
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

DIVISION OF PRISONS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BULLETIN

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“Cool Con” Project at Caswell Correctional Center

What began as an idea to put all of the aspects of HVAC work into some sort of tangible project resulted in the creation of “Cool Con” by students in Philip Poe’s HVAC class at Caswell Correctional Center. This “robot” is an actual, working air conditioning system. The belt buckle is the thermostat while the glowing eyes show the transfer of refrigerant through the unit. One student was the mastermind behind the project with another helping him every step of the way. The parts came from discarded materials from water coolers and AC/window units. Furthermore, the refrigerant used in the system is the new HFC ozone friendly refrigerant as required by the EPA regulations – a very important aspect of the class, as all students are required to become EPA certified. The robot was given a creative name, “Cool Con”, and without a doubt, this project is a “cool” idea that has come to life.



Student designers stand with finished product.

Catawba Correctional Center Experiences Success with Furniture Program

Catawba Correctional Center, in conjunction with Catawba Community College, has completed three cycles in the Furniture School Program. Approximately 36 inmates earned a certificate.

First Class Graduates in Pet Care at Black Mountain

Students at Black Mountain Correctional Center for Women just completed the first Pet Care Technician class with flying colors. A score of 70 or above was a passing grade; however, the lowest score was an 86 while the highest was a 96. All inmates will receive a certificate, a letter, and a lapel pin from the American Boarding Kennel Association.

New Course Offerings at Foothills Correctional Institution

Two new Continuing Education courses have been added to the vocational program at FCI. The students will now have the opportunity to earn certificates in Horticulture and Light Construction. The Light Construction course has components of Electrical, Plumbing, Carpentry, and Masonry. The advanced classes will take students outdoors for construction of an outside storage building. The Horticulture classes will work outside in a greenhouse environment with instruction directed to landscaping, gardening, and local climate growing.

Other news at FCI:

- Foothills Minimum Custody Unit has expanded and improved library services and has set up a school schedule that instructs students four nights per week.
- In May, FCI celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week in conjunction with Correctional Officers, Nurses, and State Employees week. Activities included a teacher breakfast, apples, teacher treat bag, teacher supplies, and supplemental teaching material.
- FCI is grateful to have Glenda Frost on board as a new teacher in the Exceptional Student Program. Ms. Frost is a retired NC teacher from Rowan-Salisbury County Schools.

Volunteer Leads Tutoring Program At Craven Correctional Institution

Marlene Urbaniak has served as a volunteer at Craven Correctional Institution since 1999. She also serves on the Craven County Literary Council. During her services with the institution, she and the programs staff have developed the “Each One Teach One” (EOTO) as a tutoring program that uses trained inmates to help other inmates learn. Since EOTO began in February, 2001, the program has expanded to serve all inmates needing assistance with math study.

Students' Work Benefit Those in the Community

Through funding from Cape Fear Community College and the visionary ideas and concepts of the Educational Director, Raymond Krynicki, the staff and inmates of Pender Correctional Institution's Vocational Department are able to reach out to the community by assisting non-profit organizations with worth-while projects.

One of the special projects involved the ARBORETUM in Wilmington, NC. The Arboretum's mission statement: "Bringing people of all abilities and plants together in a safe learning environment". Pender CI's vocational department designed and constructed tables that assist mentally and physically challenged individuals with the process of planting, nourishing, and growing plant life to its maturity.

Seeing these individuals' interaction is what makes these projects truly rewarding. It is apparent the staff and inmates assigned to the vocational department are definitely focused on community involvement and assistance and meeting special needs.



Table built by vocational students at Pender CI.

Umstead Correctional Center:

Since the arrival of the current instructor last fall, Umstead Correctional Center has seen outstanding results from the GED class. Ms. Mary Williams, representing Vance Granville Community College, has inspired numerous inmates to achieve their GED. Umstead has a part-time class of 15 students that meet two nights weekly. Since September 2004, there has been 12 students to graduate. As they accomplish this task, inmates are awarded their certificates with a note of congratulations by Superintendent John Bryant and are photographed. The Inmate Service Club also congratulates them at their following meeting and treats the graduates to pizza or burgers.

Furniture Program Offered at Catawba Correctional Institution

The Furniture Production and Upholstery Program is a joint venture between Catawba Valley Community College and the Department of Correction Enterprises. There were 8 medium custody inmates to graduate on April 15, 2005. More recently, two inmates earned their GED in May 2005.

Part-time GED Program at Gates Correctional Institution

Gates CC has a part-time GED program. Laura Overton is the GED instructor who works with the College of Albermarle, Elizabeth City, NC. GED certificates were received by seven inmates at Gates Correctional Center in 2005.

