

Ohio Central School System Annual Report 2013



Ohio

Department of
Rehabilitation & Correction

John R. Kasich, Governor

Denise L. Justice, Superintendent

Gary C. Mohr, Director

Our vision...

Vision Statement

It is the vision of the Ohio Central School System that all inmates of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction will be provided the necessary academic, job training and social/emotional skills required for successful re-entry to society as effective, participating and productive citizens.

Mission Statement

The Ohio Department of Education under Revised Code 3313.61 formally chartered the Ohio Central School System in April 1973.

This charter provides the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction with quality programming and the Ohio Central School System the authority to seek additional federal funding.

The Chartered School District enables the department to provide a comprehensive, thorough education program that addresses the needs of the vastly under-educated and under-skilled inmates.

These services include: Adult Basic Literacy Education, General Educational Development (GED), Adult High School, Apprenticeship Training, Library Services, Special Education, Vocational Education, and other educational programs as directed by the needs of the inmate population.

Philosophy

The Ohio Central School System subscribes to the principles of American democracy, including a genuine belief in the paramount importance of the dignity and worth of all individuals.

The basic purpose of American education is to perpetuate and improve this democratic society in which it exists.

In keeping with the above precepts, correctional education maintains the mission of providing for the fullest possible development of each participant's talents and potentialities, in order that they might participate more effectively in the cultural, political, social and economic life of this society.

The Ohio Central School System acknowledges that each student is different in terms of his/her education needs and desires and should be dealt with on the basis of these individual differences.

Programs, therefore, will be designed to serve this multiplicity of differences.

It is believed that participation in meaningful educational programs will elicit both behavioral and attitudinal change.

While such participation is, in part, voluntary, individuals are counseled and encouraged to participate in those education endeavors that will most effectively aid them in strengthening self-image, creating positive attitude and developing or increasing the quantity and quality of coping skills needed to successfully re-enter today's highly complex and technical society.

Assessment of the quality and relevance of educational content and practice shall be continuous. Every effort must be concerted to discover the most successful instructional methods for each student's individual educational needs.

The Ohio Central School System adheres to the statement:

“Equal Educational Opportunities are offered without regard to Race, Color, National Origin, Sex or Disability.”

The Ohio Central School System offers many educational programs that comply with the ideals of the charter, vision, mission and philosophy.

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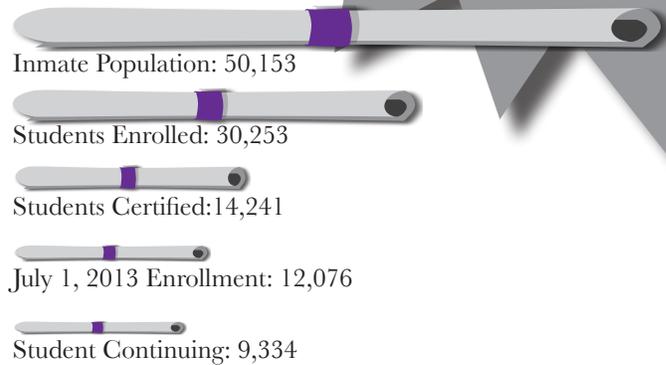
Turtle Creek Branch, WCI 21

The results

30,253
Students Enrolled

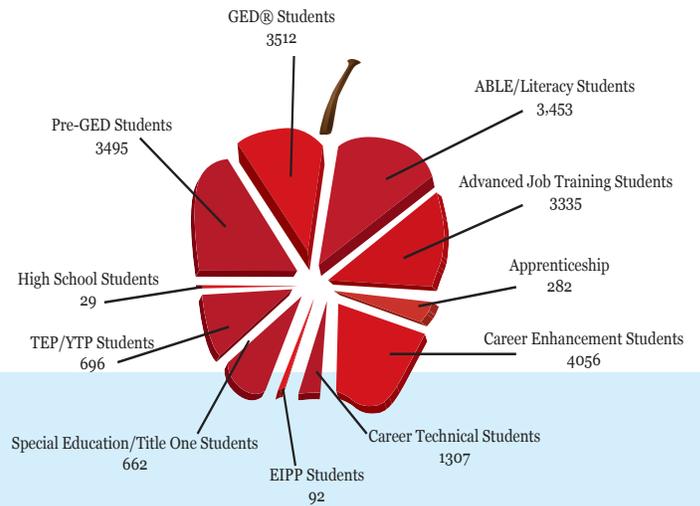
The Ohio Central School System's cumulative enrollment figures for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013, totals 20,919 students. An additional 9,334 students enrolled in spring quarter continued enrollment into FY 2013. OCSS is pleased to report that a total of 14,261 certificates were earned by OCSS students in FY 2013.

The school system reported serving 23,600 children in the Reading Rooms located in ODRC visiting areas.



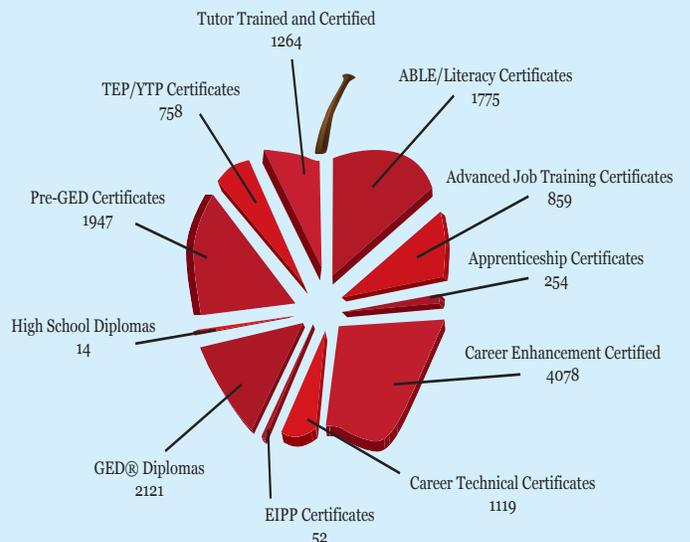
Students Served in Fiscal Year 2013

ABLE/Literacy Students	3,453
Pre-GED Students	3,495
GED® Students	3,512
Advanced Job Training Students	3,335
Apprenticeship	282
Career Enhancement Students	4,056
Career-Technical Students	1,307
EIPP Students	92
High School Students	29
Special Education/Title One Students	662
TEP/YTP Students	696
Total	20,919

