

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction



Ohio Central School System 2008 Annual Report



Ted Strickland
Governor

Jerry McGlone
Superintendent

Terry J. Collins
Director

2008 Career Passport Highlight

The Ohio Central School System is pleased to announce on behalf of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) an education highlight featuring Nettie Brown. Ms. Brown is a graduate of the Northeast Pre-Release Center (NEPRC) Robert S. Merrill School in Career-Technical Administrative Office Technology and an advocate for the Career Passport.



Billie Sexton, Nettie Brown, Jerry McGlone, and Denise Justice highlight her Career Passport at the NEPRC graduation.

According to Billie Sexton, Career-Technical Instructor, "Nettie had an abysmal self image and was convinced that she was unable to do much more than work in the fast food industry and boost merchandise from retail stores to make ends meet."

In 2007, Ms. Brown attended my Administrative Office Technology (AOT) class and completed the required 550 hours of coursework offered at



Billie Sexton and Nettie Brown.



Nettie Brown, NEPRC Graduate.

the NEPRC Robert S. Merrill School. During the eight months she was enrolled, there were many days she cried tears of frustration and many times she just threw up her hands and said she couldn't do the work. Nettie was never an "A" student, but she tried harder than any other student in the class. "Teaching is always rewarding, but having a successful student like Nettie Brown makes getting up at 5:30 a.m., five days a week, worth it.

After graduating, Nettie became an AOT tech aid until her release from NEPRC. Nettie's first job after her release was answering the telephone at a boxing club. That changed when she enrolled in Firelands College. She wanted to get into the college work program, but did not want to work in fast food as she had always done in the past. She showed her counselor her Career Passport from ODRC and was assigned a tutor position in the college computer lab. Ms. Brown will be a sophomore in college next month. She is currently going to school and working for Goodwill as a data entry operator.



Good Afternoon, Gentlemen, Staff, Guests and the Ohio Nursery and Landscaping Association (ONLA). My name is John Karcher.

I am honored to have been asked to be a part of this graduation ceremony. To all of you graduates, Congratulations! I myself am not jealous of you. I was not even jealous...not even when my dad finished fifth grade, a year before I did!

Some of you know me and some of you don't. Not too long ago, I was sitting where you are. I was released from the North Central Correctional Institution (NCCI) on September 20, 2006. It took me a few months to become acclimated into mainstream society again. But this happened. I want to stress today the importance of positive thinking and about never giving up. Through 13 years of incarceration, I never gave up. Was it easy...NO! Did I have ups and downs...MANY!

In 1999, I had a brother-in-law drown in the family swimming pool...In 2001, my mother passed away...Then, 4 months before my release, the house that I was to be released to, burned to the ground...Shaken, yes but never defeated.

After arriving at home, I began to apply for jobs and was hired by a large landscaping company in Northern Ohio. The owner said everyone deserves a second chance. Those of you who have attained the ONLA certification; I can't impress upon you how valuable they are. My employer, Damon Warstler, said that was the deciding factor on hiring me over 20 other applicants. Don't treat it as a piece of paper; it is actually a key to open many doors.

I know another landscaper who works for a competitor and the owner hired him over others because of the ONLA certification. In fact, the owner said he was so impressed because he (the owner) could not pass the ONLA tests.

Don't just learn the information for the tests...learn it so you can recall it. Believe me, when a customer asks a question about a plant or tree, you need to be able to respond correctly to the question. You are fortunate to have educators who care about you and what you learn. I want to personally thank Mrs. Guthrie and the Education Department for helping me to achieve the knowledge that I did.

Every February we have evaluations; the first February I was

with the company, I was given high marks for my knowledge, work ethics and positive attitude. This resulted in a raise and promotion. In March, I was bucked off a horse and broke my arm in two places and fractured a third bone. I worked with a cast on my arm for six weeks...never missing a day. My employer called me into the office at mid year and gave me another raise. This is not the normal policy of the company. He said this raise was given because I had showed enthusiasm, positive attitude, never complained and was never lazy. In reference to laziness, the laziest man I ever knew put popcorn in his pancakes so they would turn over themselves!!!! Now, that's lazy!! When I thanked my employer for the job and raises he said, "I only provided you the opportunity...you did the work."



John Karcher.

It is also good to be flexible. I have worked in all facets of the company, doing landscaping, hardscaping, waterscaping and lawn maintenance. The reason this is so good is that when one facet slows down, they ask me to go to one of the other side to help...resulting in more hours than you can imagine.

In my thoughts, the difference between can and cannot are only three letters that determine your life's direction. To think negatively is like taking a weakling drug. Positive thoughts are not enough...there has to be positive feelings and positive actions. It is a known physiological factor that when you say, "I can't," and expect the worst, you become weak and unhappy. When you say, "I can," and expect success, you find yourself with confidence and happiness.



From Left to Right; Damon Warstler, John Karcher and Shawn Warstler of Warstler Bros. Lanscaping.

