From the desk of the Ohio Central School System Superintendent...

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) has selected the theme “DRC: Pieces of the Puzzle” for this year’s annual report. From my perspective, education is a vital piece of that puzzle. I am pleased to say that the Ohio Central School System (OCSS) is a prominent national leader in cutting edge programming, while maintaining an emphasis on providing one of the nation’s greatest array of inmate programming opportunities.

To my knowledge, we were the first state correctional education system to implement an ex-offender website to enhance the Reentry initiative. It is designed for students to pursue their lifelong learning needs upon release. It has been operational for a year now and has been immensely beneficial to our ex-students who are returning to the various communities in Ohio. This aftercare website has enabled them to successfully maintain a seamless return to society. Currently our Reentry Success Rate for the 700 graduates is 95.5%. To date, only 4.5% have returned to our system!

Yet the day-to-day basics are what we do best and model as “Best Practices” for our profession. Ohio ranks at, or near the top in the country leading by the sheer number of annual Literacy, GED and Career-Technical certificates earned by our students. The same can be said of the students achieving a certificate in our Apprenticeship and Advanced Job Training programs. These achievements are a testament to the students and staff of the Ohio Central School System!

Now and for the future, in these times of tight budgets and fiscal constraints, we must continue to strive as national leaders for our field. The Ohio Central School System will continue to embrace the Reentry Philosophy. We will continue to acknowledge our community partnerships as a vital component to the reentry process.

I am particularly proud of the “Books for Kids to Keep” program. With this partnership, Half-Price Books donates books through the Rotary Club to the Columbus public schools. OCSS staff collect the books from the public school libraries that are not of benefit for those age ranges. To date, we have given nearly $300,000 dollars worth of donated books to our prison libraries, while assisting the public schools with their discarded materials.

OCSS will continue to advance and serve as a Best Practices Correctional Education System. History reveals the Ohio Central School System as a proven leader, so I challenge both the staff and students to continue exceeding the standard for Correctional Education.
OCSS Fiscal Year 2006 Statistics

The Ohio Central School System is pleased to announce, on behalf of the Department, the cumulative enrollment figures for Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 totaled 24,795, which includes 15,605 students served during the Fiscal Year and 9,190 students still enrolled. This Fiscal Year 11,694 certificates were earned by our students. The average monthly attendance for the beginning of the Fiscal Year was 10,500 students (24% of the inmate population). At the end of the Fiscal Year the population was 9,190 (20% of the inmate population). This decrease in average monthly attendance of over 1,300 students can be attributed to a budget reduction that resulted in a decrease of over 30 teachers.

OCSS reported serving over 45,523 children in the Reading Rooms located in the DRC visiting areas. To date, eight Jumpy Books have been published for the DRC Jumpy the Kangaroo Family Literacy Initiative, with over 42,000 copies distributed statewide. In addition, our partnership with Crayons to Computers, the greater Cincinnati free store for teachers, has enabled us to distribute over 20,000 literacy booklets to children in visiting rooms statewide.
Transitional Education Program
“Providing Transition for Successful Change”

The Transitional Education Program (TEP) is designed to provide offenders instruction in skills needed to successfully reenter society.

This program is a partnership between the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation, the Ohio Central School System, and Community Connection in Lima, Ohio.

TEP is unique in its instructional approach and aftercare program. The instruction is delivered through Distance Learning technology from Community Connection to sites with Distance Learning capability, and it uses a software program entitled, “Targeting Success.” The aftercare program is a virtual, web based support mechanism utilizing the internet, an email account, and phone to provide access to a Community Connection Case Worker.

The final pilot TEP program successfully commenced at the June virtual graduation. This graduation, conducted via Distance Learning technology, recognized the success of over 350 students from eleven correctional facilities, six community-based facilities, and one adult parole authority office throughout Ohio.

TEP is looking forward to a productive fiscal year 2006. The year starts with the Fall term commencing on October 3, 2006. During this term, the TEP program will grow to include three new Distance Learning sites and two non-distance learning sites. This should add approximately 60 students to the anticipated 350 from the sites returning to the program. This term will conclude in December 2006, with the virtual graduation of that month.

