
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

DIVISION OF PRISONS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BULLETIN

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Cinco de Mayo Celebrations

The annual Cinco de Mayo celebration was held on May 5, 2004, at the Morrison Correctional Institution, Medium Custody School. The celebration drew the largest group it has had in the four years of the ESL Program's existence. More than forty-five students assembled together to take part in remembering the historical event that took place in Puebla, Mexico. The Food Service Technology class at Morrison Correctional Institution provided the participants with many different foods, such as tacos, chili peppers, strawberry dessert, chips, salsa, etc. The participants danced to Latino music as they shared memories of past times and looked into the future. The fiesta was a huge success that allowed participants to celebrate an event that changed their culture forever.

Cinco de Mayo is a Mexican celebration of freedom that has become popular in the United States with the increase of Mexican immigrants. To mark that occasion at NCCIW, the Academic School sponsored a fiesta which was attended by staff, guests from Educational Services, approximately eighty students, and Hispanic inmates not currently in school. The performance was organized and emceed by Ms. Judy Winston. Performers sang the Mexican National Anthem and three other songs. They also performed a Mexican Folk dance, or huapanga. Food that was prepared for the celebration included frijoles negros, coctel de fruta, jalapeno poppers, bunuelos, pico de gallo horchata, and cheese quesadillas.

Education Updates at Marion Correctional Institution

The MCI Education Department has started the Thinking for a Change class and has received good feedback from the students so far. A total of 5 inmates successfully passed their GED tests during the month of June. They are also currently in the planning and preparation phase for the Annual Graduation ceremony which is scheduled for August 13, 2004 in the MCI visitation area.

Many Benefit from Horticulture Program

The Horticulture program is alive and well at Craven Correctional Institution. During the month of May, a plant sale was held for staff. In June, plants were provided for Wayne Correctional Institution for the beautification of their facility and the Craven CI Employee Appreciation Banquet. The Sunshine Club received plants to be used for events that affect staff and their families. The Eastern Carolina Consortium for Craven, Carteret, Jones and Pamlico County Schools also received plants to be used as decorations and door prizes at their Child Nutrition Procurement Cooperative's workshop.

Instructor at Fountain Correctional Center for Women Elected President of Horticultural Association

Ms. Ellis-Kiser (Horticulture Instructor) has been recently selected as President of the Carolina's Chapter of the American Horticultural Therapy Association. This association's primary goal is to make individuals aware of the benefits of working with plants. Ms. Ellis-Kiser has been a member of this organization since 1997. She has served on the board for the past 3 years. She has also been on the national conference planning committee since 2002 as well as the Regional Conference Planning Committee for the past 4 years. As the newly elected president, she wishes to increase membership in to the Chapter to promote Horticulture therapy across North and South Carolina. Next year's conference will be held at Duke Gardens in Durham, NC on September 20, 2004. For more information regarding the association or the conference, please contact Ms. Ellis-Kiser at ellisj@edgecombe.edu.

Other news from FCC:

- Fountain Correctional Center for Women, through Edgecombe Community College, had Career Day on May 19, 2004. Eight presenters from various organization presented topics ranging from job seeking skills to decision making. Transition services, nutrition, and support services were presented to help inmates cope with challenges they may face once they are released. This event was highlighted by Ms. Alicia Rogers, owner of City Happenings, LLC Organization who motivated inmates to strive to excel. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all who participated.
- The education staff at Fountain is excited about the number of inmates who have passed their GED since July 2003. The program has graduated 88 inmates in the 2003-2004 school year.
- Edgecombe Community College had the "Race 4 Literacy" campaign kickoff on Wednesday, May 11, 2004. Bob Allen, who chairs the campaign for the State of North Carolina was the guest speaker. The activity day was a huge success with over 600 individuals in attendance. Every aspect of the day was filled with improving instructor/student relationships. The State of North Carolina is still looking for community involvement in this campaign. For further information, you may contact the North Carolina Literacy Resource Center hotline at 1-800-553-9759.

Pamlico Correctional Institution Holds Mock Job Interviews

Pamlico Correctional Institution held their first mock job interviews for inmates who had completed Human Resource Development, GED, and various vocational programs on June 24, 2004. Two members of the Oriental Rotary Club were present for the roundtable interview workshop. Ten inmates were selected to present their resumes, as well as answer questions by the interviewing panel. It was an exciting opportunity and organizers hope to make this an ongoing program for the inmates who meet the criteria.

Other news from PCI:

- PCI will be resuming their sewing class as soon as the sewing machines are reinstalled in the classroom. They will also be offering a full-time Carpentry class beginning in the fall semester.
- A math and English class will be added to the fall Horticulture curriculum. Work to convert the Masonry, Electrical Wiring and Information Systems classes to diploma programs is continuing.
- PCI has added two additional educational volunteers. They devote 3 hours every Friday to assist inmates with one-on-one tutoring. They have been well received by the inmates and continue to make a positive impact in the ABE program.