Model Houses Showcase Students' Talents

The Carpentry class at Lumberton Correctional Institution constructed six model-scaled houses during the Spring session of 2005. Mr. Donald Sampson is the instructor and is employed by Robeson Community College. White pine spruce, plywood and shingles were used to build the houses and the cost average between \$1,200 - \$1,500. Mr. Sampson has been instructing at Lumberton CI since 1996 and believes in the "hands-on" approach when teaching students carpentry skills. At the end of the semester, the houses are taken to Robeson Community College for display.



Intricate designs characterize model houses.



Horticulture Projects at Various Facilities

Marion Correctional Institution:

The MCI Horticulture program held its Annual Spring Plant Sale on May 5th and 6th. Although the weather was rainy and cold, the turnout was great. Approximately \$2,500 in plants was purchased by McDowell Technical Community College and Marion Correctional Institution employees. The funds made from the sale are used for the purchase of seeds, potting soil, pots, etc. to support the daily operation of the program. Staff from both facilities did a tremendous job hanging tough despite the miserable weather Mother Nature threw at them.



Above: Staff show support for the hard work put into the horticulture program.
Below: Various plants grown at Marion CI.



Marion CI is currently in the planning stages for the annual graduation which is tentatively scheduled for August 12th. We are anticipating 35 – 40 graduates in the ceremony this year with family and friends in attendance.

Hyde Correctional Institution:

The Horticulture class at Hyde CI started a beautification project for the unit in April 2005, which includes landscaping and planting an assortment of flowers around the institution. The Horticulture class also donates flowers to various non-profit organizations.

Dan River Prison Work Farm:

Dan River Prison Work Farm continues to have one of the best Horticulture programs around at the Roxboro Satellite Training Center in Roxboro, NC. Mr. Sammy Cobb provides instruction to 22 students on a daily basis and you can always expect to find a greenhouse and facility grounds full with a variety of plants, trees and vegetables.



Timberlake poster on display at PCC.

During the month of June 2005, the horticulture class, in conjunction with Piedmont Community College, sent many of these plants and trees to the main college campus in Roxboro to enhance the artwork of North Carolina's most famed artist; Roxboro's own, Bob Timberlake. His artwork was on display for the entire month and provided many with an exciting view of his noted talent.

Sampson Correctional Institution:

The students enrolled in Horticulture Technology at Sampson CI are working on a lengthy beautification project for the spring and summer of 2005. The purpose of this project is to not only help beautify the landscape of the facility, but to help students gain knowledge of horticulture through hands-on experience.

This project is being supervised by Mr. David Hodges, Horticulture Technology instructor from Sampson Community College. The inmates who are taking the course this summer will be utilizing what they learn in the classroom each week in a specific area, whether it be transplanting bulbs, planting grass seed, or planting plants according to the designs of Mr. Hodges.



Students are busy tending to plants in the greenhouse.

Morrison Correctional Honors Teachers on National Teacher's Appreciation Day

On Tuesday, May 2005, the education staff of Morrison Correctional Institution was treated to breakfast by Education Director, Martin Wase, Jr. and DOCAE. Staff members were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation signed by Superintendent, Emilio Pagan. Mr. Wase gave each teacher an umbrella inscribed with, "Together We Make a Difference."

Courses Available at Brown Creek Correctional Institution

South Piedmont Community College (SPCC) continues to offer programs of study and training in a wide range of career interest areas. These programs of study are: Business Administration, Computer Programming, Mechanical Engineering, Cabinetry, Electrical Wiring, Masonry, English as a Second Language, and the General Educational Development Program.

Other News from BCCI:

- BCCI and South Piedmont Community College congratulates the instructors and students who participated in the Exposition 2005. This event was hosted by BCCI on March 18, 2005. The guests were given a presentation before viewing displays of the various programs of study offered. Although every display section had something of interest for everyone, most seemed impressed with the Computer Programming display. Students demonstrated the capability of a Chrysler Motors website design and how to create forms by using voice recognition software.
- BCCI and SPCC would like to congratulate thirteen students for completing various programs of study. Thirteen students earned an associate's degree and forty obtained certificates. Continuing education and enhancing technical and vocational skills is the focus and goal of BCC and SPCC.
- The faculty and administration would also like to welcome their new instructor for the English as a Second Language program, Mr. Paul Burnette. Mr. Burnette has been speaking Spanish for over six years and will be an asset to the ongoing education of the Latino inmate population.