The TEP program will continue throughout the Winter and Spring terms. During this time, the TEP program plans to increase the number of offenders receiving the program. To do this, the following will need to be accomplished:

- Add more institutions and community sites.
- Utilize the software and aftercare components at sites without distance learning capabilities.
- Expand the structure of the program to allow for more individualized pace. This should allow students to gain more information at their own pace and allow for more completers.
- Add distance learning capability to some existing sites to allow them to participate in the full program.
Education Intensive Program Prisons (EIPP)

The Education Intensive Program Prison (EIPP) started operations in January of 2005 at the North Central Correctional Institution (NCCI) located in Marion, Ohio and at the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW) in Marysville, Ohio. Soon after the Northeast Pre-Release Center (NEPRC) opened in June of 2005. Through June 2006, a total of 325 offenders have successfully completed the E.I.P.P. Program resulting in a 97.5% reentry success rate.

\[\text{\bullet NCCI (male) IPP} = 224 \text{ completers, 8 returned to DRC resulting in a 96\% reentry success rate.}\]
\[\text{\bullet ORW (female) IPP} = 67 \text{ completers, 0 returned to DRC resulting in a 100\% reentry success rate.}\]
\[\text{\bullet NEPRC (female) IPP} = 34 \text{ completers. 0 returned to DRC resulting in a 100\% reentry success rate.}\]

Education IPP is a result of the evolution of the BOOT CAMP IPP programs originated at Camp Reams (SCI) and Camp Meridian (ORW) in the early 1990’s.

The goal of the Education Intensive Program is to provide educational skill development in both the academic and vocational areas for inmates who have been identified as IPP eligible, and assessed as having a need for education in order to succeed outside of prison.

The intensive Education IPP has been designed to include the following components: academic programing, whether at the Adult Basic education, GED level or Post Secondary readiness; Career-Technical programming (C-Tech cabling); Release Preparation and Employment Readiness; Character Education, values clarification and behavior modification; Community Service; and other appropriate programming which will benefit the inmate.

Upon completion of the Education IPP program, the offender is better equipped to return to his or her community. EIPP offers the students a myriad tools designed to help them find and keep a living wage job, thus becoming an asset to their communities and families.
Teacher of the Year

Each year the Ohio Chapter of the Correctional Education Association (CEA-O) sponsors the Teacher of the Year Award Ceremony. Nominations for the CEA-O Teacher of the Year are received from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC); Department of Youth Services (DYS); Ohio jails; Community Based Correctional Facilities (CBCF), and participating universities and colleges. The five highest scoring nominees become semi-finalists. An interview panel then questions each of the semi-finalists who, at that time, may provide a short presentation of his or her particular education program.

The semi-finalists and the winner are announced at the annual CEA-O Teacher of the Year event. This year the CEA-O Fall Conference was held in Westlake, Ohio. The conference was titled, Hope, Opportunity, Pride, and Education. The Teacher of the Year awards ceremony took place on September 29th, during the luncheon.

The Ohio Central School System (OCSS) is proud to announce David Mielke, as the CEA-O Teacher of the Year award recipient. Mr. Mielke has a varied educational and professional background. In 1960, Dave entered Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota, majoring in Biology, and in 1964, graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree. He then entered the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri, to attend graduate school in Medical Microbiology. However, after a semester's study, Dave decided the "laboratory life" was not suited for him. After much reflection, he realized that he needed to direct his life toward personal involvement with other people in a helping type of relationship. Therefore, in 1965, Dave applied to Boston University (B.U.) and was admitted to the School of Theology. While at the university, he worked as an assistant minister at a church in an urban section of Boston. In May of 1968, Dave graduated from B.U. with the Master of Divinity Degree. At that point in time, he had an opportunity for employment at a half-way house for ex-inmates of correctional institutions in Massachusetts, and was appointed manager of the first federal credit union specifically created to work with ex-offenders.

After leaving Boston, Dave and his family moved to western Massachusetts, and he entered graduate school in education, earning a Master of Education Degree in 1973 from the University of Massachusetts. Subsequent to this graduation, Dave was employed as an elementary school teacher until 1984, when he became involved in textbook editing for various publishers. This endeavor became a career opportunity in Columbus, Ohio.

