

Ohio

Department of
Rehabilitation & Correction

Ohio Central School System 2014 Annual Report

John R. Kasich, Governor

Gary C. Mohr, Director

Denise L. Justice, Superintendent

Our Vision, Mission and Philosophy

Our Vision

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.

Our Mission

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 Development Diploma, (High School Equivalency), Adult High School, Apprenticeship Training, Library Services, Release Preparation Program, Special Education, Career-Technical Education, and other educational programs as directed by the needs of the inmate population.

Our 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 and student's individual 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."

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To Our Constituents

Dear staff, students, parents, and community stakeholders:

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) Ohio Central School System was chartered through the Ohio Department of Education on April 9, 1973, and continues to offer quality educational services (academic, career-technical, advanced job training, and reentry planning) to those under supervision. As Superintendent, I am confident in our efforts to help the institutions reduce inmate idleness; to deliver programs that encourage learning, and ultimately work to prepare offenders for release with the technological skills required to function in the 21st Century workforce. I am also proud of the fact that in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014, OCSS enrolled over 35,000 students and certified over 15,500 completers while continuing to expand educational services for ODRC.

As OCSS continues to focus on the alignment of curriculum to the common core state standards. I am pleased to share that the technical staff have worked very hard to equip the student Computer Aided Instructional Laboratories (CAIL) for the computer-based PearsonVUE GED® testing. The comprehensive offender education curriculum provides ODRC with evidence-based programs, while also offering productive practices that extend beyond the prison walls. For example, student achievement is advanced as the concept in the classroom is taken to the next level by applying the work toward community service projects that expand student knowledge, build skill development, and provide the opportunity to give back to the local community. Presently, the Career-Technical Horticulture programs donate plants and flowers to beautify surrounding facilities. In addition, OCSS has also partnered with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to grow the plants, shrubs, and trees that will become living walls for Ohio highways. Focusing learning on bettering lives, giving back to society, and gaining employment upon release.

Apprenticeship programs are expanding for ODRC. As the green industry expands, the need for new apprenticeships are requested and established for the institutions. The Advanced Job Training programs now have a greater focus on employability-based training and program completers. Also, OCSS continues to oversee educational programming for the Community Based Correctional Facilities (CBCF) and Hamilton County Jail.

We, the Ohio Central School System, consider current employment trends, and ultimately work to make a difference in the lives of those we touch. As a result of this effort, the OCSS "Here to Serve" philosophy continues to build partnerships. I also believe that our community partnerships and interagency collaborations are essential to the growth and opportunities available to better the inmate population. As demonstrated by the creation and implementation of the ODRC Ohio Reentry Connections resources located in the institution libraries. This online resource ensures that offenders have access to real-time job search tools connected with jobs and prospective employers through the Ohio Means Jobs community One-Stop Centers.

Again, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the ODRC staff for your continued cooperation and team effort that support our mission. By working together using the 2 C's (communication and collaboration) we have the opportunity to better and change the lives of those we serve.



Denise L. Justice, Superintendent

35,156 Students Enrolled!

The Ohio Central School System's cumulative enrollment figures for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014, totals 23,781 students.

An additional 11,375 students enrolled in spring quarter continued enrollment into FY 2014.

OCSS is pleased to report that a total of 15,502 certificates were earned by OCSS students in FY 2014.

The school system reported serving 22,686 children in the Reading Rooms located in ODRC visiting areas.

Our Results

Inmate Population: 50,420



Students Enrolled: 35,156



Students Certified: 15,502



July 1, 2013 Enrollment: 13,229

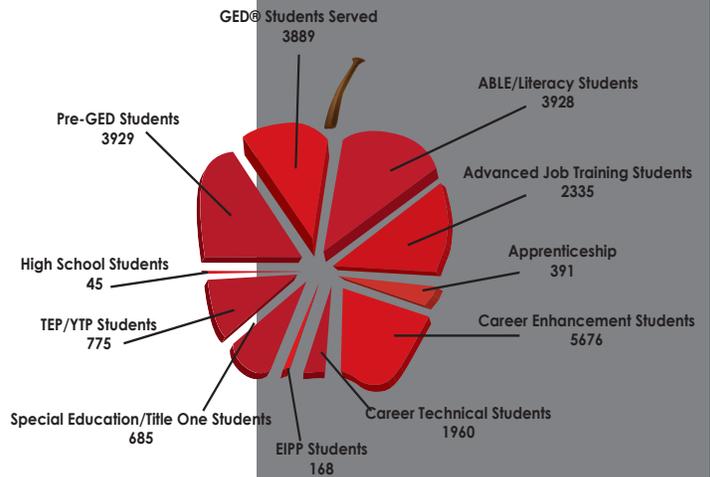


Students Continuing: 11,375



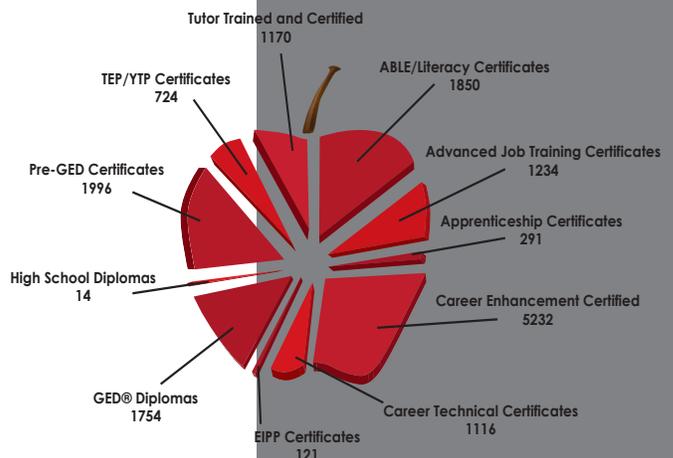
Students Served in Fiscal Year 2014

ABLE/Literacy Students	3,928
Pre-GED Students	3,929
GED® Students	3,889
Advanced Job Training Students	2,335
Apprenticeship	391
Career Enhancement Students	5,676
Career-Technical Students	1,960
EIPP Students	168
High School Students	45
Special Education/Title One Students	685
TEP/YTP Students	775
Total	23,781