Life is too short to wake up with regrets. So, love the people who treat you right. Forget about the ones who don't. Believe everything happens for a reason. If you get a second chance, grab it with both hands. If it changes your life, let it.

Nobody said life would be easy...they just promised it would be worth it. Life isn't about getting through the storms...it's about learning to dance in the rain!!!!

I will close and leave you with this thought: positive and negative are directions, which direction will you choose!!!!



GARY REECE



**FIRM CONVICTION PRESENTATIONS
AT PRISON GRADUATION CEREMONY**

In 1980, Gary Reece was sentenced to 70 years in prison for the brutal rape of a woman who lived near his apartment. By his own admission, he was a ne'er-do well, a slacker, an 11th grade drop-out.

After a life changing revelation, Mr. Reece went on to earn a high school diploma and a college degree. Along the way, he began tutoring other inmates and encouraging them to use their time in prison wisely.

"Gary Reece was the first person freed when students at the University of Cincinnati College of Law reviewed his high profile case and found overwhelming evidence that convinced the Ohio Parole Board to free him after 25 years in prison." -from *Blessed Conviction Audio Book (DVD jacket)*, by Gary Reece.



Gary Reece and Dr. McGlone outside prison after speaking engagement.



Mr. Reece is now the Employment Development Director at Jobs Plus in Over-the-Rhine, where he finds jobs for ex-cons fresh

out of prison and others with felony records. He also speaks for corporations, schools, and wherever groups need a motivational and inspirational message.

A Great Haircut Begins with a Good Barber

A great haircut begins with a good barber, and the Ohio Central School System (OCSS) of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) doesn't need to look too far to find great barbers who are trained from its Barbering Programs offered statewide. To see the success first hand, OCSS staff traveled to the Akron/Canton area to visit the graduates of the barbering programs from Richland Correctional Institution (RiCI) and North Central Correctional Institution (NCCI).

Mr. Kenneth McKinney enrolled in Harding Memorial Barber School at NCCI as an inmate-student in 1995, under the direction of barbering instructors Mr. Carl Witschi and Mr. George Allen. He laughingly stated, "It took me two hours to do my first haircut. Mr. Witschi had to check it six times." McKinney graduated from the program and received his state registered barber license in November 1997.



Mr. McKinney opening the door of the Barbershop for a client.

Upon receiving his state license, Mr. McKinney stated, "I was very proud of my accomplishment. I had achieved a valuable skill that would shape my future." After graduating he became a clerk for the barbering program. Mr. McKinney approached his new job assignment with the same determination and discipline that he had as a student in barbering school. He stated, "I wanted to show the instructors that I could be trusted with the responsibility of helping the program." McKinney did exactly that. He did what was expected of him, communicated well with other students, and remained professional in all duties.

In December of 1998, McKinney transferred to the RiCI Hope Valley Barber School where he became a program aide, often passing on other jobs because he wanted to keep himself and his skills sharp until his release. He was released from RiCI in March 2007. Two weeks after release he was hired as a part time barber at West Main Barbershop in Louisville, Ohio. Mr. McKinney laughs telling the story of the day he dropped off his resume to



Kenneth McKinney working with a client at the West Main Barbershop.

shop owner, Mr. Donald Myers. Mr. Meyers tested him on the spot by giving him a haircut to complete. Mr. Myers stated, "Anyone can look good on a resume, but can they do the job?" Within three months, McKinney was promoted to full time barber.

Mr. Myers stated that McKinney's criminal history was irrelevant in his decision to hire an ex-offender. He expects all staff to go above and beyond expectations in an effort to promote better customer service. Mr. Meyers believes in the philosophy of "better price, better value." That's why after every haircut, all staff are required to perform a shave around the ears using warm lather, apply hot steam towels, and gently message over the neck and shoulder area using a hand held massage unit. West Main Barbershop is a four-chair, full service shop that takes extra steps to retain customers.

Kenneth McKinney stated, "I can't thank Don enough for giving me a chance...[and he hopes others will]... get to know me for who I am, not for what I've done in my past." McKinney has shown excitement, enthusiasm, and dedication to the barbering profession, and he continues to set goals for his future. Mr. Meyers and Mr. McKinney are giving back to the community as well. The Barbershop is working in collaboration with the Stark City Jail with low risk offenders in alcohol and drug treatment programs by offering haircut services to the offenders enrolled in that program.



Joe Lewis & Solomon Stallings with clients at Knock Out Kutz.





Joe Lewis and his father pictured outside Knock Out Kutz.

Mr. Joe Lewis, a graduate of the Richland Correctional Intuition (RiCI) Hope Valley Barber School, is a success story in the making. He graduated from the barbering program in December 2007 and was released in May 2008. With the support of family members, Lewis is now a shop owner. He purchased a small two chair barber shop in Akron and currently employs Mr. Solomon Stallings, an ex-offender from Belmont Correctional Institution.

