
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

DIVISION OF PRISONS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BULLETIN

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GRADUATIONS!

HIGH EXPECTATIONS, SETTING GOALS, NEW EXPERIENCES, MOVING FORWARD!

The Department of Correction had several facilities to culminate the end of the summer with completions of the GED, Curriculum, Academic and Vocational Programs. Students received with great anticipation their certificates of completion by way of commencement exercises and graduations, complete with family and friends in attendance.

Columbus Correctional Institution conducted their annual graduation ceremony in June. A total of sixteen students received their GED Certificates. The guest speaker was Southeastern Community College Instructor, Mr. Sam Gore. Staff members from the Columbus CI Programs Department were in attendance. A moment of silence was observed during the ceremony for Mr. A. L. Coleman, Plumbing Instructor who passed away. Following the ceremony the graduates enjoyed refreshments and soft drinks. The vocational classes have thrived this year. Each student received an "exceptional" certificate from the college. Twenty-five students successfully completed the Masonry program, twenty-five for Plumbing, ninety-two for Computer Language, eighty-two for Computer Repair, ninety-nine for Textile/Upholstery and sixty-one for Human Resource Development. In comparison to the previous year, there has been a significant increase for completions of these classes. The successful educational achievements of



Robert T. Saunders

of the students are a result of the cooperative teamwork from the Columbus Programs staff and the Community College staff. The ultimate goal is to see an increase in all of the educational classes in the remaining fiscal year. The staff encourages the continuation of academic and vocational classes taught in the prison system to help individuals enhance the ability to obtain jobs upon their re-integration back into society. The Life Enrichment Programs at Columbus CI have also been a success this year. The facility offers Minimum Custody Readiness, Life Skills, Character Education and Thinking for a Change. During the last fiscal year, one hundred forty-two students successfully completed one or more Life Enrichment Programs. A considerable increase in this number is expected due to staff working together to make this happen.

Morrison Correctional Institution held a formal ceremony in June at the minimum school library where nineteen students received their GED Certificates. Mr. Steve Smith, Vice-President of Richmond Community College was the guest speaker. He encouraged students to fill their minds as vessels of learning. Mr. Kapp, Ms. Peterkin, Mr. Auman and Mr. Utley also held recognition ceremonies for over 70 vocational/curriculum graduates this quarter. Morrison closed out the fiscal year with 106 GED diplomas between the minimum and medium custody levels. The minimum school produced 93 of the total graduates. By the ending fiscal year, Morrison produced 297 certificates for both custody levels. Mr. Utley produced 116 or 39% of certificates earned. Medium custody produced 181 certificates with two vocational teachers and one curriculum teacher. Mr. Graham was able to secure two computers from another facility to assist Title I students with the help of Ms. Bullock, Title I director. The transfer saved the state much needed funds due to the present state of the economy. On June 20th, former Morrison principal Mr. Marty Wase presented the Old North State to Ms. Marilyn Richardson and a certificate to Mrs. Johnson for their years of service.

Fountain Correctional Center for Women had forty-four of sixty students to successfully complete the Horticulture class. These students received their certificates from Edgecombe Community College. This certification will assist them in securing entry level positions in many horticulture based businesses. The students learned to care for many ornamental plants as well as to grow a vegetable garden. Most importantly, the students developed an increased level of self esteem through discovering the ability to complete this unique class and see the results of their hard work. A total of \$824.00 was generated in sales of plants to staff members. The Pre-Employment Readiness Class 1 enrolled 275 students with 255 receiving certificates. The Readiness Class 2 enrolled 76 students with 71 receiving certificates. From April to July, the GED program oriented a total of 144 and 139 students through the day and night schools. The total number of students that did pre GED testing was 450. From April to June the number of students testing in the five subject areas was 251. From April to July, a total of 33 students achieved their GED.

Robeson Correctional Center held their GED graduation ceremony in May. Five out of the six students that tested earned their GED certificates. The graduates are pictured below along with Mrs. V. Allen, GED instructor.



Kenny Hill



Chad Baker



Warren Shannon



Phillip Hollis



Adam Kuffner

Harnett Correctional Institution and Central Carolina Community College conducted their 21st Annual Commencement exercises on May 20, 2011. Mr. William Tyson, Provost of the CCCC Harnett County Campus delivered the commencement address. Guest attending from the college included Dr. Lisa Chapman, Vice President, Academic Affairs and Mr. Jon Mathews, Dean of University Transfer, Health Sciences and Developmental Studies and Curriculum Administrators. Harnett CI Administrator, Mr. Carlton Joyner and Ms. Tresa Brown-Tomlinson, Asst. Supt. for Programs were present also. The following numbers of students received diplomas in the listed courses: Carpentry (12); Masonry (16); Welding (15); and Electrical Electronic Technology (16).

Shaw University held its Graduate Recognition and Honors Ceremony at the Harnett CI Chapel on July, 14, 2011. Nine students received their Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. Dr. Marilyn Sutton-Haywood, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Shaw University delivered the commencement address and conferred degrees. Friends and family of the graduates were in attendance.



Shaw University Center for Alternative Programs in Education (CAPE) 2011 graduating class. After four years of hard work and discipline, these students have earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

On June 4, 2011, Central Carolina Community College held its annual furniture auction. Newly constructed items built by Harnett Correctional student inmates were auctioned off to the general public. The auction sales yielded over \$25,000. The monies are transferred back to the college through the Foundation and are distributed as scholarships for CCCC Harnett County students.



Carpentry Class Desk



Welding Class Pig Cooker

New wood shelving units and a computer work station built by inmates in the maintenance department were installed in the Harnett CI Library. The improvements provide much needed space for additional books and a more efficient workspace. The library's collection contains approximately 10,000 educational and recreational titles.