Students Certified by OCSS in 2014

ABLE/Literacy Certificates	1,850
Pre-GED Certificates	1,996
GED® Diplomas	1,754
Advanced Job Training Certificates	1,234
Apprenticeship Certificates	291
Career Enhancement Certified	5,232
Career-Technical Certificates	1,116
EIPP Certificates	121
High School Diplomas	14
TEP/YTP Certificates	724
Tutor Trained and Certified	1,170
Total	15,502



What We Do



Jennifer Fornel presenting a GED® workshop at the 2014 OAAACE conference



NCI staff helped over 295 students obtain GED® diplomas in 2014

Academic Education

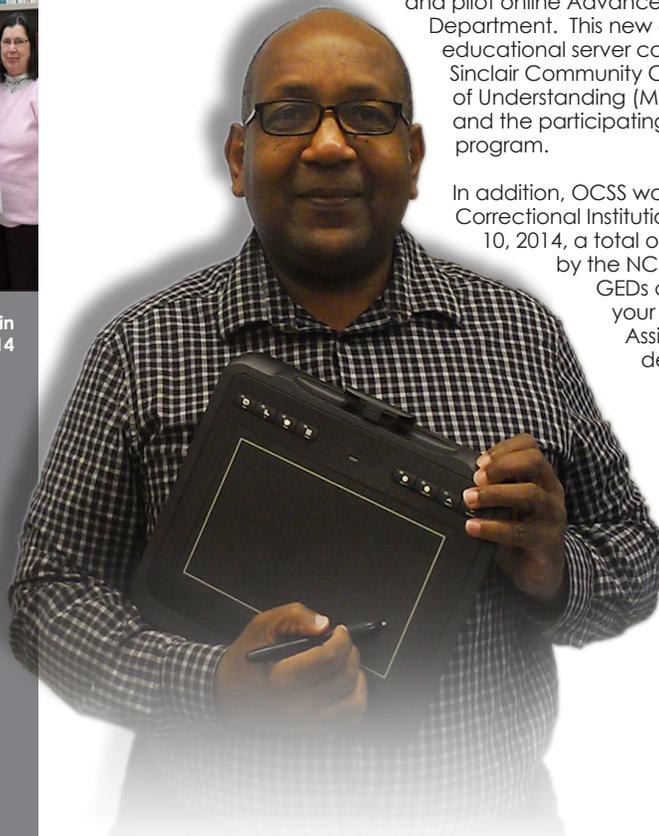
GED® testing changed for the State of Ohio in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014. As the original paper/pencil GED® exam became computerized, the process required a total transformation for the Ohio Central School System (OCSS). To prepare for this change, OCSS actually started collaborating with the Bureau of Information and Technology Services (BITS) in 2000 to standardize the student labs and secure the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) education network for the upcoming Web-based student assessments and the new GED® testing platform. In 2013, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) selected GED® Testing Services (GEDTS®/ Pearson VUE), as the test provider, and by 2014 the student Computer Aided Instructional Laboratories (CAIL) were setup for skills-based practice and computerized testing. The practice software in the CAIL includes, but is not limited to, GED 21st Century software, the CareerScope® interest inventory, Khan Academy vignettes, WinWay Résumé, and WIN Learning/WorkKeys job skill assessment software.

As the testing platform changed so too did the teacher resources and professional development workshops. OCSS administrators and staff are once again leading the way with technology for incarcerated students. As leaders of correctional education, it is important for OCSS to participate in professional educational conferences such as those sponsored by the Correctional Education Association (CEA) and the Ohio Association for Adult and Continuing Education (OAAACE). The more correctional educators communicate and collaborate in these venues, the better they are prepared to assist those they serve. For example, OCSS participated in the CEA International Conference, Lighting the Path to Reentry. The Correctional Reception Center (CRC) Walker School was represented at the OAAACE summer conference, Education and Technology: The Pathway to Reentry, as Jennifer Fornel, CRC Special Education Instructor, presented an overview of ODRC's education processes and requirements. The ODRC Ohio Central School System workshop offered teachers information and resources for the new 2014 GED® test, and encouraged them to develop new ways to help students prepare and succeed in passing the GED® exam. Also discussed was how important it is to engage in interdisciplinary planning and employ prescribed assessment targets, state standards, and Webb's Depth of Knowledge (DOK) concepts to supplement and enhance the OCSS curriculum for each individual.

Technology is ever-changing and so must the face of correctional education. Therefore, OCSS continues to explore instructional materials and tools that will encourage learning, individualize instruction, and prepare the students for the 21st century workforce. Because of this focus, BrightLink interactive projectors have been installed in the classrooms to help teachers across the state demonstrate the processes behind everything from mathematics' formulas to proper grammar. As demonstrated in the photograph from the Richland Correctional Institution (RCI), Applied Math Instructor Otheus Jackson uses a wireless pad with the BrightLink technology to highlight course examples for the RCI's Hope Valley School students.