Lewis's family has roots in the hair industry; both of his parents were licensed beauticians, "This is all I've done since I was 13 years old, this is my passion in life." Mr. Lewis has big ideas, including a plan to incorporate a boxing sport theme into the atmosphere of his shop. Lewis currently offers incentives to customers for their



Terrell Brown, Anthony Humphrey and Adrian Culler (owner).

repeat business to his shop. Lewis's goals are not only to be satisfied with what he has presently achieved, but also with what successes future holds for him.



Not too far away another success story can be told; The Culler's Barber Shop & Supply is off to a successful start. Mr. Adrian Culler,

owner of the barbershop, has recently hired two ex-offenders from RiCI. Mr. Terrell Brown and Mr. Anthony Humphrey have been employed at the shop since their release.

They are working full time at a job that they love. All the barbers have a bright future ahead of them. Anything is possible with a little hard work and determination...and a big desire to improve. Best of Luck to them all!



The Culler's Barber Shop & Supply.



Claudia Glenn

Claudia Glenn completed the Transitional Education Program (TEP) in June 2005 while at Lucas County Correctional Treatment Facility. After her release, Claudia found employment at a social service agency as an employment counselor assisting ex-offenders. Claudia stated that

the skills she acquired from TEP not only aided her with employment, but also provided her skills that she shares with clients to aid in their employment search. Claudia continues to be successful and currently works at a community center. Her goal is to someday open her own social service agency for ex-offenders.

Re-entry really means “Going Home to Stay” for two former students of the Ohio Central School System (OCSS). Brad Barron and David Dodd are business partners who started the SINCERE Home Improvement Company in 2007 using skills they acquired through OCSS programs.

Barron is a graduate of the Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) program at Dayton Correctional Institution (DCI), and Dodd is a completer in the Advanced Job Program Training program at London Correctional Institution. Together, they feel that those programs provided them with the skills and motivation that enabled them to start their own business.

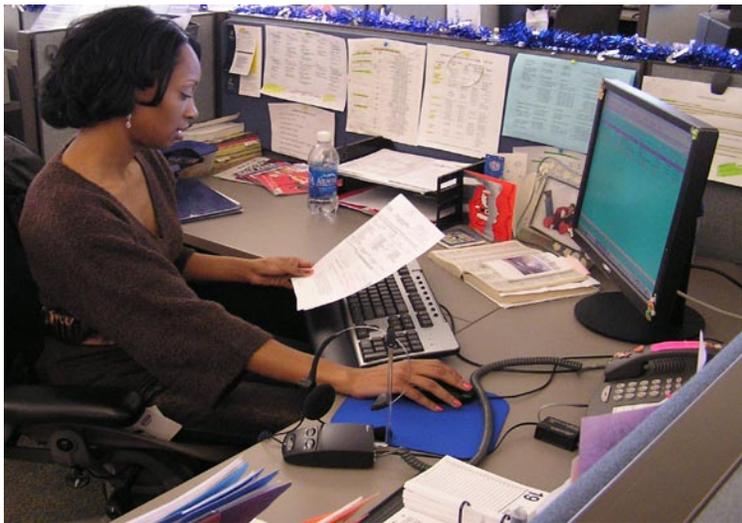
Barron states, “I made some mistakes early during the startup by not spending my money right but learned to reinvest what I made back into the business. We didn’t have a loan, but [we] used what we had available to complete the jobs and then purchased supplies for future jobs.”



Brad Barron and David Dodd.

Barron and Dodd’s five man crew complete a variety of home improvement work, to include: siding, doors, windows, painting, HVAC, roofing, and room additions. Barron’s company has been very busy since the recent windstorm. His five-year plan is to expand his business in Dayton and surrounding areas. He is currently in negotiations with a local restaurant chain to provide HVAC maintenance services.

Barron feels that the curriculum at DCI has been very instrumental in his success. He stresses the importance of students learning all they can while enrolled in the programs available at the institution. He sees the benefits of what he learned, and he uses those skills in his daily operations.



Michelle Johnson.

Michelle Johnson graduated from the Transitional Education Program (TEP) at the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW) in the spring of 2005. She was released shortly afterwards; Michelle sent the following email to TEP Instructor Lorain Ciminillo:

Hello Mrs. Ciminillo,

I was made a job offer today! I am so excited! It was very hard work. I used everything you and Ms. Baker taught me in the TEP class. I job searched about 40 hours a week or more, as if I was working a job. I just want to thank you personally for everything that you’ve done for me, all the resources. I am so exhausted from

interviewing, sending out my resume, filling out applications, etc...

Ms. Baker mentioned me coming back to ORW to talk to her next TEP class, or being at one of the sights, (like how Junior Brown and that lady spoke to our class). That would be really great if that could be arranged. I would be more than happy to do that. The program really does work!

If there is something I could do for you all, maybe write a letter or call someone (your bosses?) to let them I know that the program works if the individual is willing.

I will talk to you again real soon. It’s late; I’m just getting in from an interview and testing...