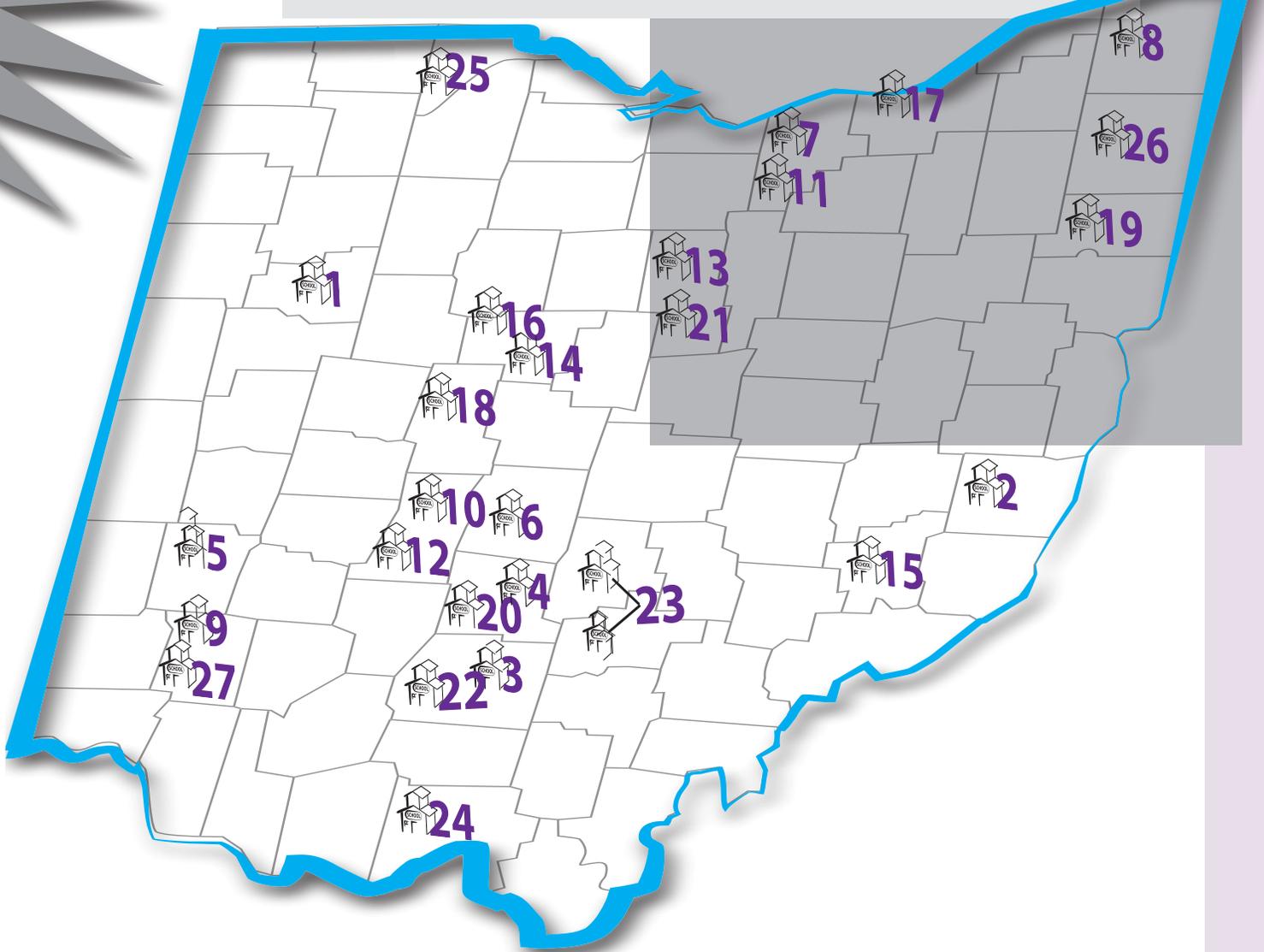


Students Certified by OCSS in 2013

ABLE/Literacy Certificates	1,775
Pre-GED Certificates	1,947
GED® Diplomas	2,121
Advanced Job Training Certificates	859
Apprenticeship Certificates	254
Career Enhancement Certified	4,078
Career-Technical Certificates	1,119
EIPP Certificates	52
High School Diplomas	14
TEP/YTP Certificates	758
Tutor Trained and Certified	1,264
Total	14,241



School locations



- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>1 Allen Oakwood Correctional Institution (AOI)
Fallen Timbers Branch
Lost Creek Branch</p> <p>2 Belmont Correctional Institution (BeCI)
Eastern Horizons Center</p> <p>3 Chillicothe Correctional Institution (CCI)
Sherman School</p> <p>4 Correctional Reception Center (CRC)
Walker School</p> <p>5 Dayton Correctional Institution (DCI)
McLin School</p> <p>6 Franklin Medical Center (FMC)
Endeavor Branch
Sacajawea Center</p> <p>7 Grafton Correctional Institution (GCI)
Sherwood Anderson School</p> <p>8* Lake Erie Correctional Institution (LaECI)
Lighthouse Learning Center</p> <p>9 Lebanon Correctional Institution (LeCI)
Shaker Valley School</p> | <p>10 London Correctional Institution (LoCI)
Buckeye Branch</p> <p>11 Lorain Correctional Institution (LorCI)
Black River Branch</p> <p>12 Madison Correctional Institution (MaCI)
Madison Branch</p> <p>13 Mansfield Correctional Institution (ManCI)
Country Haven Center</p> <p>14 Marion Correctional Institution (MCI)
Hope Memorial School</p> <p>15 Noble Correctional Institution (NCI)
Sequoyah School</p> <p>16* North Central Correctional Complex (NCCC)
Harding Memorial Branch</p> <p>17 Northeast Pre-Release Center (NEPRC)
Robert Merrill School</p> <p>18 Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW)
Clearview School</p> | <p>19 Ohio State Penitentiary (OSP)
Steel Valley School</p> <p>20 Pickaway Correctional Institution (PCI)
Shawnee Branch</p> <p>21 Richland Correctional Institution (RiCI)
Hope Valley School</p> <p>22 Ross Correctional Institution (RCI)
Edward Tiffin School</p> <p>23 Southeastern Correctional Complex (SCC)
Hilltop School
Ridgeview School</p> <p>24 Southern Ohio Correctional Facility (SOCF)
Tecumseh Branch</p> <p>25 Toledo Correctional Institution (ToCI)
Goose Hill Branch</p> <p>26 Trumbull Correctional Institution (TCI)
Western Reserve School</p> <p>27 Warren Correctional Institution (WCI)
Turtle Creek Branch</p> |
|---|---|---|

* = Private Prison

To our constituents...