It was also a groundbreaking year for OCSS as BITS helped secure and pilot online Advanced Job Training (AJT) courses for the Department. This new online learning platform secured an educational server connection between ODRC and the Sinclair Community College AJT program. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was developed for AJT, BITS, OCSS, and the participating institutions to monitor and expand the program.

In addition, OCSS would like to offer kudos to the Noble Correctional Institution (NCI) teaching staff. As of January 10, 2014, a total of 295 GED® certificates were issued by the NCI Sequoyah School. "The number of GEDs awarded at NCI is very impressive and your hard work is truly appreciated," OCSS Assistant Superintendent Trent Patterson declared.



Otheus Jackson pictured using the RCI wireless BrightLink pad for class instruction

What We Do

Apprenticeship Programs

The OCSS Apprenticeship Programs continue to grow for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. Apprenticeships are supervised work assignments that focus on an area or skill that is readily needed in the job market. Students earn industry level certification, and get on the job experience. Apprentices, under the direction of the institution supervisor, maintain a daily hour record of on-the-job training plus 144 hours of related instruction per 2000 hours of on-the-job instruction as prescribed by the Ohio State Apprenticeship Council. A *Certificate of Completion* is issued by the US Department of Labor when the required hours are met.

New apprenticeship programs have been added in the past year, reaching a total of 53 apprentice occupations operating within DRC. Just about every institution has reviewed the programs to add apprenticeships that benefit the institution, population, green industry, and the 21st century workforce. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 a total of 57 local apprenticeship requests were approved, an 11% increase from FY 2013.

Each institution offers apprenticeship programs, but for FY 2014, OCSS selected five schools to highlight. The Grafton Reintegration Center (GRC) runs an apprenticeship program in the GRC Hope Center known as the Alteration Tailor Program. They make and/or alter all types of garments. The Tailor Program also does quilting and makes specialty ordered items to teach tailoring skills to the incarcerated.

The Marion Correctional Institution (MCI) Hope Memorial School has an apprenticeship program where residents care for Eastern Hellbenders, an endangered salamander, planned for release into Ohio streams. The habitats will be spread throughout the area so that the greatest preservation of the species can be affected. The apprentices may also work with the West Virginia Parks Department to place habitats in their waters, as well.

The Northeast Reintegration Center Robert Merrill School Apprentices are working in collaboration with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History to plant milkweed on the grounds to save the Harris Checkerspot Butterfly from extinction.

The Hope Valley School Apprentices located on the grounds of the Richland Correctional Institution has a very popular Animal Training Apprenticeship program, where offenders care for and train abandoned and rescued dogs. The program helps rehabilitate and integrate inmates by providing them with a valuable skill, and it also allows those dogs to be better-behaved so that they can be adopted into loving homes.

At the Ridgeview School Southeastern Correctional Complex (SCC) in Lancaster, Ohio, an apprenticeship is in effect to raise rainbow trout for the Columbus Zoo. The program provides almost 500 pounds of trout a month to feed penguins, otters, polar bears, and brown bears.

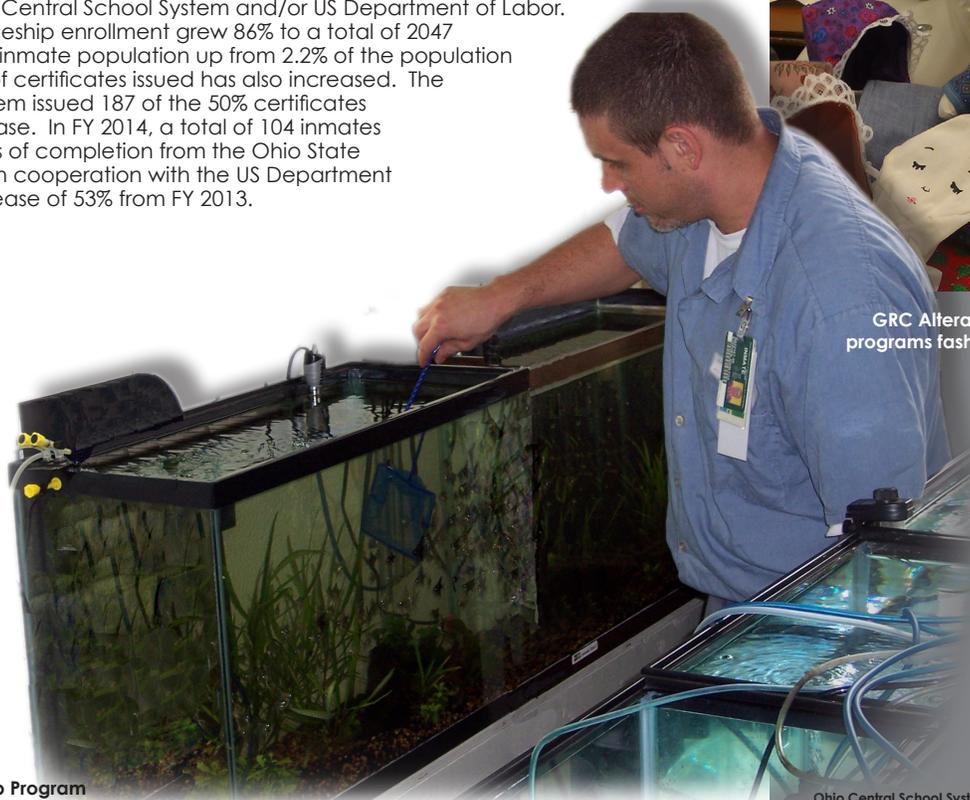
In the last decade, over 2,900 apprentices have earned either a 50% or 100% certificate from the Ohio Central School System and/or US Department of Labor. In FY 2014, the apprenticeship enrollment grew 86% to a total of 2047 apprentices or 4% of the inmate population up from 2.2% of the population in FY 2013. The number of certificates issued has also increased. The Ohio Central School System issued 187 of the 50% certificates and realized a 10% increase. In FY 2014, a total of 104 inmates were granted certificates of completion from the Ohio State Apprenticeship Council in cooperation with the US Department of Labor which is an increase of 53% from FY 2013.