Michelle Johnson

Michelle was featured in the April 2007 edition of Corrections Today. She was hired as a Call Center Agent at a hospital in a large Ohio city. Michelle contacted the Ohio Central School System after the article was published and was delighted to report that she had been offered a promotion. Good work, Michelle!





Curtis as a student with the First Lady.

When the judge sentenced me to four years, the feeling was indescribable; but I was determined to turn the negative reality of prison into something positive. It wasn't easy, but anything in life worth

having never is easy. I was assigned to the Pickaway Correctional Institution (PCI) and participated in a variety of self-help programs there. I knew I was never coming back to prison, and, with all the programs that I was involved in, I had the tools stay out. A year and a half into my sentence, I got the opportunity to transfer to the Montgomery Education and Pre-Release Center (MEPRC) in Dayton to attend the Advanced Job Training program there for Computer Aided Design & Drafting (CADD) so that when I was released I would have a skill to find work. When I finished that I transferred back to the PCI to be closer to my daughters, which gave me the opportunity to work at the Governor's Residence as a Horticulture Apprentice. When that happened, I was like, wow! After all I've been through, I get to meet the Governor and First Lady! I used all that I learned from the programs I'd taken and had pride and quality in everything I did at the Residence because to me it was a privilege to get the opportunity to work here. The First Lady [in partnership with the Ohio Central School System and Community Connections, Inc.] started the Transitional Education Program (TEP) for the apprentices who worked at the Residence to help them prepare for life after prison. Junior Brown is the TEP counselor who helps the apprentices and has a class with them every Friday. Even though I was only an apprentice for five months, I was allowed



Curtis with Governor and First Lady.



Superintendent and Curtis with his students.

Always Stay Positive No Matter What

by: Curtis Carter



to take the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association (ONLA) certification test for Landscaping and passed with a 92. Once I was released from prison, I continued to volunteer at the Residence whenever there were events. I was also attending Columbus State Community College full-time for Mechanical Engineering. Like I said, it wasn't easy, but I wasn't going to give up. Then, during final exams of the spring quarter, I received a call from Julie Stone saying that she had a job for me because I had mentioned to her that I was going to start attending school part-time so I could get a job. When I got back in touch with Julie, she offered me a Supervisor job at the Residence. I've been pinching myself ever since. I know that this was all made possible through the grace of God, Governor Ted Strickland, First Lady Frances Strickland, Julie Stone, and many others.



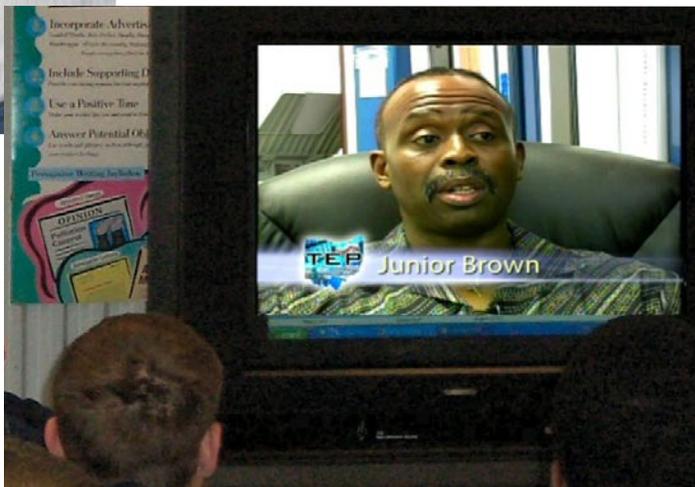


Jr. Brown with Governor Ted Strickland.

In 2007, the Transitional Education Program (TEP) began reentry programming to serve the inmates who work as Horticulture Apprentices at Governor Strickland's Residence. TEP uses a multi-format approach to provide offenders with the knowledge and skills to assist them in a smooth transition back home after release. During their incarceration, TEP students engage in computer-based modules and facilitator-led lessons addressing job search, basic personal finances, goal setting, and other post-release issues. Students also develop a resume and cover letter to use in their job searches. After release, TEP students are provided with an email and web account which provides them the opportunity to post and update the resumes and cover letters they developed during the TEP class. They also have access to a "virtual" case manager via email and a 1-800 telephone number who will assist in a variety of post-release issues.

TEP at the Governor's residence is facilitated by Robert "Junior" Brown, Case Manager at Community Connection's Columbus Reentry Service Center. At age 21, Junior entered the Ohio prison system with a life sentence and a fifth grade education. With the assistance of the Ohio Central School System (OCSS), he earned his GED and went on to earn degrees (under the Pell grant) from the University of Findlay in Psychology and Sociology. Junior also became a certified Laubach tutor so he could help other inmate-students to achieve their educational goals. Junior is one of OCSS's most accomplished and acknowledged alumni.

