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# NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

## DIVISION OF PRISONS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BULLETIN

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### 2004 REGION VIII CEA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

On Friday, April 2, 2004, Phileria Ann Washington was selected as CEA Region VIII Teacher of the Year (TOY) at the Region VIII Professional Conference in Warner Robbins, Georgia. Mrs. Washington, along with four other correctional educators, was nominated for this prestigious award. CEA Region VIII includes North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Florida and Mississippi. Nominees had to spend at least 51% of his/her work time in classroom instruction, teach in a correctional facility for a minimum of two years and be a current member of CEA. The nominee also had to demonstrate leadership qualities and be active in promoting improvements in correctional education, and demonstrate devotion to the teaching profession as evidenced by a willingness to work beyond his or her job description. Each nominee was required to submit an application with verifying documents of their contributions to education and their professional development. Mrs. Washington's contribution to correctional education was a transition plan to identify and to teach transition skills to incarcerated inmates identified as Exceptional Students based upon the definition of transition services by IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Act). Based on her transition plan, transition services could be provided to Exceptional Studies regardless of their eligibility dates, release dates and their sentences. Mrs. Washington is currently a special education teacher at Foothills Correctional Institution in Morganton, N.C. and will represent CEA Region VIII at the CEA National/International Conference on July 4 -7 in Baltimore, Maryland.



**Ann Washington selected as CEA Region VIII  
Teacher of the Year.**

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH OBSERVANCE

**Polk Youth Institution:** During February, the Academic School at Polk Youth Institution was engaged in activities pertaining to remembering the past, honoring current Black professionals and celebrating future accomplishments that can be achieved. Each teacher prepared a schedule of activities for the students to actively learn old and new information on a daily basis. The month of observance was celebrated together by a program in the Visitation Area which included a mock TV interview featuring students from the school as prominent African-American figures from the past and present.

**North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women:** The theme, "Uniting as One" was the theme celebrated during NCCIW's Black History Program held March 5, 2004. Highlights of the mostly inmate participated program began with a soloist who powerfully sang the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice", followed by a most commanding performance of "Lord, Give Me Back What is Rightfully Mine", a play written entirely by inmates. During the closing remarks, Warden A. Harvey chimed in on the theme of oneness by challenging the inmate population and listening audience to embrace the uniqueness and value of all cultures.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT COLUMBUS CORRECTIONAL CENTER

The Educational Department at Columbus Correctional Institution is an ever-evolving department. In April 2003, CCI introduced a Computer Language Program. This is a six week program designed to teach the inmate population the basic skills needed to operate a computer. There are now sixteen computers and the inmate response has been positive. This program, as well as the Vocational, Adult Basic Education, and GED program is managed through Southeastern Community College. A graduation ceremony was held this past June 2003, with approximately seventy-eight inmates receiving certificates and recognition for their accomplishments in the academic and vocational programs.

### PROGRAM DESIGNED FOR SHORTER SENTENCE STRUCTURES

After a brief break during the Christmas and New Year Holidays, the education program at Sanford Correctional Center is back in action. Currently, there are thirteen inmates assigned to the GED program. Since January 1, 2004, three inmates have completed the program and have received their General Education Diploma. In addition to

the GED program, the unit's Brick Masonry program has resumed classes and is going well. The thirteen inmates that are currently assigned to the program are scheduled to graduate the first week of April. Central Carolina Community College has done a great job in developing an eight week program in brick masonry that caters to the short sentence structures of minimum custody inmates. This allows inmates with both lengthy and short sentences to obtain training in a specific trade that will assist them with job/career options after release.