Fish Hatchery Apprenticeship Program created for SCC Trout Farm



GRC Alteration Tailor Apprenticeship programs fashion dolls to learn tailoring skills



What We Do



BeCI Eastern Horizons Center horticulture students pictured growing plants for the Governor's Residence



MCI Hope Memorial School Barber Program

Career-Technical Education

Career-Technical (vocational) training offers opportunities beyond the classroom in over 87 separate institutional training programs, recognized by the Ohio Department of Education. A majority of the programs offer license or certifications, which are issued by state boards or nationally recognized organizations. All courses of study for career-technical programs are aligned so that students are prepared to take the state or national assessments. The ODRC programs available range from arts and communication, to automotive, administrative support, cosmetology, and construction trades, to food production, Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC), horticulture, Power Equipment Technology (PET), logistics, and welding. Each program is designed to teach students career-tech content standards while exposing them to real work experience. Students have the chance to earn industry level certification at the end of their career-tech program.

OCSS Career-Technical Education links the students' interest and passion to a career. It provides participants with the applied practice to learn and develop the skill base with the goal of gainful employment upon release. Career-Technical Education provides an industry-based curriculum embedded in real-world experiences relevant to the 21st-century workplace.

In Fiscal Year 2014, the Clearview School students received Bobcat training. Bill Lewis, Construction Technology Teacher, captured the moment as the students operated the Bobcat to learn how to properly maintain and utilize the equipment on the grounds of the Ohio Reformatory for Women.

The Marion Correctional Institution (MCI) Hope Memorial School opened a barbering program this fiscal year, so students now have the opportunity to learn the trade. MCI student, Terrance Williams, a former gang member, said that acquiring the skill changed him. "Barbering is now part of my transition from gang member to being something different in my life." "This is great for our guys," says Warden Bunting. "It will offer a viable skill in a high demand field. Programs like this increase the likelihood that our guys will be successful upon release." In addition, the Hope Memorial School welding class donated 1,490 lbs. of welding electrodes and 30 aluminum tubes of TIG welding to Pioneer Career & Technology Center. In appreciation, the Pioneer Career & Technology Center sent a letter of thanks for the kindness of the program.

OCSS is pleased to recognize the Career-Technical Horticulture programs for continuing to develop the student's as each year their skills and efforts increase and extend beyond the prison walls. An additional highlight to note is that the OCSS Horticulture programs continue to plant, grow, and care for the annuals and perennials for the Governor's Residence, and are now partnering with the Ohio Department of Transportation to grow the plants, shrubs, and trees that will become living walls and sound barriers that beautify Ohio highways.

OCSS is pleased to report that in the past ten years over 14,800 inmates have completed Career-Technical Education. Upon release, a career passport is provided to each completer and contains certificates or licenses that the student achieved from the ODRC Ohio Central School System.



Caterpillar training pictured outside the ORW Clearview School

Community Service Programs

Community service is considered a longstanding priority for the Ohio Central School System (OCSS). While OCSS provides the students with the tools to enhance the educational experience, the students use what they learn in the classroom to produce a myriad of products for the local area. For example, academic students may work on flash cards and other supplemental materials for the area schools. Career-technical carpentry and welding students create lockers, tables, and benches used for public service, and the horticulture students often grow native plants to beautify the byways. These projects are great ways to learn skills that give back to the community while at the same time providing education, training, and practice that could potentially lead to employment upon release.

Joseph Wahrer, Power Equipment Technology (PET) Instructor, runs a career enhancement program for the Fallen Timbers Branch located at the Allen Oakwood Correctional Institution. When the Findlay Police Department had a pile of bikes set aside for scrap, they went to the PET Teacher to see what could be done. Fixing the bikes for TOYS for TOTS made the challenge all the more rewarding for the students.

Mr. Dalas Roberts, Welding Instructor, for the Hope Memorial School at the Marion Correctional Institution (MCI), and his students saved the Marion Fire Station money by making lockers and gear hangers for the crew. The welding class also had the opportunity to aid the Bucyrus Preservation Society in their restoration endeavors to help preserve railroading's past in Bucyrus.

The *Beastly Banner*, a magazine published by the Columbus Zoo, included an article on how the OCSS students are helping to preserve the existence of two native Ohio species; the Eastern Hellbender salamander and the Monarch butterfly. The salamander habitats are crafted by OCSS students then spread throughout the region to help preserve this rare species. Milkweed is the only host and food source for the larval stage of the Monarch. This plant is being grown by OCSS students in the green houses around the state specifically to be transplanted to Monarch environments at the prisons and The Wilds, a private, non-profit safari park and conservation center located in Cumberland, Ohio.

Students at MCI also grow pumpkins as a community service project for donations to local families. Richland County Children Services spokesman Carl Hunnell said, "Over 100 pumpkins were delivered to Richland Newhope, a center that supports people with developmental disabilities, as well as the Children's Hospital in Columbus." Jonathan Barrett, MCI Production Agriculture Instructor, said "It was a bad year for the pumpkin crop." He continued, "There was a bee problem and excessive rain that damaged the crop production. However, the yield was enough to provide many healthy pumpkins to children who will now be able to enjoy the fall season pumpkin carving ritual."