Junior assists the apprentices at the Governor's Residence with developing life and employment skills training as well as assisting them in locating housing and educational opportunities for their transition into their respective communities. Ten inmates have graduated from TEP since the program began, and more are working hard to achieve the same goals.



Jr. Brown teaching TEP online.



The end result; Jr. with former student, now alumnus Curtis Carter and four current students at the Residence.



The Ohio Central School System (OCSS) is honored to feature Kristin Guthrie, the past Region III Correctional Education Association Teacher of the Year (TOY). Ms. Guthrie is a Career-Technical Instructor for the North Central Correctional Institution (NCCI), in Marion, Ohio, where she teaches Horticulture, Turf Management & Landscaping.

Kris has worked over eight years as a correctional educator and was highly recommended by her peers and administrators as an outstanding teacher and humanitarian who goes the extra mile to provide her students with the knowledge, skills, and tools to help them reenter society prepared for success. Ms. Guthrie began her career in correctional education at the Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility.

In 2003, she embraced a new position with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) and OCSS. With regards to Kris's teaching philosophy, she states, "I have had the greatest success with the hands-on discovery methods of teaching, along with the variety of educational procedures I have fine-tuned during my 18 years of teaching." One of her greatest success stories highlights the 69 Master Certified Technicians she helped to prepare, utilizing the standards set forth by OCSS and the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association (ONLA). The efforts of Kris and her students resulted in a 95 percent passage rate achieved by students who have worked in her classes and taken the ONLA tests to become certified nursery technicians. OCSS is also pleased to report that this passing rate is far above average throughout the state.

Ms. Guthrie utilizes cooperative learning crews to layout, design, cultivate, maintain, and manage the landscaping for the institution and the various community service projects. She explains that the entire class landscapes the 76 acre NCCI compound. As a result of the class effort, over 20 projects have been designed and implemented in the last few years. These class projects include landscaping the State Highway Patrol Post in Marion County, landscaping the newly built Ridgemont High School in Hardin County, growing seedlings for the Ohio Department of Transportation, and providing plants to decorate graduation ceremonies and banquets for the institution. In addition, the class developed a community service garden that provides produce for three shelters, two soup kitchens, the Salvation Army, Turning Point (a women & children's shelter serving six counties), and the Meals-On-Wheels program.



Kristin Guthrie, OCSS Horticulture Instructor, pictured with students working in the NCCI community garden.

The NCCI Horticulture department accumulates over 3000 pounds of food produce in three months every year. Kris states, "The goal is to develop a team atmosphere. I put the students in a situation that simulates a real life work environment, and all of these projects give the students different aspects of the industry." Ms. Guthrie frequently hears from former students who call NCCI to report that they have found jobs in landscaping and nurseries. Her continued tracking reports disclose that more than 50 percent of her former students are employed in the industry, with some individuals becoming team leaders or holding supervisory positions. According to Kris, many of the students report that the education and certification they received at NCCI helped them to get a foot in the door for an interview, but it was up to them to get hired and to keep the job.



OHIO CENTRAL SCHOOL SYSTEM 2008 Teacher of the Year

Michael D. Peck, Special Education Instructor

The Ohio Central School System (OCSS) is honored to announce Michael D. Peck as the 2008 Correctional Education Association Teacher of the Year (TOY). Mr. Peck is the Special Education Instructor for the Clearview School located on the grounds of the Ohio Reformatory of Women (ORW).



Michael Peck, CEA-O Teacher of the Year.

Michael has worked for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) for eight years. In the fall of 2000, Michael began his career as a correctional educator at the Madison Correctional Institution (MaCI) as the physical education and health instructor. In 2002, he became the Special Education teacher for the London Correctional Institution (LoCI), MaCI, and the Alum Creek Community Based Correctional Facility (CBCF). In 2006, Michael transferred to Marysville, Ohio to become the Regional Special Education teacher for the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW) and Lebanon Correctional Institution (LeCI). Mr. Peck has also provided Special Education services to MonDay Community Correctional Institution, North West CBCF, STAR Community Justice Center, West Central Community Correctional Facility, Western Ohio Regional Treatment & Habilitation (WORTH) Center, and SEPTA Correctional Facility.

Michael's dedication to his students and community are demonstrated by his active membership in various professional organizations, including the Correctional Education Association (CEA), Charter Member of the International Association of Reentry, Irlene screener certified, and emergency situation committee member of the Union County American Red Cross. Professionally, Michael has also been recognized as a highly qualified teacher by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) in

2006 in the areas of reading and mathematics; he received the Beverly Jo Taylor award from CEA in 2005, additionally, he was a finalist in 2007 for Teacher of the Year. Michael is currently working on his principal's license at Ashland University and is always planning his next creative lesson.