The Ohio Central School System, on behalf of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC), continues forward with a mission to reduce recidivism. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2013, the Ohio Central School System (OCSS) enrolled over 30,000 students and certified over 14,100 completers while continuing to expand educational services for ODRC. As Superintendent, I am pleased to report that 2013 was our most rewarding and productive year to date.

OCSS continues to oversee educational programming for the Community Based Correctional Facilities (CBCF) and county Jails. Our administrative leadership guides and offers field support to successfully complete the goals established in the OCSS strategic plan as we continue to expand programming to those we serve. Guidance counselors administer tests and work to keep schools organized and students motivated. Academic teachers do a great job preparing students for the GED® exam, resulting in over 2,100 GED® diplomas awarded in FY 2013. Intervention specialists attended professional development training offered by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to prepare individualized plans that improve educational services for the institution population. Career-Technical opportunities offer 25 occupations through 88 programs statewide, resulting in over 1,800 certifications that prepare the offender with the skills required for employment upon release.

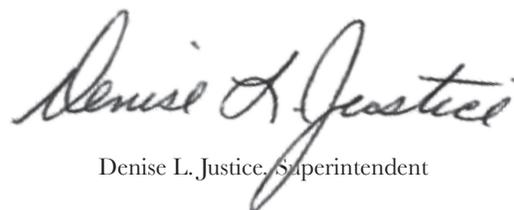
I am also proud to report that apprenticeship programming has reached an all time high. Our interagency and community partnerships continue to grow, resulting in expanded educational services and reentry planning for the offender statewide. I want to also mention a few exciting highlights to be found in this 2013 OCSS Annual Report, which include staff nominations for ODRC Employees of the Month in addition to the following:

- Deborah Turner, CEA Region III Teacher of the Year, receives Ohio Senate and House Resolution
- Collaborating with public schools to present High School diplomas to graduates
- Shared Service Area Professional Development Days
- New Commercial Drivers License (CDL) inmate training program pilots
- BrightLink interactive projectors added into the correctional education classroom
- Creative teaching lessons and school contests continue to encourage teamwork and motivate the students

Access to the Ohio Re-Entry Connections online resource continues to grow department-wide, helping us to ensure that offenders have access to real-time job search tools, understand the job market, are able to save job searches, and are equipped to prepare a resume to prepare for employment upon release.

The OCSS “Here to Serve” philosophy continues to build partnerships, such as the school system’s involvement in the development of the ODRC Certificates of Achievement and Employability (CAE). OCSS worked hard along with the Office of Offender Reentry and the unit management administrators to create, market, and implement the process.

The ODRC Ohio Central School System was chartered through the Ohio State Board of Education on April 9, 1973. Since that time, the tradition of excellence continues as OCSS strives to be a change agent and a driving force, offering quality educational services with evidence-based practices to those under ODRC supervision. As one of the nation’s most comprehensive offender education programs, we, the Ohio Central School System, ultimately work to make a change that makes a difference in the lives of those we touch. Again, I want to thank everyone for a job well done as we look forward to an even better and brighter future for tomorrow.



Denise L. Justice, Superintendent

Our schools

Director Endorses Certificates of Achievement & Employability

Gary Mohr, Director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC), signed the first three Certificates of Achievement and Employability (CAE) on July 5, 2012, documenting exemplary behavior of offenders who are within one year of release or release consideration. The new CAE certificates were created by House Bill 86, legislation to reform Ohio's sentencing laws, and are designed to help pave the way for the successful reentry of offenders back into society.

"It was a great feeling to sign these certificates yesterday because I know they will help people be more likely to make a successful go of things in the outside world," stated ODRC Director Gary Mohr. "The Certificate of Achievement and Employability is one of our first steps to address collateral consequences for offenders who are trying to make a better life for themselves and their families once they've paid their debt to society."

In addition to good behavior, offenders who want to earn CAEs must complete vocational programs, cognitive behavioral programs, rehabilitative or achievement programs such as anger management or earning a high school diploma, and perform at least 120 hours of community service. CAEs apply to the field of employment in which the offender received prison-based vocational training and offers employers relief from negligent hiring liability. It levels the playing field for ex-offenders seeking employment by giving prospective job applicants individualized consideration in the job market. Offenders meeting the specific criteria can also apply for a CAE at any time during a period of post-release supervision by the Ohio Adult Parole Authority.

Ohio Central School System Shared Service Area 5 Professional Development Day

Three schools participated in the Shared Service Area 5 Professional Development Day on November 26, 2012, at the Ross County Educational Service Center. Chillicothe Correctional Institution (CCI) Sherman School, Richland Correctional Institution (RCI) Edward Tiffin School, and Southern Ohio Correctional Facility (SOCF) Tecumseh Branch all participated in discussions which included: "How to Improve Attendance," "What's New with GED 2014," and "IEP at a Glance."



Our schools



Hilltop School, SCC- Hocking Deborah Withem, 2013 CEAO Teacher of the Year

The Correctional Education Association (CEA) of Ohio selected their Teacher of the Year for 2013-2014 at the 68th Annual International CEA Conference Lighting the Path to Reentry, June 30-July 3, 2013, in Cleveland, Ohio. On behalf of the Ohio Central School System (OCSS) Denise L. Justice is pleased to announce Deborah Withem as CEA Teacher of the Year. Since January 2004, Mrs. Withem has been a literacy teacher for the Southeastern Correctional Complex (SCC) Hilltop School located in Nelsonville, Ohio. Her personal education philosophy is you are never too old to learn. “Deb is a strong advocate for her students, the facility, OCSS, and the Department; so it is an honor for me to highlight her dedication and drive for correctional education,” affirmed Superintendent Justice.

In addition to her teaching duties, Deborah also serves on several committees. In the past she attended the inaugural summit of the International Association of Reentry in Columbus. She has participated in numerous Ohio Department of Education workshops and ODRC trainings, including mentor training, tutor training, youthful offenders training, advanced security threat group training and all levels of incident command system. In addition, she has served on the ODRC Short Term Offender Program Planning Committee, the Offender Led Programming Committee formed by Director Mohr’s Meaningful Activity Taskforce, and SCC/Hocking’s Black History and Hispanic Heritage Planning Committees, and a member of the regional hostage negotiation team since August 2005.