Also, at the Ross Correctional Institution (RCI) Edward Tiffin School students made a table for the Chillicothe Municipal Courts. Jim Green, the RCI Carpentry Instructor, and his class made the round table. Lisa Large from the Municipal Court said, "The table is beautiful and the judges were very impressed."



ORW Clearview School Horticulture Class pictured preparing milkweed for The Wilds

What We Do



The RCI Edward Tiffin School carpentry class made this table for the Chillicothe Municipal Courts



AoCI Fallen Timbers Branch PET program repair bikes for local charity

What We Do

Education Enrichment

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction has a mission to reduce recidivism and the Ohio Central School System (OCSS) is helping to accomplish this task by providing education for Ohio offenders to include productive programming that extends beyond the prison walls. Denise L. Justice, OCSS Superintendent, is a strong advocate for correctional education and, as a result, wears many collaboration hats in order to support a myriad of education initiatives from implementing career enhancement programs for the short-term offender to marketing the Achievement & Employability (A&E) certificates, of which ODRC issued 93 in Fiscal Year 2014. Ohio Central School System has extended its charter to support community education initiatives within four entities: Community-Based Correctional Facilities, Community Justice Adult Basic Education Centers, Private Prisons, and the Hamilton County Justice Center. OCSS provides these organizations with assistance in technology, teacher licensure, program accreditation, and professional development opportunities for staff.

Ohio Central School System implemented Career Enhancement (CE) programs in 2008 and continues to transform career-technical programs to meet student needs, while planning for academic CE modules to develop in the near future. CE programs are designed to provide employment readiness skills that can either stand alone or build on skills developed in earlier CE modules. Career-Technical CE modules are offered every five weeks in a variety of areas from automotive and construction trades to food production, horticulture, welding, and graphic occupations. In FY 2014, a total of 5,232 students achieved CE certificates.

OCSS is a lead supporter in the Department's energy conservation and sustainability plan. OCSS provides educational opportunities, training, and apprenticeships that develop green skills for offenders through correctional education, community enrichment, and eco-friendly improvement projects for the institutions. Green content is now available in the institution libraries and included in the OCSS career-technical and career enhancement curriculum. This offers a variety of learning opportunities for offenders to practice the green skills learned to promote energy conservation (water, electric, fuel) and waste reduction (recycling) for their institution while also learning about career pathways that are changing and growing with the green economy.

Enrichment programs include Distance Learning sites available in 18 of the 28 prisons throughout the state. The distance education environment that these sites provide augments the classroom and the varied resources place OCSS as the premier correctional distance education program in the country.

Other education enrichment programs are geared toward a wider extra-curricular scope. One such program is the Earth Day Essay Contest offered by Sinclair Community College. This contest is open to all actively enrolled students, including those currently incarcerated. This year's winner was Advanced Job Training (AJT) student Brittany Smith. AJT projects often offer a comprehensive approach to the enrichment of education.

OCSS also co-coordinates the establishment of the institution Inside/Out programs bringing college students and incarcerated individuals together as peers in a classroom setting that emphasizes dialogue and critical thinking in order to consider the issues of crime and justice. A total of seven correctional institutions now offer Inside/Out programming to supplement and enhance the educational experience.

Superintendent Justice emphasized, "I am also pleased to highlight a few facts from a 2013 study by the RAND Corporation that indicate education increases the success rate of employment, and shows a significant decrease in recidivism when educational programming is provided, which brings home the point that education does make a difference in lives of those we serve."



Superintendent Justice and David Weibel pictured at The Wilds after dropping off milkweed grown by the ORW Clearview School



Flowering Kale at Governor's Residence



SCC Hilltop School horticulture students pictured with milkweed grown for The Wilds

Graduation

The most important task an inmate can achieve while incarcerated is to graduate from one of the multitude of programs offered through the Ohio Central School System (OCSS). As The Ohio Central School System is comprised of ten regional Shared Service Areas (SSA) with a school located at each institution. Annual graduation ceremonies provide an opportunity for the ODRC staff to recognize student achievement while often inviting family and friends to share in the positive life transition. Certificates are awarded for completion of Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE), Adult High School diploma, Apprenticeship training certificates, GED®, Career-Technical (vocational) one-year career development certificates, five-week career enhancement completers, and may include post-secondary program completion.

Whether inmates are striving for their GED®, attending a Career-Technical program, or participating in post-secondary education, there is evidence directly relating the pursuit and attainment of higher education to lower rates of recidivism. Throughout the entire state, institutions encourage inmates enrolled in educational programs to persevere until graduation. The ODRC recognizes that graduation is beneficial not only to the individual but that its value extends to serve the community. OCSS is proud to highlight the following schools in FY 2014.

OCSS SSA II Principal Earnest Mack and Assistant Principal Renee Evett presided over the fall graduation ceremony held at the Northeast Reintegration Center (NERC). More than 10% of the entire NeRC population graduated from an OCSS educational program this past fall. Among the Robert Merrill School graduates were twelve ABLE Students, five Pre-GED students, twenty-four students earned their GED, two completed the Career-Technical Horticulture Program and fourteen students completed Advanced Job Training.