Michael D. Peck began his career in education at Cedarville University with a physical education K-12 certification in the spring of 1994. He married his best friend, Jennifer, and now is the father of three sons and one daughter. Michael is an active father and community provider. He likes to dance with his tiny dancer at her dance recitals and to hike the Camp Otter Run trail with his cub scouts. At the age of 17, his community service commitment began in the summer 1989 at a camp for troubled kids in Fairhaven, Maine. There he served as an instructor of horse care and riding, a head lifeguard, and a high ropes instructor. Today, Michael continues that community service commitment by serving on the Union County board of Red Cross in disaster services, Water Safety Instruction, and First Aid; and as a volunteer AED instructor. During his time at the Union County board of Developmental Disabilities, Michael became involved with hospice care for families of children with special needs, as well as serving as the assistant head coach for the Union County Cougars Adult Special Olympics team. When asked about any regrets he might have, Michael indicated that he wished he had pursued serving our county in some military capacity, but he strives to be an avid patriot in other ways. He serves on the Fourth Degree Honor Guard of the Knights of Columbus council 2727 in various funerals and parades, as well as standing on the pitchers mound at Cooper Stadium as the flag bearer for special events.



Michael Peck teaches for the ORW Clearview School.



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 various institutions throughout ODRC, The Department of Youth Services (DYS), Ohio jails, CBCFs, and participating universities and colleges. The nomination forms are then rated in areas of experience, contributions to teaching and education in corrections, professional development, philosophy, and presentation of the application. The five highest scoring nominees become semi-finalists, all vying for the honor of Teacher of the Year (TOY). The five finalists are then interviewed and may provide a short presentation of their programs.

The Department's Ohio Central School System has a strong history of award winning staff.

Listed below are the past CEA-O Teacher of the Year award recipients:

1977-Roy Aeh, Southern Ohio Correctional Facility *	1993-George Armbruster, Ross Correctional Institution *
1978-Chaudrhy Arshad, Lebanon Correctional Institution *	1994-Jonathan Baker, Pickaway Correctional Institution
1979-Don Alley, Marion Correctional Institution *	1995-Kathey Roberts, Franklin Pre-Release Center
1980-No Regional Conference	1996-Rebecca Brunotte, Ohio Reformatory for Women *
1981-Bob Bott, London Correctional Institution	1997-Rebecca Brown, Madison Correctional Institution
1982-Surjeet Bilkhu, Lebanon Correctional Institution	1998-Beth Oehler, Hocking Correctional Facility
1983-Richard Evans, Chillicothe Correctional Institution *	1999-Francis Sollie, Pickaway Correctional Institution *
1984-Andy Braunstein, Ohio State Reformatory *	2000-Misha Boyer, Lima Correctional Institution *
1985-Betty J. Fogt, Ohio Reformatory for Women *	2001-Joan Pierce, Montgomery Education Pre-Release Center
1986-Norm Rose, Pickaway Correctional Institution	2002-Rhonda L. Grys, Richland Correctional Institution *
1987-Susan (Meffley) Nell, Lima Correctional Institution	2003-Leslie A. Quinn, London Correctional Institution
1988-Pat Crouthers, Ohio State Reformatory	2004 Jonathan Barrett, Marion Correctional Institution
1989-Pat Morganti, Department of Youth Services *	2005-David Mielke, Pickaway Correctional Institution
1990-Deborah Hempy, Madison Correctional Institution *	2006-Michael Frazier, Richland Correctional Institution
1991-Carol Dlwgosh, Pickaway Correctional Institution *	2007-Kristin Guthrie, North Central Correctional Institution *
1992-Kim Beasley, Lima Correctional Institution	2008-Michael Peck, Ohio Reformatory for Women

* Denotes Region III Teacher of the Year (TOY)

After confirming with CEA-O, the Ohio Central School System is now reporting the year in which the Teacher of the Year was selected instead of the year in which they serve.



Thanks In this, my 25th and final Annual Report as Superintendent of the Ohio Central School System, I wish to thank the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC.) You have given me the opportunity to serve as a correctional teacher, administrator and superintendent. DRC has enabled me to make a difference; for this, I will be eternally grateful. During my reflection of the past 35 years, I have analyzed my memories, thoughts and philosophy of Correctional Education. I would like to share these in this report.

First, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the many professional educators and colleagues I have had the honor and pleasure of meeting and working with along my journey. Your expertise and knowledge have been essential to our students in their pursuit of educational achievement and quest to become law-abiding citizens. The camaraderie of the staff over the years will always be cherished and all will be greatly missed.

Most importantly, however, I want to express my acknowledgment and appreciation to the students. Many of these men and women may not have had the opportunity for an education. Countless students have benefited during their time with us and later used their earned educational skills as a significant tool to successfully transition to productive members of society. To these students, whom we are here to serve, I am proud that I have had an impact on their lives.

The following two paragraphs epitomize my lasting impression as a teacher and serve as the foundation for my philosophy of Correctional Education. The first paragraph is my introductory experience with criminal justice as a teacher of juveniles. The next paragraph reflects on my initial observations as a teacher with adults in the prison environment.