### **COLLEGE COURSEWORK PREPARES INMATES FOR TRANSITION**

As of March 3, 2004, Sampson Correctional Institution has five inmates enrolled in the Youthful Offender Program. As an incentive of this program, these inmates are able to participate in college coursework that awards actual college credits into the UNC System. For the Spring Semester, the inmates are enrolled in Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare taught by Dr. Chuk Odiah from Fayetteville State University. The participants in the Youthful Offenders Program will take exams, participate in group discussions, give speeches, and write papers on subject matter pertaining to social work. The class meets once a week on Thursday nights for about two and one-half hours and the students really seem to enjoy the weekly challenge of the course. Dr. Odiah reported that the inmates in this program seem to grasp knowledge as good, if not better, than many of the college students he has at Fayetteville State University. He also says that the students are mature and conduct themselves in a courteous and professional manner. This bodes good news for this program and its participants, as they lay groundwork for successful future endeavors once they leave prison.



**Students shown here are listening attentively to Dr. Chuk Odiah, Associate Professor of Social Work at Fayetteville State University**

### **EDUCATORS HONORED DURING EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION AND SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM**

On November 18, 2003, NCCIW held its annual Employee Appreciation and Service Award's Day Program. The speaker for the occasion was Ms. Gwendolyn Chunn, President Elect of the American Correction Association. The theme for the day was, "Striving for Excellence." During her presentation, Ms. Chunn emphasized that "if you want to have a sense of fulfillment about your contributions to the profession, then you need to look to those who have gone before you for guidance and advice".

Employees were honored for five, ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five and thirty years of service to the State. Among the many recipients were two education staff members. Ms. Florence Williams is a Title I teacher and Ms. Brenda Lamm is a Dental Technology Instructor. Both were honored for twenty-five years of experience with the State.

### **COUNCIL VISITS HARNETT CORRECTIONAL CENTER**

The Business & Industry Council visited Harnett Correctional Center on March 5, 2004. The members were given a tour of the academic and vocational schools. The Council was impressed with the academic programs including: ABE/GED, English as a Second Language and Business Administration. They were enlightened with the variety of vocational programs including: Automotive Systems Technology, Carpentry, Food Service Technology, Electrical/Electronics Technology, Electronics Servicing Technology, Masonry, Small Engine & Repair and Welding Technology. Members were then treated to a luncheon prepared by the Food Service Technology Class.

### **GED TEST-PREP LABS**

On February 10, 2004, Morrison CI Minimum Custody School embarked upon a new program designed to assist GED testing candidates' success ratio. The GED Test-Prep Labs are taught by Richmond Community College. Referrals of inmates to the labs are made by DOC teachers. The purpose of the GED Test-Prep Labs is to give inmates a review of skills needed to prepare them for the GED tests. The components of the program include an orientation session, two sessions each for math and writing, and one session each for science, social studies and reading. A total of 18 inmates successfully completed the labs during the month of February.

#### **Other news for Morrison CI Minimum Custody School:**

- Mr. Cleveland Graham, Title I Reading teacher, and Ms. Kim Lindsay, Title I Transition Coordinator, attended the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Reading Conference in Winston-Salem, N.C., March 2004. The workshops were informative and well attended. Knowledge and materials gathered at the conference will contribute to skillfully charting a plan for students' reading success.

- Ninety-seven inmates recently completed a 14 week cycle for the masonry, basic electronics, upholstery and computer classes offered by Richmond Community College. Certificates and refreshments were provided to end the completion of a successful vocational cycle.
- Minimum Custody School staff recently attended computer classes offered at OSDT in Apex, N.C. Nancy Boiling, School Counselor, Ada Harris, AO II, Jan Craig, ESP Coordinator, and Nancy Tunstall, OA IV attended the MS Access Workshop; Marty Wase, Social Studies teacher, and James Baxley, ESP teacher, attended MS Word; Elviera Grzyb, Education Director, attended MS Power Point.
- Thirty inmates are currently enrolled in Cycle 7 of JobStart, which is a Prison-to-Work Project for inmates to make a successful transition back into employment and their communities.

