
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

DIVISION OF PRISONS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BULLETIN

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SUSAN MCINNIS RETIRES FROM MORRISON YOUTH INSTITUTION

A retirement luncheon for Susan McInnis, science teacher at Morrison Youth Institution for the past four years, was held Friday, January 12, 2001 at the Ellerbe Springs restaurant in Ellerbe, NC. Family, friends and co-workers from MYI and Sandhills Youth Center joined in the festivities honoring Ms. McInnis, who was presented with gifts from her colleagues and the NC Correctional Education Association. Prior to teaching at MYI, McInnis taught for the Chatham County Middle School for 22 years. At MYI, she was respected by all as a dedicated, enthusiastic teacher who also assumed various non-teaching duties, including committee assignments and such special tasks as maintaining the library. In the words of one of her MYI co-workers, "Susan will be sorely missed."

JOBSTART RECEIVES NATIONAL PUBLICITY & GRADUATES FIRST CYCLE

The January 2001 issue of the Correctional Educational Bulletin published a front-page story on the JobStart project currently underway at Morrison Youth Institution, Polk Youth Institution, Sandhills Youth Center, and Western Youth Institution. Entitled "NC JobStart Pilot Program Readies Inmates for Transition to Work," the three-page article details the design of the project and its goal of preparing participants to secure gainful employment at the time of release. The first cycle of JobStart has been completed at all four pilot sites, with some of the graduates already transitioning to their communities, and the second cycle of the field-test year is now being implemented at each site. Project staff from the pilot sites will meet in Raleigh on February 2 to conduct a mid-year evaluation of JobStart and to plan for continued implementation.

FOOTHILLS CORRECTIONAL & WESTERN YOUTH INSTITUTION BOTH SEEK CEA ACCREDITATION

Two Morganton-area correctional institutions, Foothills CI and Western YI, are preparing to have their education programs undergo audits by the Correctional Education Association for the purpose of becoming accredited by CEA. Teachers and staff at both institutions, in conjunction with central office staff, are beginning to work on the extensive documentation required for the on-site audits to be conducted later this year. FCI and WYI would be the first institutions within Division of Prisons to meet CEA requirements for accreditation, which signify that the education programs at these institutions are in compliance with the professional standards set by CEA for the provision of educational services within correctional settings.

STEPHENIA ANN MCKAY, GED TEACHER

Ms. Stephenia Ann McKay, GED teacher for Wake Technical Community College at NC Correctional Institution for Women, died suddenly at home on January 3. A 1974 honors graduate of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University at Greensboro, Ms. McKay had taught at NCCIW for nine years and was highly respected by her colleagues and students for her dedication to teaching and the enthusiasm for learning she instilled in her students. A memorial service for Ms. McKay was held January 7 at NCCIW. At the funeral service in Raleigh on January 9, Dr. Ann Mullin, NCCIW Education Director, delivered a tribute in Ms. McKay's memory.

BILL BAILEY TAKES ON ESP DUTIES AT WESTERN YOUTH INSTITUTION

"Hats off!" to Bill Bailey for his timely assistance to the Exceptional Students Program (ESP) at Western Youth Institution. Bailey offered to "slay the dragon" of ESP paperwork when his help was recently needed at WYI. His spirit of teamwork and responsiveness in dealing with the demands of ESP documentation and legal requirements has been exceptional, according to those working with him. A long-time member of the education program at WYI, Bailey graduated from Western Carolina University in 1973 and then obtained his license in learning disabilities from Appalachian State University. He began teaching at Western Youth Institution in 1976, where he has taught both regular classroom and special education classes. As for meeting ESP regulations, he has found the responsibility to be both a challenging and rewarding learning experience. And as for "stepping up" when needed, Bailey believes that all staff are willing to respond when called upon, out of a sense of dedication to the institution and their co-workers. Bailey is married and the father of two boys, ages six and ten.

HARNETT CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION REFURBISHES NEARLY 600 COMPUTERS IN 2000

The computer repair project at Harnett Correctional Institution refurbished and returned for distribution 587 personal computers provided to it in calendar year 2000 as part of the Office for State Surplus Property's "Computer to Schools" program. Under the partnership between HCI and State Surplus, computers turned in by state agencies are sent to the Harnett facility for repair by graduates of the institution's Electronic Servicing curriculum, after which the refurbished PCs are returned to the Office for State Surplus Property for distribution to schools throughout the state that have applied to the "Computer to Schools" program. The only other correctional unit currently participating in the recycling project is Albemarle Correctional Institution although two other facilities have expressed interest in joining this statewide, recycling initiative.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT ANSON CC AND BROWN CREEK PROFILED IN RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER STORY

A feature article by Jamie Buzik of The (Monroe) Enquirer-Journal appears in the December 17, 2000 Sunday edition of The (Raleigh) News & Observer, page 5B, in which the educational programs provided by South Piedmont Community College at Anson Correctional Center and Brown Creek Correctional Institution are described. In addition to profiling students at the two institutions, the article also quotes Joe Madaras, SPCC Department Chair for Correctional Education, and Sgt. D. R. Wright at Brown Creek, about the different benefits they both see in enabling inmates to earn the GED, to learn a trade skill or to complete a degree program in a marketable field, such as mechanical engineering technology. The story also cites statistics by the National Institute of Literacy, indicating that 49 percent of those sentenced to prison do not have a high school diploma or GED certificate. A study in Virginia, also cited, found that 49 percent of those inmates not participating in correctional education return to prison versus only 20 percent of those who do participate. As at Anson CC and Brown Creek CI, some form of educational programming is conducted at nearly all NC correctional institutions.