Deborah further shares her philosophy, “I am a firm believer in allowing students to provide input into the selection of materials to study. This increases their desire to learn, and the greater the desire, the more likely a successful outcome. Adult learners know the skills they have mastered and the skills they need and want to improve. We discuss what subjects they enjoyed and the ones they struggled with when they were in school, the types of jobs they have had and the skills needed for those jobs. We work together to select appropriate independent study materials, and regardless of the topic they choose to study, it almost always leads to better basic reading skills, which is the goal of literacy instruction.”

CEA, founded in 1945, is a non-profit, professional association serving educators and administrators who provide services to students in correctional settings. The Ohio Chapter was founded in 1987. CEA is the largest affiliate of the American Correctional Association. When asked about the award ceremony, Deb said, “Words cannot describe the emotion I felt when the Teacher of the Year was announced. It is an honor to represent CEA and highlight the work we do as correctional educators.”

Each year CEAO sponsors a Teacher of the Year Award contest. The winner of the contest is announced at the training event. Individuals eligible to win the award must be CEAO members and must spend at least 51% of their time teaching in a correctional setting. Nominations are received from the Ohio Department of Youth Services, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Ohio jails, CBCFs, and participating universities and colleges. During the selection process, five finalists are chosen. From the five finalists, a winner is selected. This year, the five finalists include: Dana Berry, Southeastern Correctional Complex/Lancaster; Florence Madueme, Franklin Medical Center; Duwayne Shoup, Mansfield Correctional Institution; Kimberly Taylor, Ross Correctional Institution; Deborah Withem, SCC/Hocking. Mrs. Withem will represent CEAO at the Region III spring 2014 Conference competition.

Our schools

ODRC Ohio Re-Entry Connections & O.N.E.-STOP Centers

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction along with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and local workforce development have teamed up to create the first Offender Network for Employment (O.N.E) to STOP recidivism, “O.N.E STOP.”

The O.N.E.-STOP is dedicated to assisting offenders with pre- and post-release focused employment, training, and support services. The goal of this collaborative effort is to reduce the rate of recidivism.

The theme is O.N.E.-STOP Year to Get Ready, “It’s Just O.N.E.-STOP from Entry to Reentry”. The O.N.E.-STOP will work to ensure that offenders have a solid understanding of the job market, access to resources, opportunities for employment within specific markets, and are prepared to search and connect to work upon release via employment plans. The Ohio Re-Entry Connections computer systems are located in the reintegration centers with plans for two computers to be placed in each local institution library. Staff and volunteers will work to assess the individual’s needs and assist with ensuring these offenders have, or are working towards eliminating any barriers prior to release.

The workstations offer inmates close to release an opportunity to prepare an online resume. Participants can also conduct and save real-time job searches prior to release. Upon their date of release the information saved inside can be logged into outside and accessed on a home computer, at the local library, or community O.N.E.-STOP center. In addition, typing tutorials and the Kahn Academy educational videos are located on the OCSS Computer Aided Instructional Laboratories (CAIL) and the unit Pathways computers.

Ohio Central School System Congratulations Retirees!

A special thank you and best wishes goes out to those retiring from the Ohio Central School System. Your dedication and years of service to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction school does not go unrecognized. The years of service you have given to those we serve is greatly appreciated and you as an individual will be remembered and missed by the administration, staff, and students.

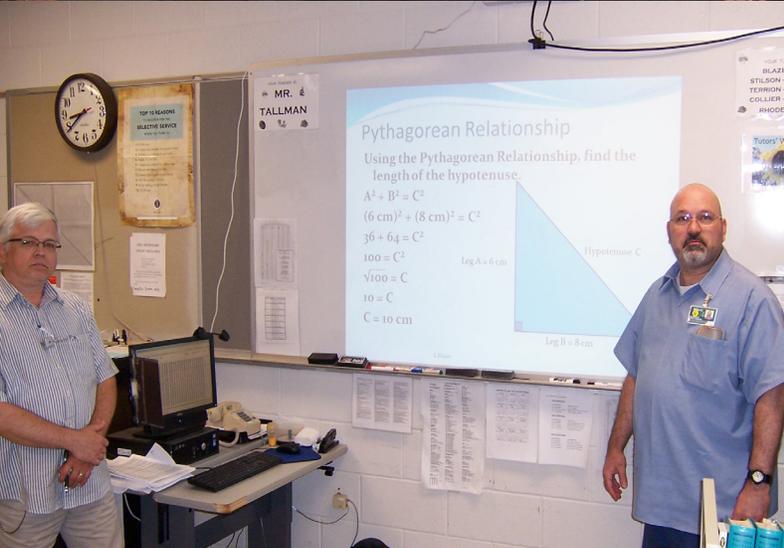


Our schools



Ridgeview School, SCC-Lancaster Statehouse Recognizes Teacher of the Year

Deborah Turner was honored by Representative Bill Hayes along with Director Gary C. Mohr at the Ohio Statehouse on November 15, 2012. Ed Rhine, Deputy Director Office of Offender Reentry and Denise L. Justice, Superintendent, Ohio Central School System were also proud spectators at the event. Superintendent Justice was pleased to recognize Mrs. Turner for her achievement and was excited to witness Deborah accepting the honor as she eloquently spoke on behalf of the Correctional Education Association of Ohio (CEAO) and the Department's Ohio Central School System. "I really do believe in what I do, and I want to thank all correctional teachers that work every day to make a difference even if it is just one student at a time," stated Turner. Each year the CEAO sponsors a Teacher of the Year Award. Deborah Turner, was named the CEAO, Region III Teacher of the Year in July, 2013. Congratulations Deborah!



Black River Branch, LorCI Teacher Works with Bright Link

"About once or twice a month," is how often Jeffrey Tallman's tutors at Lorraine Correctional Institution (LorCI) do PowerPoint presentations on a subject of their own choosing. The subjects that the tutors pick have to be approved by Jeff before they begin. Jeff said that he wanted the topics to be appropriate to academics. Math, Social Studies, Writing, Reading, or Science. Geometry, poetry, history of U.S. Wars, and math formulas were the topics chosen by four of Mr. Tallman's tutors.

