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# NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

## DIVISION OF PRISONS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BULLETIN

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*Theodis Beck, Correction Secretary*  
*Boyd Bennett, Prisons Director*  
*Keith Hester, Program Services Chief*

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*Anne Tew, Education Director*

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### MANDATORY EDUCATION POLICY REVISED

A revised policy on mandatory education was issued June 14, 2001, clarifying the superintendent's authority to assign inmates to education as well as the length of participation in required instruction. The entire policy, listed as sections .1401 and .1402 in the DOP Policies and Procedures Manual, reads as follows:

**.1401 MANDATORY EDUCATION PROGRAM:** The purpose of the Mandatory Education Program is to ensure that all capable inmates committed to the Department of Correction are provided with the opportunity to improve their basic literacy skills while incarcerated, in an effort to improve their prospects of becoming law-abiding and self-supporting upon their release from prison. This policy is applicable only to those inmates described in section .1402 of this policy and is not intended to inhibit any Facility Head or designee from making appropriate assignments to educational program at the facility.

### **.1402 CRITERIA FOR MANDATORY PARTICIPATION:**

(a) Facility Heads are authorized to require all inmates without a high school diploma or general educational certificate who function below the sixth-grade achievement level to participate in an adult basic education/general education development (ABE/GED) program. Achievement below the 6<sup>th</sup> grade level on reading or math, as measured by a standardized achievement test, will be used as the measure of an inmate's need for mandatory education. Mandatory inmate participation in educational programs is restricted to full-time and part-time ABE/GED programs.

(b) Participation in Mandatory Education will be of at least four months duration. Inmates receiving their GED prior to the end of the four month period may be removed from the Mandatory Education Program. Inmates not wishing to continue participation in the Mandatory Education Program at the end of the four month period may request reassignment through their case manager. If an inmate is transferred before completing a mandatory education program, such inmates may be required to complete any remainder of the session. (End of policy statement.)

Questions concerning the Mandatory Education policy may be directed to Anne Tew, Director of Educational Services.

### COMPUTER REPAIR STARTS AT AVERY/MITCHELL

Avery/Mitchell Correctional Institution is in the process of starting a computer recycling program. PCs provided by the Office for State Surplus Property will be repaired in conjunction with instruction conducted for inmates by Mayland Community College and distributed to local public schools. For details, contact Bryan Johnston at AMCI.

### ANN WASHINGTON HONORED WITH TWO AWARDS

Ann Washington, DOC teacher of exceptional students at Foothills Correctional Institution, was recently honored with two awards: as a Teacher of Excellence for Exceptional Children by the Department of Public Instruction and as Employee of the Year by Foothills CI. The Teacher of Excellence award was made in special ceremonies at the DPI Conference on Exceptional Children in Greensboro on July 23, in which she was recognized for her "professionalism and genuine attitude of caring in her job as a teacher of exceptional students," and for being "able to meet the unique challenges of working with youthful offenders by using humor and high expectations." And in presentation activities held August 29 at FCI, Mrs. Washington was awarded Employee of the Year honors for a broad range of contributions to the facility and the community, including being a Girl Scout Leader since 1995 and "Troop Leader of the Year" in 1999. As FCI Director of Education Dennis Leonard described her, "Ann Washington is a constant doer. She is a person that if you want something done you call on her and you can be assured it will be done effectively and on time."

### SARAH EAST JOINS PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE PANEL AT INTERNATIONAL MEETING

Sarah East, Program Supervisor at Dan River Prison Work Farm, participated in a panel presentation with colleagues from Piedmont Community College at the 2001 International Conference of the Correctional Education Association held July 8-11 in Scottsdale, AZ. Entitled "An Exemplary Partnership: The College Campus Inside the Fence," the presentation explained how DOP staff at Dan River PWF, Caswell Correctional Center, and Orange Correctional Center collaborate with Piedmont Community College staff in providing educational programming at each of the three facilities. According to East, who traveled to the conference as a guest of Piedmont CC, the presentation was very well received by the attendees who were intrigued by the degree of partnership between DOP and the local community college. Representing Piedmont CC on the panel along with East, were Dr. Ron Shafer, Dean of PCC's Caswell County Campus; Ann Kirby, Office Systems Technology instructor; and Rick Gammon, Basic Carpentry instructor.

### JOBSTART BEGINS YEAR-2 AT CHARTER SITES

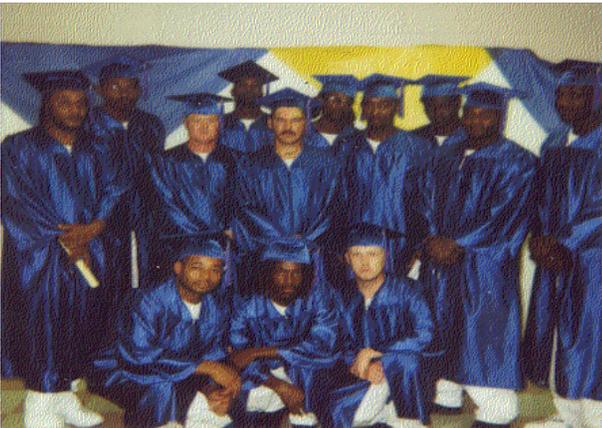
**JobStart**, the prison-to-work transition program begun last year at five pilot sites, has begun its second year of programming at Morrison Youth Institution, Polk Youth Institution, Raleigh Correctional Center for Women, Sandhills Youth Center, and Western Youth Institution. The program prepares inmates to secure employment upon release and to make a successful re-entry to the community.