## OTHER EDUCATIONAL NEWS

### Foothills Correctional Institution:

- FCI has added new teachers in Math, Ms. Donna Hartley and Title I Reading, Ms. Ruth-Anne Beaver.
- FCI also welcomes the new Assistant Superintendent of Programs, Mr. Scott Baker.
- The inmate incentive party continues to be well perceived by those who qualify to participate.
- A number of teachers have participated in various workshops with topics including: Motivating Unmotivated Students, The Troubled Student, NCRA Reading, NASSLN, CEA, and NCCAT

### Craven Correctional Institution:

- Currently, Craven Correctional Institution sponsors two GED programs through Craven Community College. One session runs during the day and is a full-time assignment. The other is in the evening and is part time for inmates who desire to obtain a GED and are assigned full-time work assignments.
- Craven Correctional Institution completed a computer class in Microsoft Word through Craven Community College. This class gives inmates the basic understanding of word processing. The class graduated on February 25, 2004 with 12 inmates completing the program.

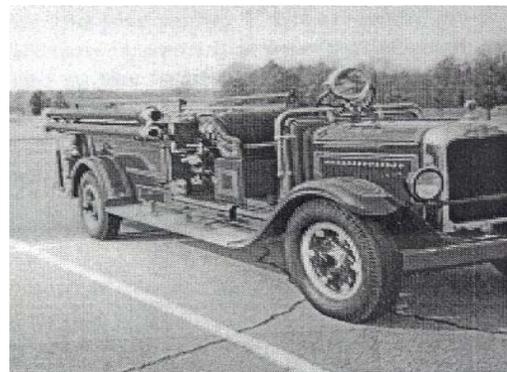
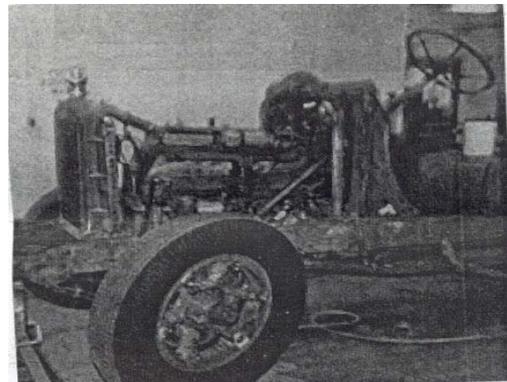
### Pamlico Correctional Institution:

- Pamlico Correctional met with Pamlico Community College on March 8, 2004 to discuss additional classes. A full-time Carpentry class will be added to the educational curriculum as soon as books and tools can be ordered.

- The sewing class will also resume as soon as the machines can be set up and an instructor is available.
- Two educational volunteers began February 20, 2004. Ms. Marsh and Ms. Parker are retired teachers who go to the institution every Friday and work one-on-one with inmates in the ABE class.
- Pamlico Correctional will be holding its graduation on Wednesday, June 2, 2004 at 2pm.
- Ms. Harrell, Education Coordinator, and Ms. Agnello, HRD Instructor, are working to establish a mock job fair for inmates enrolled in Human Resource Development. This will afford them an opportunity to meet with employers and go through an interview process.

## A FIRETRUCK MAKEOVER

Pictures speak for themselves. Piedmont Correctional Institution's Auto Body Class took what looked like something from a junkyard and created a masterpiece. This 1927 American LaFrance fire truck had a total makeover by the Auto Body Shop. The vocational classes not only teach the students a trade, but also give back to the community by completing projects such as this one for the China Grove Fire Department. Rowan-Cabarrus Community College Instructor, Jerry McGrady, his students and the facility are very proud of this accomplishment.



**1927 American LaFrance Fire Truck  
makeover at Piedmont Correctional Institution**

**CURRENT PROGRAMS OFFERED AT  
RUTHERFORD CORRECTIONAL CENTER**

Rutherford Correctional Center is a small unit and, at this time, offers two educational programs: GED and Human Resources. There are currently 7 inmates enrolled in the GED program. Since January 2004, there have been 5 inmates to receive their GED. RCC personnel are also very proud to have 36 inmates receive their GED in 2003. There are 9 inmates enrolled in the Human Resources Development Program, which is the first class of the year. Last year, out of 5 classes, there were 37 inmates to complete the program.