He informed the class beforehand that the tutors were doing presentations at his request. Students gave the tutors silence and respect while they taught from a smart-board that had been purchased by the OCSS. That smart-board with the interactive BrightLink projector are located their Computer Aided Instructional Laboratory (CAIL) and is the only one that LorCI has for teaching. Jeff said that he never has problems with students during the presentations.

"This whole experience has been a way to get information to students in an entertaining manner that might help them get their GEDs," said Tallman. On allowing tutors to come up with educational programming, he added, "I think it's a good way to motivate the tutors and help them feel important and valuable to the education program." Not only is it helping tutors to become more involved in the educating process, but the students really seem to like it.

Our schools

Hope Memorial School, MCI Welding Students Help Preserve History

Students of Marion Correctional Institution's (MCI) welding class recently undertook the task of helping the Bucyrus Preservation Society restore a local 19th century railroad station. The welding instructor, Dalas Roberts, said that the school is "always looking for any community service projects that students can gain valuable hands-on experience in the welding trade," so when Roger Whiteamire, the former cabinet-making teacher at MCI who is currently with the Train Preservation Society, contacted Mr. Roberts about the restoration idea, they knew it was a sure fit, knowing how capable the students were in welding and repairing.

The students were entrusted with metal plates, which were the original backs and sides of two fireplaces from the railroad station. The plates dated back to the early 1900s and had suffered from years of disrepair. Mr. Roberts' students cleaned and sandblasted layers of rust and paint from off the plates and made the necessary repairs using the shielded-metal arc welding process.

Dave Pirnstill, president of the Bucyrus Preservation Society, was very appreciative of the skilled work provided by the welding students, noting that the plates were "exactly what we needed to complete the north fireplace in the railroad station." Addressing the students, Mr. Pirnstill said, "It is people like you, with your unselfish concern for others, that help us work toward the completion of our mission." This combined effort of the Preservation Society sends a good message to the community and, hopefully, will be the harbinger of future community service projects.



Sherman School, CCI Edward Tiffin School, RCI Donate Woodworking

Inmates at Chillicothe Correctional Institution (CCI) and Ross Correctional Institution (RCI) crafted these items for the Ohio Association of Adults in Continuing Education (OAACE) conference. They were used in a silent auction where all proceeds went to the OAACE scholarship fund.



Our schools



Ridgeview School, SCC - Lancaster Hope Valley School, RiCI Becoming Tech Savvy: Inmates Find Common Cause in Technology

Food, water, and shelter have been considered for many years to be the staples of life and the basic building blocks of society, but recently, more and more often, another item has been added to that list—technology.

From something as simple as a calculator to cellphones, iPads, bluetooth, wifi, supercomputers, and technological marvels reminiscent of yesterday’s science fiction, like Samsung’s recently unveiled smartwatch, today’s world runs on electronic systems to have functionality, and having such an enriched culture demands a job force fully trained and experienced in a plethora of computer-related skill-sets. With such a need in existence, it’s nice to see training programs and classes popping up in every niche of the country. From community centers to YMCAs, the training and information is readily available from people who are enthusiastic to teach.

The huge gap in the job market waiting to be filled by tech-savvy individuals hasn’t gone unnoticed in Southeastern Correctional Complex (SCC) or Richland Correctional Institution (RiCI) which have combined efforts to teach inmates media-based computer skills by allowing them the opportunity to do interviews, write education-system related articles, and design the layout of an annual report for the Ohio Central School System (OCSS) which is then available for viewing by all staff members of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (ODRC). “As superintendent of the OCSS, I expect to see our students participating in every aspect of the learning process. When they use the tools, learn to create a product, and produce items, such as this 2013 annual report, I am truly proud to highlight the results of their hard work,” said Denise Justice.

The collaboration began in 2012 at the behest of Jennifer Thomas, ODRC’s Education Administrator/OCSS Project Manager, who suggested to Dana Berry, a teacher at SCC who advises the institution’s well-received Writers Club, that her club members might enjoy the opportunity to gain real-world experience by writing for the OCSS. Ms. Berry said, “The Writers Club has done an exemplary job in expanding on submitted ideas and articles for the OCSS, and have broadened their writing abilities through the continued and focused work on non-fiction writing.”

Lynnmarie Fye advises the group of inmates at RiCI who design the layout of the OCSS Annual Report as part of a

Our schools

Visual Communication class. The graduates of the program are afforded the opportunity and the privilege to work on the real life assignments for the ODRC once they have successfully completed the program. The Visual Communication students spend the first six months polishing up their illustration skills on the drawing board, and then spend the next six months integrating those illustration skills into digital graphic design skills. Current students of the program are able to work as a creative team, critiquing, developing conceptual designs, and doing photo enhancements for the report.

Mr. Troche, a current student in the Visual Communication program at RiCI, said, “I think it’s great to be able to express my creativity and emotion through real life projects.” Another student, Mr. Lopez, joked, “I love doing this type of work...it would be a lot better if I could get a steak burrito for doing it.” On the topic of student participation, and of the whole ODRC/OCSS alliance, Ms. Fye said, “These guys are clowns, but it is very rewarding to be around creative people all day.”

“This is our second year now,” said Charles Henize, a member of the SCC Writers club. “I’ve really enjoyed the experience—it’s not an opportunity I thought I’d have in prison....we’ve really striven to give it our all.” When asked why he thinks members are so willing to write for the OCSS, Mr. Henize said, “I can’t speak for everyone, but I think that mostly we’re trying to learn some new skills to help us out when we go home. I, personally, relish the idea of being able to show how responsible we are when entrusted with such an important thing. That, and being able to show off what I’m capable of accomplishing with a few well-placed words.”

Regardless of their motivating reason, both prisons plan to continue working together on the OCSS Annual Report far into the future. Hopefully, as technology moves forward in unexpected ways, more prisons will seize the chance to incorporate into their systems unique ways to assist inmates’ reintegration into society through specialized training.



Our schools



Ridgeview School, SCC- Lancaster Writer's Club

In 2011, Southeastern Correctional Institution (SCI) in Lancaster, Ohio, started a college level writer's workshop. SCI's Ridgeview High School's teacher, Dana Berry, founded the SCI Writer's Club in an effort to help students and inmates further their creative writing abilities. Mrs. Berry has earned her Master's Degree in Creative Writing and written two books with a third in the works.