This past summer at the Lebanon Correctional Institution (LeCI), the Shaker Valley School held their graduation ceremony. Superintendent, Denise L. Justice, joined with Warden Ernie Moore to celebrate 43 students' completion of their Career-Technical program. Students and staff alike were encouraged to reflect upon the legacy of Mrs. Michelle Davis, Graphic Communications Instructor for over 20 years at LeCI who passed away unexpectedly; she was fondly remembered by her students and staff. Following words of inspiration by guest speaker, Tonja Johnson, sister of Mrs. Davis and ODRC employee, Mrs. Davis' family proudly presented a certificate to each Graphic Communications graduate and congratulated the men for their achievement. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the graduates and their family members were provided the opportunity to visit and enjoy light refreshments.

The Eastern Horizons Center held their graduation ceremony on June 10, 2014, on the grounds of the Belmont Correctional Institution (BeCI). Over 176 graduates attended and more than 60 visitors (family and friends) of the graduates. Carol Robinson, representative of the Correctional Institution Inspection Committee (CIIC), was the keynote speaker for the event with Warden Michelle Miller and Kent Litzenberger, SSA X Principal, presiding over the annual ceremony. On behalf of ODRC, the Ohio Central School System would like to thank the professionalism and dedication of the staff for showcasing the graduation ceremonies. OCSS congratulates all the ODRC 2014 graduates and looks forward to seeing more accomplishments highlighted in the coming year.



BeCI Eastern Horizons Center graduates
176 students



NeRC 2014 graduation



PCI,s Administrative Office Technology
Teacher, Tina Stephens hands her student his
certificate

What We Do



GRC O.N.E.-STOP Shop



GRC O.N.E.-STOP Shop

Initiating Reentry

Several programs are offered throughout Ohio prisons to aide ex-offenders in their reintegration to society. Studies show that despite a 6 percent average decrease in education spending in all U.S. prisons, Ohio showed an increase in prison education programs of 7.4 percent. Considering that inmates who take classes are 13 percent less likely to return to prison, encouraging education while incarcerated is a major part to reentry.

Collaborations are vital to the reentry process. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) along with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and local workforce development partners have teamed up to create the first Offender Network for Employment to STOP recidivism: O.N.E. - STOP shop. Robin Long, Ohio Central School Systems (OCSS) Operations Director, and Tom Hutter, Workforce Development Project Manager from the ODJFS, have been working together since 2012 to provide job search workshops, resources, and reintegration unit O.N.E. - STOP shops for the Department.

The ODRC O.N.E. - STOP shop is dedicated to assisting offenders with pre and post-release focused employment, training, and support services. The goal of the collaborative effort is to reduce the rate of recidivism. The theme is "ONE Year to Get Ready." The O.N.E. - STOP will work to ensure the 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. As of November 2013, a total of eight ODRC reintegration units have O.N.E. - STOP shops in operation with the goal of helping the ex-offender transition and connect with the community One-Stop center resources and employers.

In addition, educational programs like Culinary Arts and Landscaping classes have allowed offenders to return to society and maintain a pro-social lifestyle. "Why we care is that 98 percent of inmates are going to come home to Ohio neighborhoods," says Denise L. Justice, OCSS Superintendent. "If we do not give them the wherewithal to gain employment at some kind of life-sustaining wage, they are going to come back to prison, and we are going to be housing them again at the taxpayer's expense."

Reentry is a process that must be continued upon release. For example, the Dress for Success Cincinnati Mobile Suiting event in Adams County helps individuals by providing an interview suit and a job readiness presentation. After being released from the Dayton Correctional Institution (DCI), Jen Fisher, a former student stated, "It's been an amazing and welcoming experience that means so much." She was involved with the Transitional Education Program (TEP) while incarcerated and returned to DCI to speak as a guest at graduation. TEP is a reentry initiative that uses a unique three-tier approach to transmitting transitional programming through technology to both currently incarcerated offenders preparing for release and to former offenders achieving success in the community. Jen Fisher's is an uplifting story full of success that offers hope and demonstrates that education combined with reentry planning plays a pivotal role in the rehabilitation process.



Tom Hutter, ODJFS, hosts a DRC O.N.E.-STOP workshop with Robin Long, OCSS, at the 2014 GCI summit

Library Services

Each institution provides library services to the inmate population. Most libraries provide print, audio, and video materials as part of their services. In addition, the main library and many camp libraries provide an online link to the LexisNexis law library materials as well as to the Ohio Reentry Connections computers for the inmates to use to begin their reentry planning prior to release.

Patrons can look at various jobs that are being offered and put a resume together that will be available the day after they are released for the employers to view. These computers have programs to practice typing, financial literacy, basic computer skills, and job search strategies. These services work together to help the user become familiar with computers so they will be current with technology and better able to find jobs upon release.

Since its inception, an assortment of Web links have been added to the Ohio Re-Entry Connections computers in the ODRC libraries. Two such tools to note are the Welcome Home County Videos and Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) Solutions. WOTC Solutions was implemented so that those inmates leaving the institutions and going home to Ohio neighborhoods will be better able to jump start their employment opportunities.

Book donations are up this year from the same six-month period last year. Donated books include entry level algebra, science textbooks, fiction best sellers and other books that may be of interest to inmates. The number of inmates using the library during that same period is up by 2400 inmates, interlibrary loans up by 1,250; and reference requests just under 5,000.

Teachers are encouraged to request books for the local institutional library to purchase. The teacher can recommend books to be used as supplemental reading material for a course or just to keep the library circulation fresh. In addition, all ODRC staff are welcome to borrow books from the Library at the Training and Education Center (TEC) in London, Ohio. Without leaving their desks, staff can search the catalog, request a book and have it delivered on location via inter-institutional mail. This Mandarin Web OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog) holds foreign language books, criminal justice, homeland security, entrepreneurship, apprenticeships, literacy materials, and a complete set of law books. This is the first interlibrary loan program available to staff. All ODRC staff can search the Shared Catalog/Web OPAC and request the TEC library books and materials from the Library Administrator. The plan is to build the DRC shared catalog collection over time.