Foothills Celebrates Teacher Appreciation Week

In May, Foothills Correctional Institution celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week in conjunction with Correctional Officers, Nurses, and State Employees Week. Activities included a luncheon for programs staff, a teacher breakfast, apples, a teacher treat bag, and supplemental teaching materials.

Additional news:

- Several teachers participated in workshops with topics including: Motivate Unmotivated Students, The Troubled Student, Reading, NASSLN, CEA, and NCCAT. The NASSLN attendees presented to all DOP teachers over a two day period.
- Foothills Minimum Custody Unit has recently developed and implemented library services and set up a regular GED testing schedule.

NCCIW Education Director Appointed

Dr. Valerie Villines, Education Director at the North Carolina Institution for Women has been appointed to the Occupational Education Advisory Committee of Wake Technical Community College. The mission of the committee is to familiarize, identify, and recommend new trends and training opportunities in the area of Occupational Education which includes the areas of Law Enforcement, Corrections, Fire Services, EMS/EMT/CPR, and Service Occupations. Service Occupations include Certified Nursing Assistant, Food Service, Travel/Tourism, and Hospitality.

Graduations Held

Pamlico Correctional Institution: Graduation was held on June 2, 2004. The guest speaker, Tom Fraizer, Principal of Pamlico County High School, delivered a motivational message to graduates. Seventy inmates participated in the awards ceremony and forty inmate family members attended. The event was also well attended by the Community College staff. Ninety Curriculum certificates, 25 GED certificates, 98 Occupational certificates, and 216 HRD certificates were awarded. Refreshments were served immediately following the ceremony and an opportunity was offered for the inmates and guests to fellowship.

Foothills Correctional Institution: Foothills held a graduation ceremony on Friday, May 14, 2004 for GED and Vocational degrees and certificates in the visitation area. Forty-one inmates participated in the ceremony. A list was included of names of those inmates who completed programs but did not get to participate in the ceremony due to being transferred, having a custody level change, or being released home. The guest speaker was Dr. Elaine Fox, Director of Program Services, University of North Carolina, Asheville.

Lumberton Correctional Institution: On May 27, 2004, Lumberton Correctional Institution held a graduation ceremony for GED and vocational candidates. Fifteen inmates were awarded GED certificates and twelve inmates were recognized for completing vocational courses and the Horticulture Program. Vocational courses offered at Lumberton are Carpentry, Electrical Wiring and Heat/Air Conditioning.

An additional thirteen inmates have earned a GED the past year; however, they were transferred or released before the ceremony. The guest speaker was Tony Brewington, Director of Program Development and Compliance and Grants at Robeson Community College. The college provided a full-course meal for the graduates and approximately twenty staff members were present from RCC. The caps and gowns were purchased two years ago by the Men's Club. The graduates proudly wore them on their day of great accomplishment.



Graduates at Lumberton Correctional Institution

Southern Correctional Institution: On May 27, 2004, Southern Correctional Institution, in conjunction with Montgomery Community College, held its annual graduation ceremony. Dr. Mary Kirk, Montgomery Community College President delivered the annual commencement address. Twelve students completed requirements to obtain a certificate in Culinary Technology or Business Administration with four students completing requirements to obtain their GED certificate. All Culinary Technology and Business Administration students completed their prospective course with honors. Numerous SCI and MCC staff and family members were in attendance. Please note the May 27 graduation ceremony and the summer semester will be the last for the SCI's male population. SCI is currently in the process of converting to a female facility.

Sampson Correctional Institution: On June 16, 2004, Sampson Correctional Institution held its annual graduation exercises in the Unit Multi-Purpose Building. The keynote speaker was retired Assistant Superintendent of Programs, Mr. Livis J. Freeman. Mr. Freeman told the graduates to keep their spirits high and to always remain positive despite any obstacles that they may encounter on life's journey. Thirteen certificates were awarded by Sampson community College in the areas of GED, Horticulture Technology, and Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Technology. Sampson Community College President, Dr. William Aiken, as well as SCC Deans Sue Miller and Michael Sharpe were on hand to present certificates to the graduates. Special remarks were given to the graduates by Sampson Correctional Programs Supervisor, Mr. Hameed Shareef, Programs Supervisor/Unit Education Coordinator, Mr. Tyrone Owens, Recreation Coordinator Mr. Wade Pittman, and Sampson Men's Fellowship Club Advisor, Mr. Donald Morgan. Entertainment was provided by the Sampson Unit Men's Choir under the direction of Mr. Wade Pittman. Correctional Officer, Dean Autry, performed "Pomp and Circumstance" on the piano for the ceremony. Programs Supervisor, Mr. Hameed Shareef, commended the graduates for their hard work and achievement. The graduates were treated to cake and punch in the unit cafeteria following the graduation exercises as reward for a job well done.