## GRADUATION HIGHLIGHTS FROM AROUND DOP

**Pamlico Correctional Institution:** Pamlico CI and Pamlico Community College held graduation ceremonies on May 23 for program year 2000-2001. A total of 281 course completions were recognized in the presence of family members, as well as college and PCI staff, in the following programs: GED, Life Skills, Information Systems, Electrical/Electronics, Masonry, Horticulture, and Industrial Sewing. Dr. F. Marion Altman, Jr., Pamlico CC President, delivered the keynote address.

**Polk Youth Institution:** On June 27, PYI held its second GED graduation of the year with a record-breaking 70 graduates being honored for program completion. The ceremony's theme, "Change the World, Graduate," set an appropriate sentiment for the commencement remarks of the Reverend Dr. Eddie Lawrence, who presented a four-step path to success for the graduates: 1) do not forget the importance of being patient; 2) be flexible, bend, but do not break; 3) always be prepared; and 4) persist in pursuing one's goals. The ceremony concluded with graduates receiving their certificates and in turning their tassels.

**Craven Correctional Institution:** Craven CI hosted its first graduation for GED recipients on June 29. In caps and gowns provided by Craven Community College, CCI's local educational partner, thirteen students were awarded certificates of high school equivalency. Following the ceremony, a meal was provided for graduates, relatives and staff courtesy of CCI's Community Resource Council, Inmate Service Club and Craven Correctional Food Service. A photo of the graduating class appears below.



**Brown Creek Correctional Institution:** Maurice Knox, who received an associate degree in Information Systems at Brown Creek CI and now works for the Sprint Company in Charlotte, was the guest speaker at commencement exercises held at BCCI on July 30 for graduates who earned associate degrees (10), diplomas (6) or certificates (26) in six vocational/academic programs as conducted by South Piedmont Community College. Mr. Knox stressed the importance of taking advantage of the programs that are available to inmates at BCCI, as represented in the awards presented to graduates in: Mechanical Technology, Business Administration, Information Systems, Carpentry, Brick Masonry, and Electrical/Electronics.

**Johnston Correctional Institution:** A graduation ceremony for vocational program completers was held at Johnston Correctional Institution on August 23. A total of 100 graduates was honored in the following program areas, with the number of graduates shown in parentheses: Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration (11); Electrical/Electronics Technology (14); Electronic Servicing Technology (14); Food Service Technology (16); Horticulture Technology (13); Masonry (9); Office Systems Technology (13); and Plumbing (10). Forty-one students were graduated with straight A's while 52 had perfect attendance.

## FOOTHILLS CORRECTIONAL & WESTERN YOUTH INSTITUTION PREPARE FOR CEA AUDIT IN SPRING

The education directors, teachers and staff at Foothills Correctional Institution and Western Youth Institution, both in the Morganton area, are continuing to work on preparations for their respective education programs being audited in spring 2002 by the Correctional Education Association. To pass the audit, the institutions must meet seventy-eight standards of professional performance as verified by extensive documentation and evidence of practice. Both institutions are working on the collection and organization of the documentation as well as on making various changes or modifications in procedures as required for being accredited. FCI and WYI would be the first institutions within Division of Prisons to receive accreditation by the Correctional Education Association, signifying that both education programs are in compliance with nationally recognized standards of professional practice. Dennis Leonard, Education Director at FCI, and Rick Smith, Acting Director at WYI, are playing key roles in their institution's preparatory efforts; however, both are also enthusiastic in their praise of the teamwork displayed by their respective faculties in undertaking the many different tasks required for being audited, which both are also confident will result in accreditation by CEA.

## CASWELL CC RECEIVES 50 A/C UNITS TO RECYCLE

The Office for State Surplus Property recently provided fifty used window air conditioning units to Caswell Correctional Center to be repaired in CCC's newly established air conditioner-recycling community service project. Once repaired, the air conditioners are donated to needy families and eligible not-for-profits in the area. The project is conducted in conjunction with the Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning & Refrigeration program conducted on-site at Caswell CC by Piedmont Community College. Philip Poe, who proposed the idea for the project to Joe Loftis, CCC Assistant Superintendent for Programs, is the instructor.

**NOTE:** New items for the November 2001 issue of the **Educational Services Bulletin** should be submitted to the attention of A. L. Clark by October 31 via e-mail: [cal15@doc.state.nc.us](mailto:cal15@doc.state.nc.us) or fax: (919) 715-5785.