OCSS also has a few new faces to recognize in the Library Services. The Ross Correctional Institution Edward Tiffin School welcomes Andrew Hart to their inmate library, Anna Boatright is the new Robert Merrill School Librarian at the Northeast Reintegration Center, Tracie Andrews joined the Eastern Horizons Center Library at the Belmont Correctional Institution, and the newest Ridgeview School Library Assistant, Darci Morosko, is now working on the grounds of the Southeastern Correctional Complex in Lancaster, Ohio. Welcome aboard.

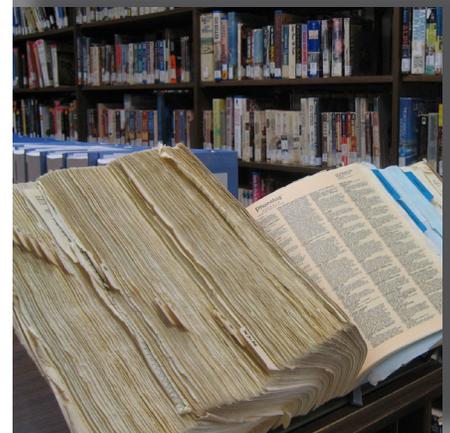


The SCC Ridgeview School showcases the first library eReaders

What We Do



Julie Hupp, NCI Librarian, introduces Ohio Reentry Connections



Welcome to the GCI Sherwood Anderson School Library

What We Do



Best Wishes from OCSS to all our beloved retirees



Jim Green, RCI Carpentry Instructor, pictured with the 2014 DRC Impact Award

Staff Recognition

The Ohio Central School System acknowledges the education administration and staff as consummate professionals. As leaders in the field of correctional education, OCSS educators and support staff are renowned for their dedication and the passion they bring to the career.

OCSS is also proud to highlight the following award recipients of the DRC Impact Award. The DRC Impact Award was created by Director Mohr and presented by the Superintendent to recognize that at any given time an individual can be the most important person to the organization.

Jim Green, Carpentry Instructor for the Edward Tiffin School, was presented the DRC Impact Award at the Ross Correctional Institution on April 17, 2014. Mr. Green and his class have completed work that has made a positive impact on the institution, the agency, and the community. Jim recently headed a project which completed the design and construction of over 400 partitions that are being used at test sites department-wide to administer the 2014 GED®. His professionalism was recognized by Superintendent, Denise L. Justice, for going "above and beyond the call of duty on a daily basis."

Julie Hupp, Librarian for the Sequoyah School, was presented with the DRC Impact Award at the Nobel Correctional Institution on August 26, 2013. Julie was recognized for the extra effort she offers to the DRC Ohio Re-Entry Connections initiative. The results achieved have been the direct outcome of the time set aside to ensure those close to release are issued passes to the library in order to utilize the Ohio Re-Entry Connections computers. The statistical information provided by the program demonstrates how the online resources help prepare the institution population for returning home. Her devotion is unprecedented as it propels the Department toward envisioning future growth with expanded resources statewide.

At the Belmont Correctional Institution (BeCI), the DRC Community Impact Award was given to Eastern Horizons Center Horticulture Instructor Mike Sechrest. Mike has worked at BeCI for over 16 years; over the past 10 years, he and his students have completed 25,515 hours of community service. These projects included a landscape installation project for the Belmont County Fair and clearing 52 miles of hiking and bridge trails. Participants of the horticulture program have also donated several hundred pounds of produce to the St. Clairsville Food Bank. In addition to his work inside the facility, Mike is also actively involved in his community. He is a volunteer instructor for Belmont County Master Gardeners, a volunteer for the Belmont County 4-H, and is currently serving on the Hall of Fame/Wall of Fame committee for his local school district.

In addition, OCSS participated in the CEA International Conference, Lighting the Path to Reentry, and was pleased to honor Mr. Stephen Guyton, DRC Infrastructure Specialist III, with the Austin MacCormick Award for taking the initiative to effectively expand technology resources to benefit the Ohio prison population. Without additional funding or resources for the project, Mr. Guyton's work provided additional teaching and testing tools for OCSS. This achievement has garnered nationwide interest for its ability to be replicated. Prior to release, Ohio Re-Entry Connections offers inmates the opportunity to conduct real-time job searches. Upon release, ex-offenders can access the saved job searches with OhioMeansJobs.com.

Superintendent Justice states, "This is a groundbreaking accomplishment built on collaboration and a true testament to Stephen Guyton, his commitment, and the difference one person can make to an organization."



Mike Sechrest, BeCI Horticulture Instructor, named the 2014 DRC Community Impact Employee of the Year

Teacher of the Year Award

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. Founded in 1945, CEA is a professional organization that provides services to both educators and administrators working with students in a correctional setting, of which OCSS staff are proud to advocate.

On behalf of the Ohio Central School System, Denise L. Justice is pleased to announce Deborah Withem as CEA-O Teacher of the Year. Since January 2004, Mrs. Withem has been a literacy teacher for the Southeastern Correctional Complex (SCC) Hocking Hilltop School located in Nelsonville, Ohio. Her personal education philosophy is illustrated by the saying, "You are never too old to learn." "Deborah is a strong advocate for her students, the facility, school system, and the Department; so it is an honor for me to highlight her dedication and drive for Correctional Education," declared Superintendent Justice.