Dave’s family moved to Columbus in 1984, as he accepted full-time employment with Merrill Publishing Company in Westerville as a science textbook editor. In 1990, McGraw Hill acquired Merrill and with the downsizing that took place, he then worked at various temporary teaching positions until January 1993, when Dave was hired by DRC to work as a teacher at the Southeastern Correctional Institution. In 1994, Dave transferred to the Orient Correctional Institution as a teacher, and then in 1999, he became a Pre-Release Instructor at the Pickaway Correctional Institution (PCI) assisting inmates with issues that need to be addressed before they re-enter society. In 2003, Dave switched from his involvement with Pre-Release to that of classroom teacher, which is Dave's present assignment at PCI.
Book Donation Partnership

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) joined with the Columbus Public School System (CPS), the Columbus Rotary Club and Half-Price Books to start a new program in 2004, called “Books4Kids2Keep”. Recently, White Castle Systems joined the organization, as well as FirstLink. The purpose of this program was to create a partnership to get books into the hands of Columbus Public School students, with the remainder going to the state prison system.

The way the system works is, drivers from White Castle go to the various Half-Price Bookstores in the Central Ohio area and pick up books, then delivers them to CPS. In turn, CPS drivers, while delivering mail and supplies to certain area CPS buildings, also deliver boxes of books to the libraries. To date, appointed OCSS staff collect book donations from the Central Ohio area schools that CPS feel are better suited for ODRC. As a result of an article in the Columbus Dispatch, the program continues to grow as OCSS now picks up donations from citizens and libraries throughout Ohio and delivers them to ODRC institutions, community based correctional facilities, and the Library Services Office located in Orient, Ohio.

Institutional library personnel then review those books donated to their institutions, weed out inappropriate books, and add what’s left to their library collections and special population sections for inmate use. As a result of this partnership, over the past two years, ODRC has received close to $300,000 worth of donated books.
OCSS Audit Report

The Ohio Central School System has developed the Office of Quality to oversee the preparation and compliance of the Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions in the areas of Academic and Career Technical Educational Programming. This office was tasked to coordinate and complete auditing processes for each of the adult facilities within our system during the past year.

A licensed principal and a qualified educator visit each institution to evaluate compliance with both the ACA Standards and the Ohio Standards. These visits and assessments ensure the institutions Academic and Career Technical Programs are meeting the Ohio Department of Education Regulations as well as integrating programs relevant to the academic and vocational needs of the inmates.

These practices are to ensure employment skills and job readiness opportunities for all inmates. From assessment and evaluation to certification and licensure, the Office of Quality strives to enhance continuity of services to inmates served by the Ohio Central School System. The Ohio Central School System continued it's successful audit season with an average score of 98% from all institutions served.

The Ohio Central School System as of June 30, 2006

Central Office
Dr. Jerry McGlone, Superintendent
Denise Justice, Assistant Superintendent
Rod Francis, Operations Manager
Robin Long, Fiscal Officer
Jennifer Sanders, Academic Director
Anne Fornal, Career-Tech. Director
Brian Lee, Assistant Career Tech. Director
Amy Whitmore, Quality Assurance Director
Judy Drake, Quality Assurance Director
Dr. Celestina Ogbuehi, LPDC Director
Pam Cass, Library Administrator
Rich Ebin, Special Projects Coordinator
James Dixon, Release Prep Administrator
Melissa Peters, Office Manager
Dr. Alex Adusei, Distance Learning

Principals
Angela Adams, Shared Service Area I
George Moroschan, Shared Service Area II
Kimberly Chapman, Shared Service Area III
Betty Fogt, Shared Service Area IV
Karla Williams, Shared Service Area V
Linn Davey, Shared Service Area VI
Dr. Richard Jent, Shared Service Area VII
Dr. Cyriacus Ogbuehi, Shared Service Area VIII
Susan Phillians, Shared Service Area IX
Sare Kavak, Shared Service Area X
Ange Siemer, Shared Service Area XI
Dr. Leroy Davis, Shared Service Area XI
The Ohio Central School System, of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, was chartered through the Ohio State Board of Education on April 9, 1973. The purpose of the school system, as described in Revised Code 5145.06, is to “provide educational programs for prisoners to allow them to complete adult education courses, earn Ohio certificates of high school equivalence, or pursue vocational training.” The Ohio Central School System currently provides comprehensive educational programs and training in thirty-two adult prisons, and provides quality assurance for nineteen Community Based Correctional Facilities and two privately operated Correctional Facilities in the State of Ohio.