**GRADUATION CEREMONIES HELD**

**North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women:**

Ms. Annie Harvey, Warden of NCCIW, was guest speaker for the graduation ceremony conducted on November 7, 2003 in the facility's auditorium. Warden Harvey congratulated the graduates for successfully completing their respective programs. She encouraged them to believe in themselves and utilize all resources available to them. She also suggested that the very best resource is their own imagination and through dedication and hard work, there is no limit to the success they can achieve in the learning process.

In this year's graduation ceremony, there were 56 GED, 9 Cosmetology, 2 Dental Lab Apprenticeship, 5 Food Service Technology, 19 Horticulture, 16 Manicuring, 9 Small Business, 11 Travel Agency, and 13 Upholstery graduates. NCCIW had a tremendous year.

**Nash Correctional Institution:**

Nash Correctional Institution and Nash Community College held commencement exercises December 19, 2003 for inmates receiving degrees and continuing education certificates. Ten students received Associate in Applied Science degrees in Information Systems Technology; seven received Continuing Education certificates for Heating, Venting, and Air Conditioning; and nine students were recognized for completing their GED. Steve Mitchell, Program Director with the DART program, was the keynote speaker.

**Johnston Correctional Institution:** On Friday, December 19, 2003, Johnston Correctional Institution held a graduation ceremony for the vocational programs. The following is a list of the classes and the number of graduates from each:

Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration.....	06
Electrical/Electronics Technology.....	12
Food Service Technology.....	18
Horticulture Technology.....	16
Masonry.....	10
Office Systems Technology.....	10
Plumbing.....	12
Electronic Servicing.....	14

**Total 98**

**Harnett Correctional Institution:** On February 20, 2004, the GED graduation was held by Central Carolina Community College at Harnett Correctional Institution. Eighteen graduates were present for the event. Graduates were presented a Certificate of Completion, a pocket certificate and the opportunity to buy a picture in their Cap and Gown. Mr. William R. Tyson, Provost at the Harnett County Campus, Central Carolina CC, gave remarks. A reception immediately followed the program. The Vocational Cook School provided refreshments for the students and staff.

**NEW PERSONNEL AT  
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

Mr. Robert Poisella is the newest addition to the Educational Services section in Raleigh. As an Educational Specialist, he will be responsible for Training, Community College, and Jobstart. Mr. Poisella comes directly from Crime Control and Public Safety's Center for Missing Persons where he was the AMBER Alert project officer. Prior to that, and in reverse chronological order, he was director of the Cleveland County Day Reporting Center providing substance abuse treatment and educational services for court-ordered individuals. He was also an instructor in social sciences in both Durham and Raleigh's Shaw University CAPE programs. Before relocating to North Carolina, Mr. Poisella was director of a residential treatment facility for emotionally disturbed adolescent males, assistant director of a mental health association, and director of a CASA (Guardian Ad Litem) program and a parent-child mediation program. He earned a graduate degree in humanistic education from the State University of New York at New Paltz a few years after closing a career in law enforcement.

**FROM THE DESK OF ROSE TRUE,  
EDUCATION DIRECTOR**

Educational programming in the Division of Prison is alive and well. The new prisons are already involved in educational programs with more on the way. Existing programs are expanding and improving educational opportunities across the state. The Educational Services Staff has several new staff members that are making significant contributions to our Educational Programs. The Community Colleges are working well with our staff to provide excellent opportunities for our students to obtain a good education. We are making a mark in transition efforts throughout the system. My thanks go out to all of you that make all of this possible.

**Note:** News items for the next issue of this bulletin must be received by June 28, 2004. Items can be sent via email to [bc09@doc.state.nc.us](mailto:bc09@doc.state.nc.us) or fax to (919) 838-4764.