In addition to her teaching duties, Deborah has also served 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. 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."

Each year the CEA of Ohio sponsors the Teacher of the Year Award. Names of nominees are received from a variety of sources including the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Ohio Jails, Community Based Correctional Facilities, and numerous participating universities and colleges. Besides Deborah, there were five finalists this year in the running, including: Dana Bery of Southeastern Correctional Complex, Florence Madueme of the Franklin Medical Center, Duwayne Shoup from the Mansfield Correctional Institution, and Kimberly Taylor of Ross Correctional Institution. These finalist display dedication, longevity of commitment, and a genuine compassion for the work they do.

Fiscal Year 2014 was an award winning season for Mrs. Withem as she was also named the CEA Region III Teacher of the Year at the spring 2014 Conference, and represented OCSS as the National conference that took place this past summer in Washington D.C. Superintendent Justice is also pleased to announce that Deborah Withem was honored with a Resolution in the Ohio House of Representatives on Wednesday, December 11, 2013. When asked about the House Floor recognition ceremony, Deborah said, "Words cannot describe the emotion I felt when my name was announced as Teacher of the Year. It is an honor to represent the Correctional Education Association, the Ohio Central School System and have the opportunity to highlight the work we do as correctional educators."



Deborah Withem
2013 Teacher of the Year

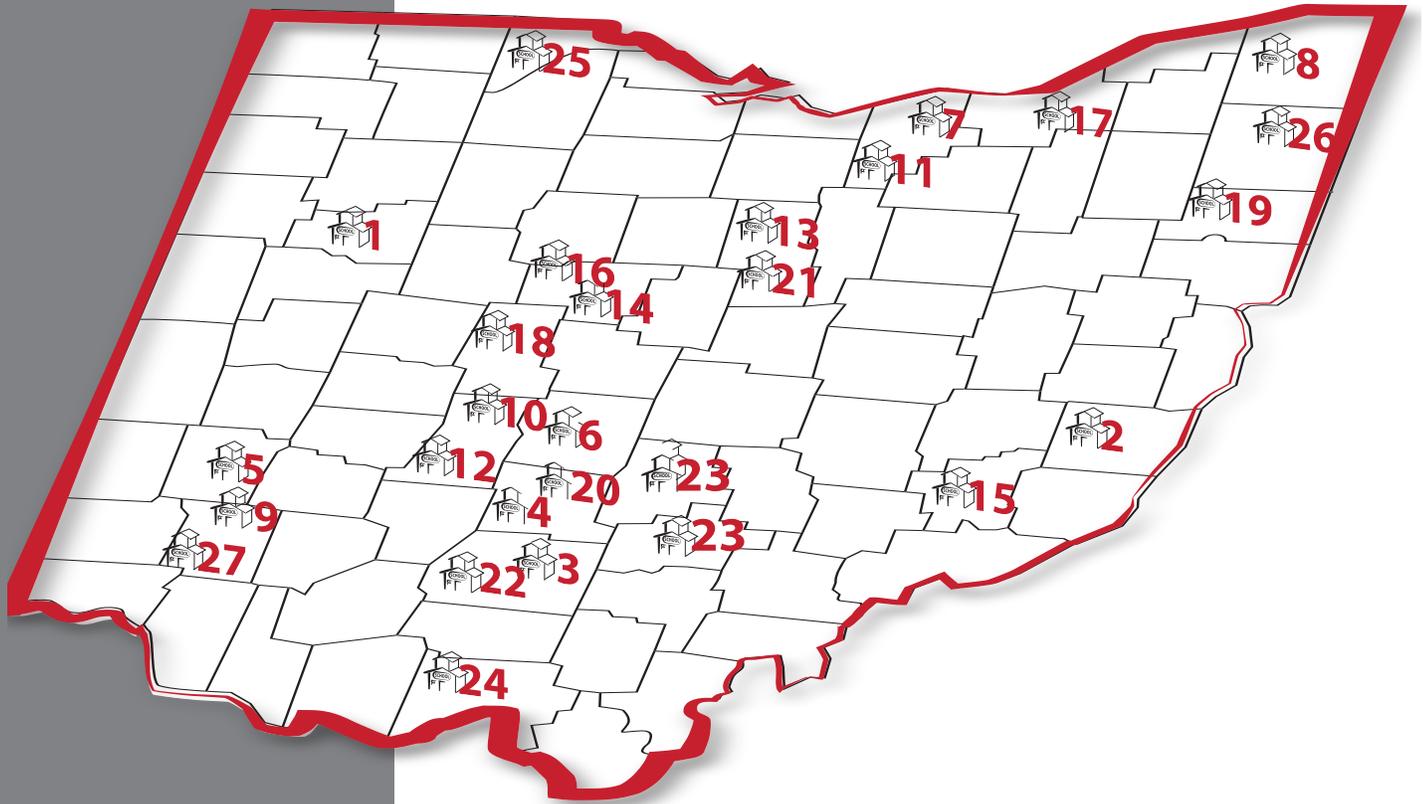


Director Mohr, Deborah Withem and Superintendent Justice pictured in the Governor's Office at the Statehouse



Deborah Withem, CEO Teacher of the Year pictured accepting a Statehouse Resolution

Our Schools



- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Allen Oakwood Correctional Institution (AOCI)
Fallen Timbers Branch - Allen
Lost Creek Branch - Oakwood</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 Zone A
Sacajawea Center Zone B</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 Reintegration 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 - Hocking
Ridgeview School - Lancaster</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> <p>* 8 and 16 are Private Prisons</p> |
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We are on the web!
<http://www.drc.ohio.gov>

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