manual developed as part of the **JobStart** program has been revised and is now on the web at [www.doc.state.nc.us/DOP/education/index.html](http://www.doc.state.nc.us/DOP/education/index.html) and on DOC's internal webpage for staff access. A hardcopy version of the manual is also being distributed to programs staff throughout DOP as part of the new transition services policy initiative currently underway. The manual includes various transitional agencies and services in all 100 counties of the state that may be used in planning and carrying out an inmate's re-entry into the community. It is intended to be used as an educational and planning tool by staff and inmates in identifying resources that may be accessed either before or after release.

### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE BEING FORMED**

Educational Services is currently forming a state-level business and industry advisory committee for the purpose of seeking guidance and advice on ways to strengthen academic and vocational programming throughout DOP. Establishing such a committee is a requirement for accreditation by the Correctional Education Association as presently being sought at Foothills Correctional Institution and Western Youth Institution, both of which have also formed local advisory committees drawn from area business and industry organizations. The charter meeting of the state-level committee will be held within the month.

### **GCC-FUNDED PROJECT BEGINS**

A grant from the Governor's Crime Commission to fund a DOC-wide program for offender job preparation and transition support is in the process of startup. Arthur Clark, member of Educational Services for the past 3.5 years, will head up the project, which will be based in DOC Research and Planning. The goal of the project, the original proposal for which was developed by Educational Services, is to establish a systematic process throughout DOC for transitioning the inmate to the community, with a focus on job preparation and placement upon release. Regarding Clark's new assignment, Director of Educational Services Anne Tew said, "We regret the loss of Arthur's enthusiasm and contributions as he departs for new duties, but we wish

him all continued success in this important undertaking."

**NOTE:** Submit items for the bulletin's next issue by 4/30 to Rose True, fax: 919-838-4764 or [trd16@doc.state.nc.us](mailto:trd16@doc.state.nc.us).