Librarian Mrs. Kalanz and library clerks proud of their new shelving.

Bertie Correctional Institution reports that from April through June students received certificates in the following areas: Electrical Electronics (3); Office Technology (6); Heating and Air (4); GED (7); Commercial Cleaning (11); and Computer Applications (6).

Piedmont Correctional Institution held summer graduations for both the medium and minimum units in June. Piedmont CI partners with Rowan-Cabarrus Community College. Course offerings include GED and ABE classes as well as Masonry, Auto Body and Light Construction vocational classes. The facility takes great pride in the students completing its programs. In the medium facility, recognition was given to five students receiving the GED certificate. Fourteen students received certificates for completion of the Auto Body and Light Construction Programs. Also recognized for their accomplishments were three students completing the Enterprise Apprenticeship Program, nine students completing the Anger Management Class and ten completing the CBI: Thinking for a Change Class.

The minimum facility had two students receive their GED Certificates, seven completed the CBI: Thinking for a Change Program and eight completed the Masonry Program. The vocational programs provide projects for students to learn while also giving back to the community. The Auto Body Class repainted a truck for Brown Creek Correctional and a tractor, trailer and dozer for the N. C. Forestry Service in Caswell County.



Brown Creek CI Truck



Caswell County N.C. Forestry Dozer

The Light Construction Class did an excellent job of building desks for some of the Programs offices as well as constructing stools for a special project.



UNC Stool



Programs Desk

Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women has had their GED Program in full swing as a full-time program option since November 2010. The full-time day class meets Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There is a part-time evening study option available for women who have conflicting work assignments. The evening class meets on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The evening has been an option for the women for many years, pre-dating the move from Black Mountain Correctional Center for Women. Asheville-Buncombe Community College GED Program Director, Ms. Pauly, stated, “We believe furthering your education is one of the most proactive and potentially transformative things a woman can do while incarcerated. The GED has become the point of entry for most employment and those who have not achieved this level of education are seriously handicapped in seeking employment after release. Education has long been shown to have positive effects on reducing recidivism.” The atmosphere of the GED classroom is one of “mutual respect and anticipation,” according to GED Lead Instructor Ms. Pat Bernarding. Students are tested as they enter the program and are then given a program of study designed to help them progress from their present level through the completion of the GED if that is their goal. Since becoming a full-time program, Asheville-Buncombe Community College has graduated 21 women with their GED Certificates.

The new Hospitality Program at Swannanoa concluded its first class through Asheville -Buncombe Community College. Alianna Drake Timmins, instructor stated, “not only did all of the students pass the course, they all earned the Honors designation on the certification. This is quite an accomplishment and I am proud of hall of their hard work!” The following students participated in the Hospitality Program and passed with Honors: Kimberly Ayala, Patrina Corpus, Kimberly Davis, Vicki Frady, Lisa Hall, Tammy Hiatt, Melissa Joines, Kate Pearson, Sharon Stallings and Vickie Wright. Due to all of the tourism in western North Carolina, this program proves to be beneficial as these students transition into their communities.



Culinary Class Instructor



Class Students Dawn Raines and Rebecca Edmonds

Mountain View Correctional Institution is continuing to provide quality academic programs for the inmate population. Inmates are given the opportunity to attend Vocational classes that will provide them with job skills and assist them in becoming a more productive and successful citizen to society. Additional programs are available to help the inmates with self-improvement, social skills, be responsible family members, join the workforce and be an asset to the community upon release. This is accomplished through teamwork, dedication and a joint effort from the local community college and universities.

This year the Vocational Carpentry Class under the instruction of Mayland Community College instructor Dale Sparks designed a playhouse. It is a downscaled version of a regular full-size house and is sixteen feet long and six feet high. There are three rooms, operable windows and doors, and the shingled roof is insulated. The house also has wood and vinyl siding, a covered front porch, back deck, hardwood floors and a six foot cathedral ceiling. The students learned job skills on how to square floor systems, lay out walls for sheeting and how to build headers for doors and windows. The students also learned how to construct operable windows and doors by hand. They were instructed on the importance of insulation as well as learning roof angles and pitches. After completing the walls and the roof the students installed the shingles, vinyl siding and completed the finish and trim work. Additionally, some of the students created and install hardwood flooring. As they were learning and building, a sense of pride and accomplishment was experienced by the entire group. Raffle tickets were sold by Mayland Community College for the playhouse. A total of \$5800.00 was collected with all of the proceeds going back into the Carpentry Program.

The goal was set earlier in the year to have 75 students receive their GED Certificates. During last year's GED Graduation Ceremony in August, a total of 62 students received their GED certificates. This targeted amount would increase by 21% for the current year. The staff and students are striving to reach the targeted goal. A bulletin board was constructed to display each student's name once he has achieved this GED. This was found to be a very good motivational tool and students have expressed excitement in seeing their names on the board. They are proud and appreciative for being recognized for their accomplishments. Additionally, a target GED board displays the total number of graduates to date.



Caledonia Correctional Institution still maintains the Food Service Technology Program. The Plumbing and Masonry Programs were converted to the Continuing Education Curriculum. Classes started in July with twenty students assigned to both programs. Eight students earned their GED Certificates and thirty-one completed the Computer Applications Course. The CRC Program had seven students to complete with six silver and one bronze.

QUOTES WORTH REMEMBERING . . .

“Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere.” Chinese Proverb

“Always walk through life as if you have something new to learn and you will.” Vernon Howard

Note: News items for the next issue of this bulletin must be received by January 6, 2012. Items may be sent via email to Emma L. Brooks at Emma.Brooks@DOC.NC.Gov or faxed to (919) 838-4764.