After turning in writing assignments that earn a specific number of points, each student or inmate member of the Writer's Club has the opportunity to advance to a higher level of craftsmanship. Inmate students beginning in the club start at the level of Novice. Other levels, such as Scribe, Craftsman, Journeyman, and Master are achieved by turning in writing assignments, to be edited and assigned a specific number of points for each individual writing assignment according to the quality of the work. Assignments can be anything from short stories or poems to a novel. All writings are accepted and edited if turned in by a club member.

The SCI Writer's Club has also undertaken other projects such as starting an institutional newsletter, as well as editing many of the articles within this Ohio Central School System (OCSS) annual report. There are about twenty-five members in the club, and attendance stays consistent. Club members gather together once a week to aide each other and go over projects that are in progress. If there are no current projects due, the club works on basic writing fundamentals. Members of the Writer's Club appreciate the opportunity given to them by Mrs. Berry and the Education Department at SCI, to advance in their personal writing skills.



Clearview School, ORW Held Women's History Month

On March 11, 2013, the Ohio Reformatory for Women held a Women's History Panel. Both of the women, Julie Scarborough and Rose Evans, work in non-traditional careers and discussed barriers women face in the workforce along with Ladders to Success. Ms. Evans is an ex-offender who was released four years ago. She attributed her success to the Building Construction Maintenance apprenticeship program instructed by Mr. Lewis.

Our schools

Ohio Central School System Apprenticeship Growth for ODRC in 2013

Apprenticeship programs are growing for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC). The total number of apprentice occupations has reached 52. New programs have been added in the past year: Farm Worker, General (Green Tech), Fish Hatchery, Health Care Sanitary Technician, Manager, Food Service, Material Coordinator, Nurse Assistant, and Recovery Operator.

The real growth has come from the hard work of the institution staff from wardens, deputy wardens, unit staff, principals, assistant principals, and maintenance staff. Just about every institution has reviewed the programs adding what fits their population. Some have taken it further by noticing occupations that their inmates are performing but not getting earned credit for, thus the seven new occupations. In 2011, only 18 requests for local apprenticeships were received and approved. The number exploded 244% to 62 in 2012. So far 13 have been approved in 2013.

In February, 2012, a total of 498 inmates were registered as apprentices or .9% of the total population. February, 2013, current enrollment is 1138 or 2.3% of the population. Comparing January, 2012, to January, 2013, the Ohio Central School System (OCSS) processed and approved 188% more 50% certificates and 120% more 100% certificates. Let's make it a goal for every institution to reach 2% where feasible.

Clearview School, ORW Graduation Walk

The Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW) Education Department held their Graduation/Recognition Ceremony on November 13, 2012. The students worked very diligently last year and their successes are monumental. It was the third ceremony held in 2012. Thirty-seven students were recognized for their completion of the Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE) and Residential Literacy program; 67 students recognized for completing the Pre-GED; and the Superintendent of the Ohio Central School System, Denise Justice, confirmed that 59 students earned their Ohio General Educational Development (GED) diplomas. Beyond their conditions and circumstances, the students at ORW, continue to strive for academic excellence.



Our schools



Fallen Timbers, AOCI Graduation 2013

Allen Oakwood Correctional Institution's (AOCI) FallenTimbers High School recognized its graduates at a celebration on June 13, 2013. There were 39 inmates who received their GED, but other certificates were given for completion of Adult Basic Education, the Resilient Flooring program, Power Equipment Technology, EETC Two Stroke Achievement, EETC Electrical Achievement, Turf Management, five apprenticeship programs, and one student even received his high school diploma.

Edward Tiffin School, RCI Sherman School, CCI Inmates Provide Shelter for Family in Need



Inmates at the Ross Correctional Institution (RCI) involved in the carpentry program at Edward Tiffin School, combined efforts with the Habitat for Humanity to build a home for a family in Washington Courthouse, Ohio. With the training provided by Jimmy Green, RCI carpentry teacher, inmates involved with the program used materials donated by Home Depot to pre-build walls for a habitat house.

Habitat for Humanity offers affordable housing for those in need and, in this case, it was a family on Sycamore Street in Washington Courthouse. Volunteers in the community took the walls built at RCI and put them up on-site.

Plans are in motion to continue volunteer work supervised by three Construction and Carpentry teachers at both RCI and Chillicothe Correctional Institution (CCI) in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity in the future, providing hope for families who could use a helping hand.

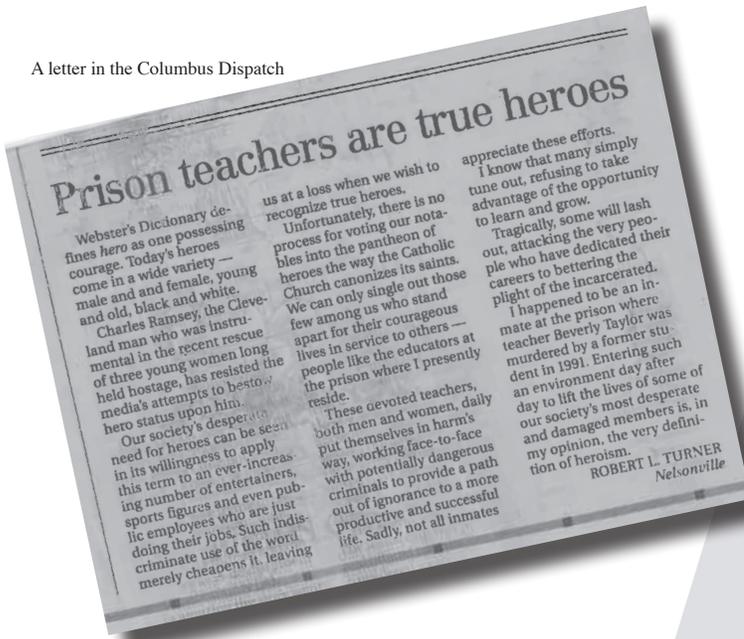
Our schools

McLin School, DCI First Female Culinary Class

Warden Jeff Lisath attended a luncheon that was prepared by Dayton Correctional Institution (DCI) first female culinary arts class. The luncheon recognized a total six inmate Veterans from DCI. The culinary arts teacher Jackie Walker and her students prepared the meal, and the Veterans were presented with certificates of appreciation.