Davidson Provides Various Programs

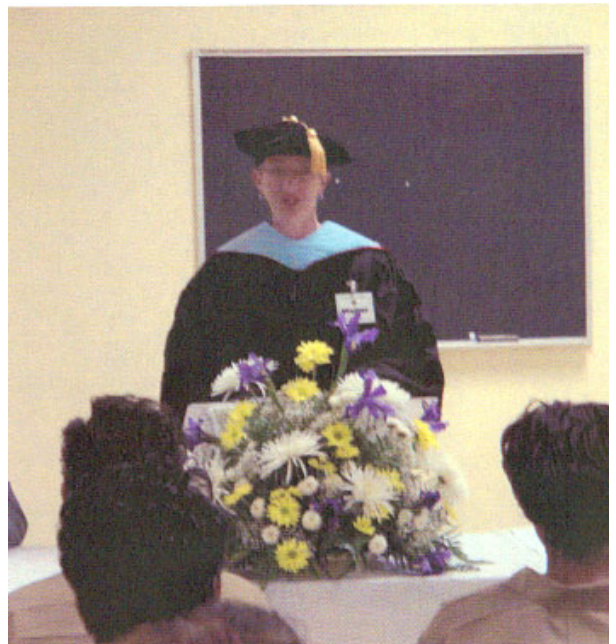
Davidson Correctional Center is excited about the educational programs that are being offered. Inmates are encouraged to enhance their vocational life skills through their participation in these programs. The courses that are available are as follows: Human Resource Development, Horticulture, and the newly re-instated part-time GED program. Inmates receiving their GED are eligible for an additional sentence reduction credit at a rate of thirty days and they will receive a certificate upon successful completion of the GED.

Beginning July 14, 2005, a Financial Literacy class will also be taught at Davidson CC and conclude on September 22, 2005. This class will be available for any inmate who is interested in learning how to improve their financial IQ's along with other aspects of personal fiscal responsibilities. A certificate will be presented to inmates upon completion of the course.

Graduation Ceremonies Held

Pamlico Correctional Institution:

On Thursday, June 9, 2005, Pamlico Correctional Institution held their 2004-2005 graduation ceremony. Approximately 200 people, including Pamlico Correctional staff and guests attended. Eighty-nine inmates participated in the ceremony and over fifty inmate family members and friends attended. Ms. Millicent McLean, Dean of Student Services at Craven Community College, was the keynote speaker. She delivered an exceptional message to the graduates on setting and achieving goals. She commended all graduates on a job well done and stressed the importance of an education. During the recognition of achievements, 21 GED certificates, 127 Curriculum certificates and 375 Occupational certificates were awarded. The Inmate Service Club donated a cap and gown photo to each graduate. Refreshments were served immediately following the ceremony.



Ms. McLean, of Craven Community College, addresses graduates.

Foothills Correctional Institution:

Foothills held a graduation ceremony on May 20, 2005 for GED and Vocational degrees and certificates in the visitation area. There were 28 inmates to participate in the ceremony. The guest speaker was Reverend Reggie Longier who currently works at Catawba Correctional Institution and is the owner of the Exodus House.

Cleveland Correctional Center:

On May 6, 2005, Cleveland held graduation ceremonies for the Comprehensive Education Program (CEP). It was a pleasure to see 22 graduates step forward to receive a well earned diploma from Cleveland Community College. Ms. Dina Foster, District Court Judge 27B Judicial District, was the guest speaker and gave the graduation address. CEP instructors Clayman Parker, Harold Bess, Kenny Howell and Tom Whitaker presented the diplomas to the CEP graduates. The graduates and guests were served a buffet lunch in the facility dining hall. The CEO program is designed for inmates who are within sixty months of release and minimum custody eligibility. Programs like CEP give inmates a solid job skill to assist them in securing a work release job and eventual release back into society as a productive citizen.

North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women:

On June 1, 2005, Shaw University held its annual CAPE graduation at the North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women (NCCIW). For this graduation, 10 candidates qualified for completion. Eight of the ten graduates sat, in cap and gown, in anxious anticipation as they awaited the words spoken by Raleigh CAPE Director, Mr. Nnamdi Onuorah, "And now I present to you, our June 2005 graduates...!" From this intimate number of mixed deegreed candidates, both Associate and Bachelor, two of the ten graduates earned the prestigious honor of Summa Cum Laude. Both were earned in the Bachelor of Arts program.

To highlight this milestone, the guest speaker, Deputy Secretary Fred Aikens implored the graduates to , "...help someone else along and inspire them to achieve now that you have earned your degrees." Ms. Annie Harvey, Warden of NCCIW, in her comments, "...congratulated the graduates for utilizing the time that most believe to be a very negative period in their lives, to attain something positive, an education."

In closing, Shaw University's President, Dr. Clarence Newsome urged and inspired all to, "...more often than not, choose the road less traveled..." Shaw University will continue the collaboration it has with NCCIW to help provide a quality educational program to the inmate population.