**Sampson Correctional Institution Programs Supervisor,
Mr. Hameed Shareef**

Harnett Correctional Institution: On May 14, 2004, Commencement Exercises were held in the visitation center at Harnett Correctional Institution for graduates of Central Carolina Community College. Eighty-four graduates were honored by CCCC. A total of seventeen received an Associate Degree in Business Administration; fifteen received diplomas in Electrical/Electronics Technology; nine received diplomas in Carpentry; fourteen received diplomas in Electronic Servicing Technology; fourteen received diplomas in Masonry, and fifteen received diplomas in Welding Technology. Invited guests, along with CCCC faculty and HCI staff attended the ceremony. The guest speaker for this event was Mr. Gregory Jones, Masonry instructor for Johnston Community College at Johnston Correctional Institution.

On June 8, 2004, Commencement Exercises for Shaw University were held in the Chapel at Harnett Correctional Institution. Ten graduates were honored and received their Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. Invited guests, along with Shaw University faculty and Harnett CI staff attended the ceremony. The guest speaker for this event was Ms. Rose True, Director of Educational Services for the Department of Correction.



**Ms. Nanette Forrester and the Compensatory Education
Class, Carteret Correctional Center**

Johnston Correctional Institution: On April 23, 2004, Johnston Correctional Institution held a graduation ceremony at 9:30 AM for the vocational programs. The following is a list of the classes and how many there were to graduate from each:

Air Condition, Heating & Refrigeration.....	08
Electrical/Electronics Technology.....	09
Food Service Technology.....	19
Horticulture Technology.....	12
Masonry.....	12
Office Systems Technology.....	14
Plumbing.....	13
Total.....	87

Also, there were a total of 29 students with straight A's and 62 students with perfect attendance.

Carteret Correctional Center: Carteret Community College and Carteret Correctional Center held their Quarterly Graduation Ceremony for the Compensatory Education, GED, and Horticulture Technology Programs on Thursday, July 1, 2004. Perry Harker, Vice President, Carteret Community College, Anthony Florence, Assistant Superintendent, Carteret Correctional Center, Vivian Wilson, Volunteer Chaplain, Carteret Correctional Center, Ms. Pamela Drum, Director of Work Place Training, and Ms. Diane Matlock, Acting Basic Skills Coordinator, Carteret Community College were present at the graduation ceremony. The guest speaker was Mr. John Smith, Director, Small Business Center, Carteret Community College. The Educational Program Instructors are:

Korey Bernauer, Horticulture
 Melvin Bright, Horticulture
 Nanette Forrester, Compensatory Education
 David Glasgow, GED
 Billy Seymore, GED and Horticulture
 Dr. Wink Thompson, GED

There were twenty-nine graduates: eleven GED, eleven Horticulture Technology, and seven Compensatory Education. A luncheon honoring the graduates followed the ceremony.



Graduates from the GED class, above, and the Horticulture Technology class, below, at Carteret Correctional Center.



Craven Correctional Institution: Craven Correctional Institution, in conjunction with Craven Community College, conducted a GED graduation which was held on May 25, 2004. Seventeen students graduated from the GED program. Ms. Mitt McClean, from Craven Community College, was the guest speaker and Ms. Judy Cox, Associate Vice President for Instruction at CCC, conferred diplomas on the graduating class. At the conclusion of the ceremony, refreshments were served to staff and guests of the inmates. The refreshments were provided by the Community Resource Council, the Inmate Service Club, and CCI Food Services. Each inmate was allowed photographs with their guests. These photographs were donated by the Inmate Service Club.

North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women: Shaw's 2004 spring graduation at NCCIW yielded nineteen success stories. Inspiring remarks of congratulations were made by Ms. Jennie Lancaster, Central Region Director, Division of Prisons, while the guest speaker was Dr. Patricia Ramsey, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Shaw University. In Dr. Ramsey's speech, she embraced the thought of not letting obstacles hinder your progress. The ceremony concluded with an awarding of pins and medals of Honor for academic achievement by Ms. Joyce Kornegay, Superintendent of RCCW and Dr. Valerie Villines, Education Director for NCCIW.

Educational Services Welcomes Transition Coordinators

The staff at Educational Services would like to welcome its two newest members, Ms. Kimela Lindsay and Ms. Ann Washington. Ms. Lindsey previously taught Title I Reading at Morrison Minimum Custody School, while Ms. Washington taught in the Exceptional Student Program at Foothills Correctional Institution. Now serving as transition coordinators, both will be working collaboratively to create a transition curriculum for incarcerated youth while establishing communication links with existing community agencies and programs. Ms. Lindsey will serve as the contact person for the eastern region of the state while Ms. Washington will represent the western region.

Note: Ann Washington was recently selected as CEA Region VIII Teacher of the Year (TOY) prior to accepting her new position. Ms. Washington, along with other regional winners, was recognized at the CEA National/International Conference held in Baltimore, Maryland on July 4 – 7, 2004.

Note: News items for the next issue of this bulletin must be received by November 12, 2004. Items can be sent via email to bc09@doc.state.nc.us or fax to (919) 838-4764.