While I was in graduate school, I had the opportunity to work with juvenile offenders in Kentucky. For the first time in my life, I was exposed to the ills of society. I wanted to know everything about my students, but what I found was alarming. There were, and still are, an abundance of hurdles these children face. It was then that I realized what a small, naive world I had lived in. I soon found that a majority of these children could not read on or even near grade level – what an eye-opener to me and an injustice to them. These are the children who “slipped through the cracks” and possibly ended up adjudicated as a result of their failures in school. After witnessing this firsthand, I knew the true enemy I must fight – illiteracy! Illiteracy is a major indicator of societal problems and possibly one of the reasons for the path these children had chosen in life. On the positive side, I knew I could help through teaching these children reading and basic math skills. Before completing my graduate studies, many students had learned to read and 11 had earned their GED. This was and, upon reflection, still is a great feeling of accomplishment and joy.

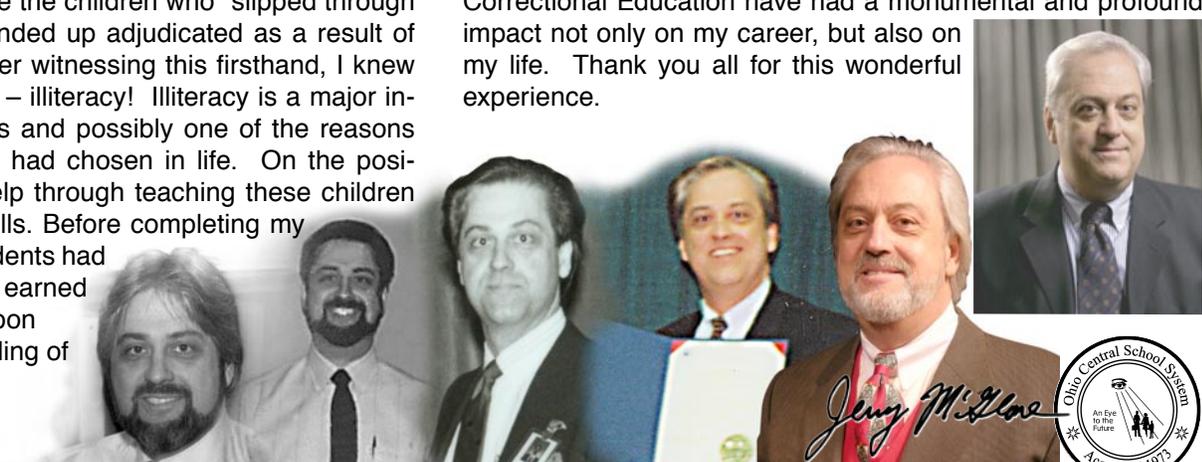
I moved on to the adult correctional system in Ohio after graduation from college. My good fortune continued and I was able to assist older students acquire literacy skills. For the first time, many of these men read newspapers, magazines and/or books, thus gaining a sense of autonomy. The self-respect they gained proved to be a motivating internal freedom. For my first students in particular, I have lasting pride. These men broke the chains of illiteracy and possibly the viscous cycle of crime that had plagued their long lives. Many left prison proudly carrying their first books with them. To my knowledge, no one from this group of men has returned to the correctional system. This is proof that literacy training greatly reduces recidivism at any age.

We do not live in a perfect world. Did some of our students fail after their return to society? Certainly, some have. But I have chosen to take stock in and have great hope for the many who have succeeded. Numerous former students have approached me “on the street” simply to say, “Hello,” or thank me for the time I spent with them as a teacher and advocate.

The Ohio Central School System (OCSS) is a national benchmark for Correctional Education. This report, however, is ultimately about the success of our students. We provide the tools and skills, but they have to put them to use. I believe most of our students want to start life anew and leave the negativity of their past behind; research has demonstrated that if given the opportunity, they are able to achieve this goal.

The sampling of OCSS alumni listed on the previous pages is testament to the goal of Correctional Education. I have chosen not to use the long tenured success stories for this report. Their past has transpired over such a long period of time that it is no longer relevant and does not need to be revisited. Thus, the OCSS alumni illuminated on these pages have been released from one to five years. However, I have no doubt that they will also have long and prosperous journeys in life.

