
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

DIVISION OF PRISONS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BULLETIN

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BILL TYSON APPOINTED ASSOCIATE DEAN AT HCI

Effective November 1, W. R. "Bill" Tyson, widely respected education administrator at Harnett Correctional Institution for Central Carolina Community College, was promoted to the position of Associate Dean for Correctional Education at HCI, an appointment applauded by everyone who has had the pleasure of working with Tyson over the many years he has capably guided the community college program at HCI. In acknowledging his recent promotion, Anne Tew, Director of Educational Services, stated, "Bill has always taken the initiative to foster communication and coordination with DOP staff in order to achieve his vision of what is possible in correctional education. Without question, he has been an integral component in creating the education program at Harnett CI, a school that exemplifies just what an NC Community College/DOP partnership can be."

FIRST QUIZ BOWL AT POLK YOUTH A SUCCESS

The first annual Quiz Bowl competition conducted for students by the academic school at Polk Youth Institution on November 1 was enthusiastically supported by staff and students alike, according to Gloria Upperman, PYI Director of Education. Two students from each of the school's eight classes participated in the contest, which consisted of being asked questions from each of the five academic subjects taught at PYI, as well as the two vocational classes conducted at Polk, plus a tie-breaking category based on current events. The winning question, answered by the computer class team, was, "What was the Kursk?" For further details about the organization of a Quiz Bowl as a motivational activity for students, contact Ms. Upperman.

STUDY CONFIRMS VALUE OF INMATE EDUCATION

An article appearing in the November 16 issue of The New York Times, entitled "Inmate Education Found to Lower Risk of New Arrest," states, "Inmates who receive schooling--through vocational training or classes at the high school or college level--are far less likely to return to prison within three years of release, according to a study conducted for the Department of Education." The study, co-sponsored by the US Correctional Education Office and the Correctional Education Association, which followed 3,000-plus ex-offenders in Maryland, Minnesota and Ohio, found that three years after release, 22 per cent of ex-prisoners who had taken classes returned to prison, compared with 31 per cent of the released offenders who had not attended school while incarcerated. The report concludes by affirming what correctional educators have long held: Education provides a real payoff to the public in terms of crime reduction and improved employment of ex-offenders.

SYC INSTRUCTOR RECEIVES VOLUNTEER AWARD

Larry Grant, Sandhills Community College Basic Skills Instructor at Sandhills Youth Center, received a Certificate of Appreciation award on October 15 from the Moore County Board of Commissioners for his contributions to the community as a volunteer. In ceremonies co-hosted by the Moore County Volunteer Center and Retired Senior Volunteer Program, the SYC recipient was recognized for his work with high-risk youth through three county-wide programs: Moore Buddies, the Moore County Chapter of the NAACP, and a special tutoring program at First Missionary Baptist Church in Southern Pines. The award was made in recognition of his goals "to keep children off the streets, to encourage behavior that will reduce future court involvement, and ensure that every child has the opportunity to improve his/her reading skills." Mr. Grant was also honored for his volunteer work by Governor Mike Easley.

DEBORAH SEWELL JOINS ESP CENTRAL STAFF

The new compliance specialist for the Exceptional Student Program, Deborah Sewell, began her duties in Educational Services on October 1. Mrs. Sewell, who holds degrees from Lenoir Rhyne College (BA) and UNC-Wilmington (MEd), has an extensive background in special education, including appointments with the NC Division of Early Intervention and Education, Department of Health and Human Services, New Hanover County Schools, and the state schools for the deaf in Greensboro and Morganton, among others. In her new position, she will be responsible for monitoring ESP student records and compliance with special education policies and procedures, and for the improvement of programs and compliance with statutes and regulations related to inmates with other special learning needs.

GRADUATION AT HYDE CORRECTIONAL

Brian Oesterreich, Basic Skills Instructor for Beaufort County Community College, was the guest speaker for commencement exercises held August 1 at Hyde Correctional Institution. Forty-one inmates received certificates for completion of the following programs: GED (10), Electrical (7), Horticulture (6), Welding (9), and Drafting (9). In addition to Mr. Oesterreich, who cited ten reasons for earning the GED, Asst. Superintendent for Programs David Elliott congratulated and encouraged the graduates to pursue other educational goals, while Deanie Dunbar, HCI Community Resource Council member and faculty advisor to the Senior BETA Club at Mattamuskeet High School, presented each graduate with a graduation announcement packet that the graduates could use to send news of their achievement to family and former teachers.

KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL GRADUATION

Linda Allman, Administrative Assistant to the Education Program at Foothills Correctional Institution, has developed a winning recipe for a successful graduation that she been persuaded to share with other institutions wishing to replicate one or more of the following six ingredients.

1. The graduates must be informed early about graduation: who may attend and how many, when guests may arrive and will depart; and what to expect on this important occasion.
2. Give the students a firm date by which they must confirm who will be attending.
3. Mail invitations with detailed instructions to the guests, including notice that pictures will be taken and giving them a telephone number and contact name in the event of questions or changes.
4. Take individual, head-shot photographs of the graduates in regalia to put in the local newspaper, with their written permission. Lay-out the photos with matching names so that the graduation story is delivered camera-ready to the paper.
5. Keep records of who will be attending, following up by phone with any guests not responding. Staff should be alerted to any graduates without guests so as to make the day special for them, despite the absence of family and friends.
6. Each graduate receives a certificate, the tassel from his mortarboard, two pictures with family, the photograph that is taken for the newspaper story, and a copy of the paper.

NC TEAM COMPLETES NIC OWDS/CDF TRAINING

A five-member, interagency team representing North Carolina, under the sponsorship of the Department of Correction, recently completed a 148-hour, three-month training program conducted and paid for by the National Institute of Corrections in cooperation with the National Career Development Association. As a result of completing the rigorous program, three weeks of which were conducted in St. Louis, MO with other teams from Colorado, Ohio, Tennessee and the State of Washington, the members of the NC team are now certified as Offender Workforce Development Specialists and are also qualified for certification as Career Development Facilitators. The team is also responsible for providing training to other service providers throughout the state who are partners with DOC in transitioning ex-offenders to employment and successful careers upon returning to the community. The members of the team are: Jeff Myers, counselor, James Sprunt Community College; Rebecca Sauter, employer relations specialist, Winston-Salem Job Link Center; Sophia Feaster, mental health-social worker, DOP Piedmont Region Office; Melvin McLawhorn, Training Coordinator, Judicial Division 1, Division of Community Corrections; and Arthur Clark, Education Specialist, DOP Educational Services.

2001 ANNUAL REPORT INPUT DUE JANUARY 15, '02

The call for submissions for the 2001 DOP Educational Services Annual Report will be distributed to all prison facilities on December 1 with a deadline for responding by January 15, 2002. As in the past, each unit will be asked to provide a narrative report highlighting three significant achievements in 2001 and to verify data on each of the education programs conducted at the facility in the past year. This input will be incorporated into the 2001 Annual Report to be published and distributed on or about April 1.

O*NET PRESENTATION MADE FOR COUNSELORS

Cindy Bell of the National Center for O*NET Development made a presentation November 16 in Raleigh for counselors and other education staff from the six youth facilities on the newly developed O*NET Career Exploration Tools set of career assessment instruments. This computerized series of self-directed career exploration/assessment tools is designed for both workers and students as an aid in making career plans and/or in transitioning from school to work or to a new position. Users of the tools, which are based on a "whole person" concept, may link directly to the more than 900 occupations described by the O*NET database, as well as to occupational information in America's Job Bank. Attendees at the presentation included: Nancy Boling, Morrison Youth Institution; Al Fuller, NC Correctional Institution for Women; Brian Sweeney, Polk Youth Institution; Rusty Duncan, Sandhills Youth Center; and Rita Hollifield and Rick Smith, Western Youth Institution.

PRISON FELLOWSHIP OFFERS RE-ENTRY COURSE

The North Carolina Prison Fellowship offers a well-developed re-entry, transition-readiness course for offenders due for release, currently being conducted at several DOP sites, that may provide a good option to those units seeking a complement to their current programming or a solution to a training need not being met by the local community college or other education-providers. One facility that recently implemented Prison Fellowship's re-entry course is North Piedmont Correctional Center for Women, where Rhonda Roberston may be contacted for details. Volunteer instructors for the course are trained by Prison Fellowship, while the facility is often asked to help identify local instructor candidates for training. Further information about the course and instructor training may be received from Mrs. Angeline Breitenbach in Asheboro, 336-626-9280.

JOBSTART DISCUSSED OVER WYBE TV-44, S. PINES

Thanks to a referral by Lawrence Shamberger at Sandhills Youth Center, viewers of WYBE TV-44 in Southern Pines recently learned about **JobStart**, the prison-to-work program conducted at SYC and four other sites, from an interview with DOP staff taped Aug. 3 for delayed showing.

NOTE: Items for the next bulletin are due by Jan. 15 to A. Clark, cal15@doc.state.nc.us or fax: 919-715-5785.