STAFF CHANGES IN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CENTRAL OFFICE

Two members of the central office staff in Educational Services at Division of Prisons Administration in Raleigh recently resigned their positions for other appointments. Susan Beebe, Coordinator of DOP's Exceptional Students Program, has departed for a position with the NC Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, while Mark Gupton, Coordinator of the federally funded Youthful Offender Program, has accepted an appointment with the NC Department of Public Instruction. Rose True, ESP Compliance Officer, will coordinate ESP services until a new coordinator is named, while Anne Tew, Acting Director of Education, will manage the Youthful Offender Program until a replacement is named for Gupton, who departs January 19. Both vacancies will be filled as soon as possible; in the interim, inquiries concerning the ESP or Youthful Offender Programs should be directed to the staff indicated.

FIVE WAYS TO MOTIVATE YOURSELF TO BE SUCCESSFUL

OFFICE HOURS (Issue 337), a publication of The Economics Press, offers the following tips for increasing self-motivation, morale and success from Frank Skipper of Salisbury State (MD) University: 1) Believe in Yourself: Develop your own personal development plan and stick to it; don't be overtaken by events; 2) Read for Skill Development: Select books and articles that enhance core skills, such as goal setting, how to communicate, giving feedback and negotiating; 3) Take Training on Stress Reduction, Communication, Assertiveness, Interpersonal Relations: These are the skills basic to self-motivation; 4) Give Encouragement and Praise to Co-Workers: Sincerely boosting a co-worker's morale will rebound to everyone's benefit; 5) Volunteer: The more people you are exposed to, the more good role models you can emulate.

JOBSTART COUNTY RESOURCE LIST WEB ADDRESS CHANGED

The web address for accessing the JobStart County Resource List of transitional agencies and programs throughout the state has been changed to: www.doc.state.nc.us/dop/education/index.htm, effective immediately.

DECEMBER GRADUATIONS HELD AT BLADEN YOUTH CENTER, ALBEMARLE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, POLK YOUTH INSTITUTION

Bladen Youth Center, on December 1, 2000, held its first Cognitive Behavioral Intervention (CBI) graduation. Twelve of the 14 youthful offenders who started the course successfully completed all requirements for graduation. The course met three hours once a week for 11 weeks. The co-instructors were Marion Moss, retired social worker from McCain Hospital, and Charla Suggs, former Cumberland county probation/parole officer. H. B. Brigman, BYC Superintendent, offered words of encouragement to the graduates in his congratulatory remarks. The men's club sponsored a catered luncheon for the graduates and their guests.

Albemarle Correctional Institution, on December 21, 2000, in partnership with Stanly Community College, held its second educational achievement recognition awards ceremony since the institution opened in the fall of 1999. The theme for the ceremony was "Point of Pride." In addition to 19 inmates receiving the certificate of high school equivalency for successfully completing requirements of the GED, certificates were also awarded to 95 inmates for completion of one or more of the various instructional programs or courses conducted at ACI, including Electrical/Electronics, HVAC, Introduction to Computers, and Computer Repair, as well as for completing skill and personal development classes in English as a Second Language, Human Resource Development (HRD), Napoleon Hill, Character Education, Thinking for a Change, and F.A.T.H.E.R., a pilot course developed to bring incarcerated fathers and their children closer together. The guest speaker was Jim Hillier, Associate Dean for Technology and Instructor of Information Systems, Stanly Community College, who was introduced by ACI Educational Coordinator James Moss. Other SCC and ACI staff also participated in the presentation of awards and in offering special remarks to the graduates.

Polk Youth Institution, on December 18, 2000, conducted its second graduation of the year for the largest GED class in the institution's history--45 graduates, including the first student at PYI to pass the GED test series in Spanish. Kathy Arrington served as mistress of ceremonies for the occasion, the theme of which was "Progress and Transition Components for the Future." Certificates were awarded by R. T. Jones, PYI Assistant Superintendent for Programs, and Gloria Upperman, Education Director, while special remarks were offered by two of the graduates; Arthur Clark of Educational Services; Ruth Duncan, GED instructor from Vance-Granville Community College; and John McKoy, Assistant Education Director. James Pilley, mathematics teachers, also recognized the many students in the graduating class and those attending as guests who had successfully completed other programs or courses at Polk Youth Institution in the last half-year, including: Employment Readiness, Industrial Maintenance, Starting Your Own Business, Computer Keyboarding and Integrated Software; JobStart, the Youthful Offender Program, and cognitive skills training. PYI's Young Men of Vision provided musical accompaniment for the ceremony with several choral selections.

Note: Submit news items for the bulletin's next issue by February 28 to A. Clark, DOP Educational Services, Fax: 919-715-5785 or e-mail: cal15@doc.state.nc.us.