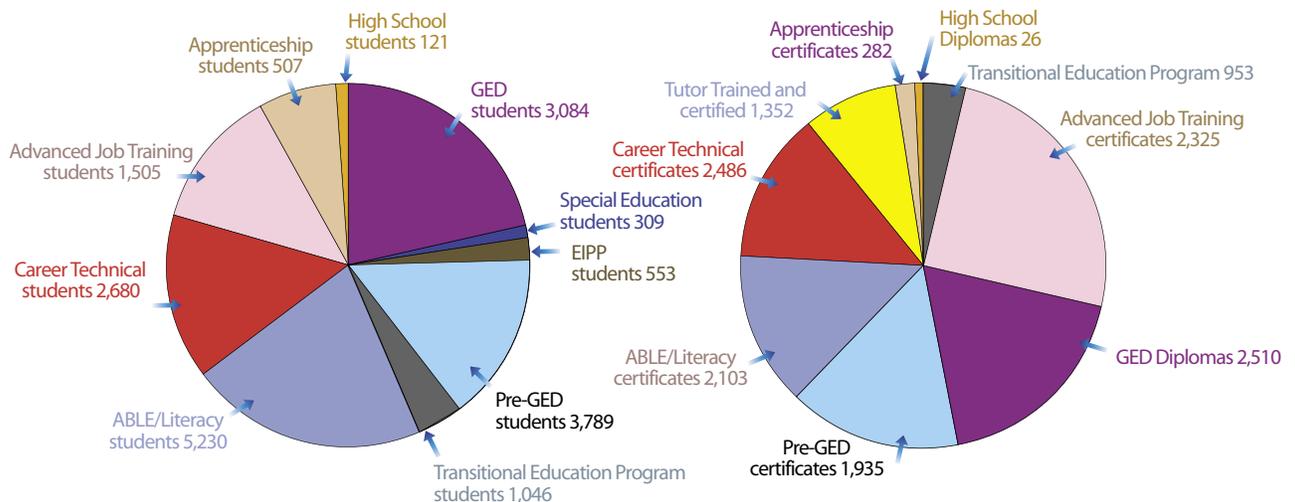
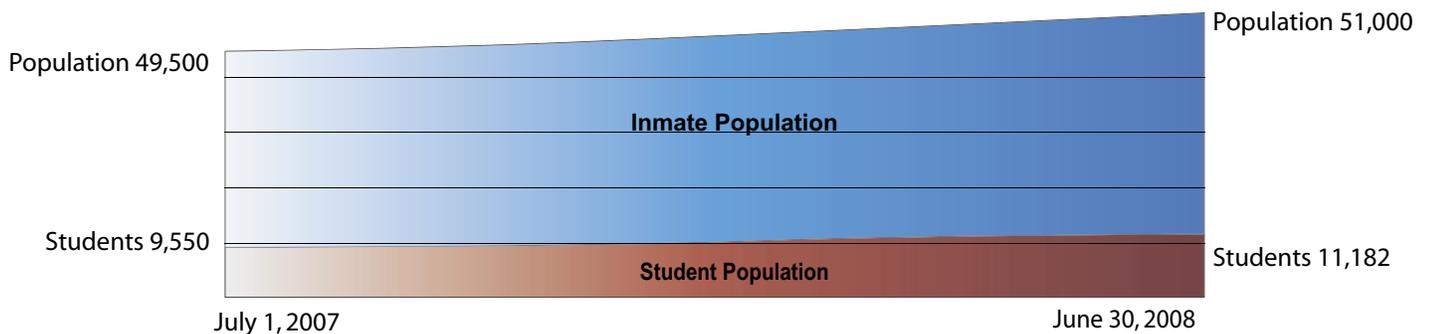
In summary, my glass is not just half full - my career has enabled it to be as full as possible. I could not ask for anything more. Some 30-plus years ago I do not think I truly appreciated how much my Correctional Education career would mean to me. The students, colleagues and employers involved with Correctional Education have had a monumental and profound impact not only on my career, but also on my life. Thank you all for this wonderful experience.



OCSS Fiscal Year 2008 Statistics

The Ohio Central School System is pleased to announce, on behalf of the Department, the cumulative enrollment figures for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 which totaled 30,006. This includes 18,824 students served during the Fiscal Year and 11,182 students still enrolled. In this Fiscal Year 13,972 certificates were earned by our students. The average monthly attendance for the beginning of the Fiscal Year was 9,550 students (24% of the inmate population). At the end Fiscal Year 2008 the enrollment of 11,182 was 22% of the inmate population. This percentage in average monthly attendance of students can be attributed to a shift to shorter term programs to offset the impact of budget reductions and the subsequent loss of teaching positions.

OCSS reported serving over 45,811 children in the Reading Rooms located in the DRC visiting areas. There have been eight Jumpy Books published for the DRC Jumpy the Kangaroo Family Literacy Initiative, with over 46,000 copies distributed statewide. In addition, our partnership with Crayons to Computers, the greater Cincinnati free store for teachers, has enabled us to distribute over 22,000 literacy booklets to children in visiting rooms statewide.



Students Served in Fiscal Year 2008 = 18,824

Total Students Certified by OCSS = 13,972





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. We continue to provide quality reviews for eighteen Community Based Correctional Facilities, the Hamilton County Justice Center, the privately operated Northeastern Ohio Correctional Center and five Community Learning Centers.



WE'RE ON THE WEB!
[HTTP://WWW.DRC.OHIO.GOV](http://www.drc.ohio.gov)

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Office of Prisons
Dr. Jerry McGlone, Superintendent
1580 St. Rt. 56 London, Ohio 43140
Phone: 740-845-3132
Fax: 740-845-3387
Email: Jerry.McGlone@odrc.state.oh.us