A letter in the Columbus Dispatch



Changing

The choices I've made
and the way I've behaved
has done nothing but
get me locked away
I walk the yard with many others
but there's no one I trust to call a brother
I look back at everything I've lost
and I ask myself "Why?" and "At what costs?"
When I think of all the people I've hurt
I want to bury life's problems deep in the dirt
Time behind these walls seems endless
and the battle to stay positive seems winless
But through school and education
I'm offered a chance at rehabilitation
with the support of my family
and the persistence of my teachers
I'm able to earn every credit
and change for the better
Now that I finished my education
it's time for graduation
I'm so happy that you're all here
To all the parents, please be proud,
and try not to shed a tear.

~John Lee A666-935

Our schools



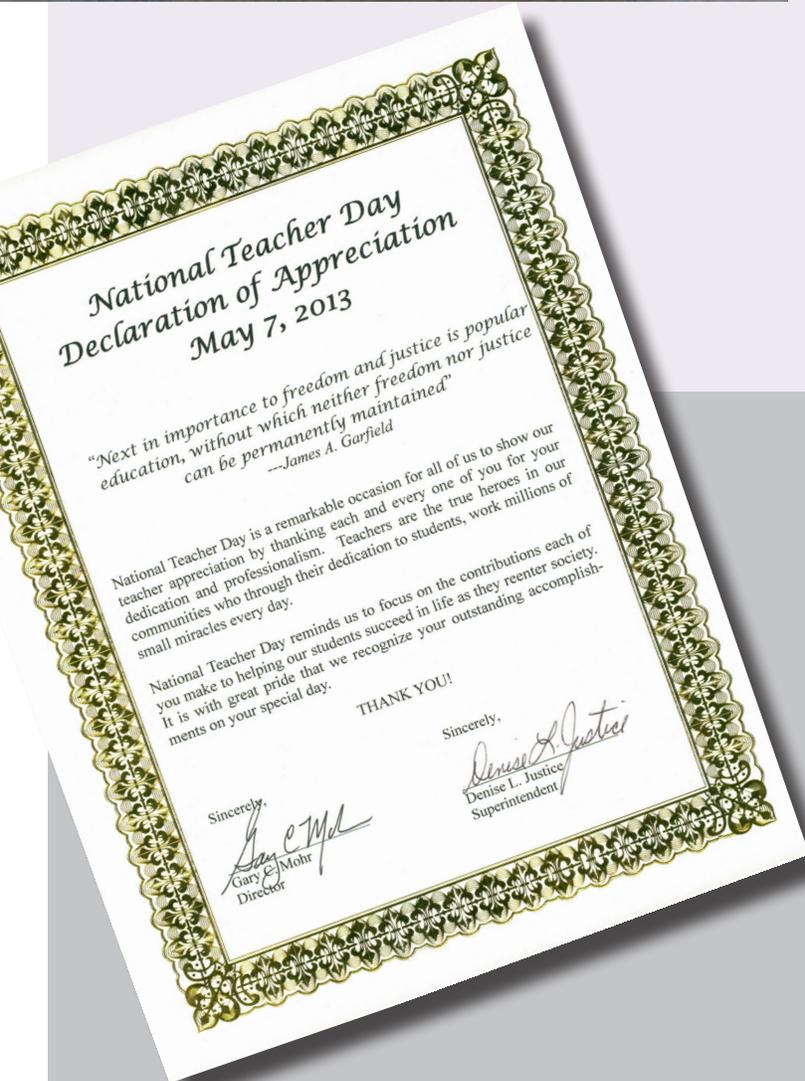
Hope Valley School, RiCI Shawnee Branch, PCI Driving For A Better Tomorrow

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (ODRC), Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Illinois (PI&I) Motor Express, and the RIDGE Project have partnered together to establish a Commercial Drivers License (CDL) training program for inmates at both Richland Correctional Institution (RiCI) and Pickaway Correctional Institution (PCI). Each class is limited to four participants and is four weeks long, with the first week being mostly classroom training, and the remaining three weeks being in-cab training where the trainees actually drive the semis and learn maneuverability. There have been 21 participants to complete the CDL training so far.

The program first began on January 28, 2013, and was started as a nationally modeled program designed to offer fathers the chance to give their children the American Dream. The RIDGE Project cofounders, Ron and Catherine Tijerina, understood that because of incarceration, many families' relationships were frayed and distressed, and they knew that they could help others navigate, repair, and restore their families. Having lived through those situations themselves, they realized they could create a pathway of healing for others. Their experiences led them to found the RIDGE Project in 2000, a project that empowers youth and families so that they "can climb up from every valley and conquer life's ridges together." Said the founders, "We believe that strong families produce strong children who will pass on that legacy of strength for generations."

Before an inmate can become a participant in the CDL training program, he must first complete a TYRO Dads program which "offers men a clear picture of what a responsible father looks like, and how they can achieve success within their own family." Their programs provide fathers and couples with the relational and social skills needed to develop strong family bonds, as well as workforce development which consist of ethics, employment and job training, and placement, giving participants the skills needed to be good employees and workers. Ron and Catherine Tijerina understand that "without intervention, these families are sentenced to generational cycles of poverty, imprisonment, and fatherlessness." The RIDGE Project strives toward becoming Ambassadors of Hope.

Pictured above is Mr. Jose Mata, the very first graduate of the CDL program from RiCI, who stands proudly next to his truck that he received on April 15, 2013. Mr. Mata is one of 65 men that have been placed this year with an annualized increase in income of over \$1.3 million. Jose is just one of the participants whose life has been changed by the opportunities provided by ODRC, PI&I, and the Ridge Project. Catherine Tijerina beamed, "We are so proud of him!"



Our schools

Ridgeview School, SCC - Lancaster Beyond Door Decorating

In December of 2012, the Southeastern Correctional Institution (SCI) Ridgeview School held its very first door-decorating contest for the holiday season. All Ridgeview classes plus the SCI Library participated in the event. In all, more than sixty students were involved with decorating six doors. Ms. Dana Berry, teacher at SCI, initiated the event in hopes that it would lift the moral of the students through the holidays.

This year, Mrs. Kathy Watson's Title One class, Adult Basic Education (ABE), Pre-GED, and GED classes won Best Theme and Design. Seventeen of her students participated in the contest. These Title One students, all under twenty-one years old, came up with an ingenious way to decide their theme. First, the students wrote different ideas down on ballots. Then Ms. Watson led a discussion on the many different holiday traditions. One of the ABE students, Mr. Karshe, came up with an idea of combining different traditions into one theme. The themes of Kwanza, Hanukkah, and Santa Clause were decided on and work began.