Southern Correctional Institution:

On Thursday, May 12, 2005, Southern Correctional Institution held its annual graduation in conjunction with Montgomery Community College. During the ceremony, fifty-nine students were honored for completing various programs. Students were recognized for the following: twenty-six students completed requirements to obtain GED certificates, seven students completed requirements to obtain Office System certificates, eleven students completed requirements to obtain Culinary Technology certificates and six students completed requirements to obtain Business Administration Computer Application certificates.

Montgomery Community College also recognized nine students who completed various programs at the North Carolina Correctional Institute for Women prior to their transfer to SCI. During the spring semester, eight SCI students earned a GPA of 4.0 to place them on the President's List. Ten students earned a 3.0 to place on the Dean's List and twenty-seven students carrying less than twelve hours completed the semester with a 3.0 to place on the Honor's List.

Pasquotank Correctional Institution:

College of The Albemarle held its graduation ceremony for Pasquotank students on Friday, May 6, 2005. A total of seventy-four students earned their GED with thirteen graduating with honors. The Food Service class graduated twenty-one students with eight receiving certificates and thirteen receiving diplomas. In Electrical/Electronics Technology, eight students earned diplomas. Four students earned certificates in Carpentry and three received diplomas. Three HVAC students earned certificates and ten earned diplomas. Honor graduates received special recognition in the form of plaques from their Units while one student was given special recognition by the Units for completing all three vocational courses offered by College of The Albemarle at PCI. A special meal was prepared by the Food Service class.

Lumberton Correctional Institution:

On June 2, 2005, Lumberton Correctional Institution held a graduation ceremony for GED and Vocational candidates. Thirteen inmates were awarded GED certificates and eight inmates were recognized for completing vocational courses and the horticulture program. An additional three inmates had earned a GED during the past year; however, they had transferred to another facility and were unable to participate. Vocational courses offered at Lumberton are Carpentry, Electrical Wiring and Heat/Air Conditioning. The guest speaker was Mr. Lynn Summers, Regional Manager, South Central Region. Robeson Community College provided a full-course meal for the graduates, programs staff and college representatives. The caps and gowns were purchased three years ago by the Men's Club and graduates proudly wore them during the ceremony.

Alexander Correction Institution:

Alexander Correctional Institution held its inaugural GED graduation on February 4, 2005 in the visitation area. Ten inmates received their GED. The guest speaker was Dr. Linda Phillips, Vice-President of Academic Affairs, Catawba Valley Community College. Fifty-four inmates have completed our vocational programs during the spring semester which included Commercial Cleaning and Computer Applications. Our next GED graduation is tentatively scheduled for September 2005.

Craven Correctional Institution:

On May 24, 2005, Craven Community College held its annual GED graduation for Craven Correctional Institution. There were 36 inmates graduating from this program of which 18 were present. Ms. Mit McClean, from Craven Community College, was the guest speaker. Mr. David Chester, Superintendent IV and Mrs. Gwen Gordon, Assistant Superintendent for Programs also provided remarks for this event. A reception followed with the Community Resource Council providing refreshments and the Horticulture program provided plants to family members and special guests. The Inmate Service Club provided each graduate with two photographs.

On May 12, 2005, Craven Community College awarded certificates of achievement to 18 inmates at Craven CI who participated in the English as a Second Language program. Ms. Mary Cordova, class instructor, presided over the event. Refreshments were provided following the graduation ceremony. The program is a multi-entry, multi-exit program and is offered to processors and regular population inmates.



Graduates of Warren CI's Commercial Cleaning class.

Warren Correctional Institution:

Ms. Rosa True, Education Services Director, was guest speaker for the graduation ceremony conducted on March 10, 2005, in the facility's multipurpose room. Ms. True 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 emphasized that through dedication and hard work, there is no limit to the success they can achieve in the learning process. In this year's spring graduation exercise, there were 9 GED, 16 Human Resource Development and 19 Commercial Cleaning graduates.

Spotlight on Instructor at Morrison Correction Institution

“A man of many talents” is a phrase often used to describe productive people. In the case of Cleveland Graham, this phrase fits him perfectly. Mr. Graham recently celebrated his 30th anniversary as an employee with the North Carolina DOC. In 1975, Mr. Graham developed and began the first Physical Education and Health curriculum at Sandhills Youth Center. He taught young offenders the importance of daily exercise and good nutritional habits. In 1999, Mr. Graham turned his talents toward helping young men learn to read through the Title I Reading Program. Another talent Mr. Graham shares is his ability to play beautiful music. During GED graduations and employee appreciation/retirement events, he provides musical entertainment by playing his trumpet. Thank you, Mr. Graham, for all you have given NCDOC over the years.



Warren graduates pose for group picture.

Note: News items for the next issue of this bulletin must be received by November 4, 2005. Items can be sent via email to bc09@doc.state.nc.us or fax to (919) 838-4764.