Ms. Watson stated that her students' resourcefulness was impressive. All the work on the door was student generated. "For the students," she said, "it was a great learning experience with collaborative learning, camaraderie, and healthy competition."

The contest winner was decided by Warden Sheri Duffey and Deputy Warden Rick Chuvalus. They each had separate criteria sheets and tallied their finds to come up with a winner. Although Ms. Watson's class won hands down, Ms. Berry's door used "positive and negative artistic input," meaning a foreground and a background was used as an ingenious winter theme. Mrs. Elizabeth Unverferth's class's resourcefulness was equally impressive, making elaborate wreaths with sheets from an old songbook. Ms. Turner's class displayed great ingenuity by making milk and cookies, a table, and a fireplace out of construction paper.

After Mrs. Watson's class was announced as the winner, she had a brief discussion with her class, and they decided that all the contest participants were winners and should be equally rewarded. She feels "teamwork is very important. Sometimes we can't accomplish things alone. Sometimes we have to ask for help," and that, "Being number one does not mean you are the only one." She hopes that more competitive activities are instituted to help students learn with healthy competition.



Our schools



Ohio | Department of Education
Michael L. Sawyers, Acting Superintendent of Public Instruction

To: Barry Fee
From: R. Linn Davey, Corrections Consultant
Re: Excellent Work
Date: February 20, 2013

I was recently informed that your students passed 11 out of 13, or 85% of the Ohio Certified Nursery Technician (OCNT) Landscape tests. This is an excellent passing percentage on a very difficult examination. I encourage you to continue what you are doing to keep your students on the path to success. On behalf of the Ohio Department of Education Office of Career Technical Education, please accept our congratulations on a job well done.

Thank you for your dedication and attention to detail in preparing your students for this examination. Your high level of service to your students, Southeastern Correctional Institution (at Nelsonville), and the taxpayers of the State of Ohio is sincerely appreciated. By obtaining these widely recognized credentials, your students have earned an opportunity for career success once they are released.

Best wishes for continued success in preparing students for successful lives. Your program is an excellent example of what can be accomplished through the consistent efforts of dedicated professionals like you. Thanks, again.

cc: Denise Justice
Brian Lee
Sheri Duffey, Warden
Angela Adams, Principal

*Very Good!
Barry*




The Yale Law Journal

Doug Lieb
Editor-in-Chief
The Yale Law Journal
P.O. Box 208215
New Haven, CT 06520-8215

Mr. Ernie Drain No. 620538
Belmont Correctional Institution
P.O. Box 540
St. Clairsville, OH 43950

November 26, 2012
Dear Mr. Drain:

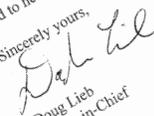
Thank you for your submission to *The Yale Law Journal's* Prison Law Writing Contest. Congratulations! Your essay, *The Meaning of Imprisonment*, has been voted the **second-place winner** of the Contest, out of approximately 1,500 total submissions.

We hope you are proud of this remarkable accomplishment. All of us found your reading of prison life to be emotionally honest, haunting, and memorable. We enjoyed your essay and learned a great deal from it, and we are so glad that you took the time to share it with us.

In addition to presenting you with your prize (if permitted by Ohio law), we would like to publish your essay in *The Yale Law Journal* in May 2013. This will require us to begin the editing process soon, and to be in periodic contact with you over the next several months.

If you are able to make phone calls, please call me at 914.588.3611 as soon as you receive this letter. (Of course, please feel free to call collect.) Otherwise, please write back to me at the above address as soon as possible to confirm that you have received this letter and that you would like us to publish your essay.

Congratulations again, and I look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely yours,

Doug Lieb
Editor-in-Chief

25 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
education.ohio.gov (877) 844-6338
(888) 886-0161 (TTY)

Our schools

Turtle Creek Branch, WCI Student Earns High School Diploma from Home District

Student Morrison, newly arrived at the Correctional Reception Center (CRC) at Orient, Ohio, asked if it were possible to complete his high school education from his home school, Dawson-Bryant High School. Jennifer Fornal, Intervention Specialist at CRC, in conjunction with Ms. Adkins, Director of Instructional Programs at the Dawson-Bryant Local School District in southern Ohio, Ohio Central School System (OCSS) staff, and Mr. Morrison's family made that request a reality.

OCSS has an Ohio Department of Education chartered high school operating at MaCI for youthful offenders and at LoCI for adult offenders. The High School Options program is offered to all offenders within Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (ODRC) who want to earn his or her High School Diploma but are housed in an institution that does not have a high school.

Within a day of his transfer to Warren Correctional Institution (WCI), Mr. Morrison was interviewed by Joseph Anderson, Intervention Specialist at WCI and was immediately placed in school. Mr. Morrison attended class with Joan Pierce, teacher at WCI every afternoon.

By the end of July, 2012, Mr. Morrison had completed all the requirements to complete English 12 and Social Studies 12. He put forth a great deal of effort along with the assistance from his mother, education staff within Warren Correctional Institution and the education staff at Dawson-Bryant.

On August 21, 2012, WCI held its annual graduation ceremony. Mr. Morrison was presented with his high school diploma by Steve Easterling, Principal of Dawson-Bryant High School, exemplifying the successful cooperation between schools, state agencies, family, and finally, the inmate himself.

A Burning Desire

Only one goal in mind,
 Much more than that, a burning desire.
 In a world full of darkness,
 I struggle to keep the flame lit.
 When limitations grow stronger,
 I pray that I hold my ground.
 When the rain falls hard and crushes down on me,
 I fight hard for the life of this flame.
 So much more than a simple goal,
 a burning desire.
 My burning desire.
 When misfortune has completely surrounded me,
 when failure has become the only outcome,
 I count on this flame to lift me up.
 When life has given up
 all hope and darkness is all that's in sight,
 this tired and weary flame keeps on burning.
 It won't give up.
 Too many times I've hit rock bottom and
 with every fall, this flame never died.
 It won't surrender.
 I've grown old and my legs tremble.
 An abyss of darkness has found its place in my life,
 but never the less, this flame keeps burning.
 For one day, this flame will fulfill its purpose and
 defeat the abyss.
 One day this flame will reach its moment,
 and in that moment,
 my life will mean something.
 That moment is today.
 ~Alexis Ramirez A638-470



We're on the web! <http://www.drc.ohio.gov>

Denise L. Justice, Superintendent
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