The Ohio Central School System Welcomes New Superintendent

The Ohio Central School System (OCSS) is pleased to announce that the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) named Denise L. Justice as the new OCSS Superintendent. DRC welcomed Mrs. Justice to the podium on October 11, 2009. Denise brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position, having worked for correctional education since 1980 as a teacher, prerelease instructor, school administrator, principal, academic director and as the Assistant Superintendent for over six years. Mrs. Justice is now the 5th Ohio Central School System Superintendent and replaces Dr. Jerry McGlone, who served as the DRC correctional education Superintendent since 1984.

Superintendent Justice is currently finishing her post-graduate work at the Ohio State University in Educational Leadership. She received her Bachelor's degree from Ohio Northern University and a Master's degree from the Ohio State University.

Mrs. Justice is a member of several educational associations and committees, including serving as the current President of the Correctional Education Association (CEA), a professional association serving educators and administrators who provide services to students in correctional settings. With almost 30 years experience in the field Denise’s appointment assures DRC a smooth administrative transition for the nationally recognized education department.

The DRC Ohio Central School System was chartered through the Ohio State Board of Education on April 9, 1973. Since that time, OCSS staff continues to take great pride in providing one of the nation’s most comprehensive offender education programs. As Superintendent, Denise L. Justice will lead the state’s correctional education program from the department’s OCSS Training and Education Center (TEC) located in London, Ohio.

The superintendent's duties include administering the department’s education budget with areas of responsibility encompassing fiscal and budget operations, professional licensure, grants, policy, supervision, academic curriculum, career-technical (vocational) development, special education, library services, professional development, planning, organizing, directing, counseling, transitional programming and several other areas of management encompassing the field of correctional education.

As the superintendent of schools, Mrs. Justice works hard to institute effective statewide education priorities and has authority to establish standards for educational services to ensure program compliance with state and federal regulations for the benefit of the state-operated prisons, stakeholders, agency partners and ultimately the citizens of Ohio.

Congratulations Superintendent Justice and welcome.
From the desk of the Ohio Central School System Superintendent...

In this, my first Annual Report as Superintendent, I am proud to have the opportunity to present for the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction the Ohio Central School System (OCSS) Annual Report. The Ohio Central School System is a vital team member in the department’s goal to return offenders to our communities better prepared for reentry with increased education and employable skills. Through the efforts, expertise and knowledge of our staff, our students have an opportunity to become productive citizens.

From my perspective, the Ohio Central School System maintains its reputation as a benchmark for the nation in Correctional Education. We continue on the cutting edge with our Career Enhancement, Youthful Offender Apprenticeship and CEA Peer Literacy Tutor programming.

And yet it is the day-to-day basics in Literacy, GED, and Career-Technical education that we do best and that other correctional education systems use as a benchmark for “Best Practices”. Ohio is at or near the top in the country with the number of students earning certificates of completion in Academic, Career-Tech, Apprenticeship and Advanced Job Training. The number of completions is a testament to the hard work of the staff and students of the Ohio Central School System.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the OCSS and DRC staff who have made possible the accomplishments we will be highlighting in our annual report. I am proud of what you have done for the students, whom we are here to serve. You have given them tools which they can use to make their lives more positive and productive.

“Practicing the 2 C’s: Communication and Collaboration” has become my adage over the last several years. The Ohio Central School System will continue to serve as a Best Practices Correctional Education system even in these budgetary times. We will continue to embrace the Reentry Philosophy. We will continue to seek out community partners so the programming we start on the inside can be finished or enhanced on the outside. The staff of the Ohio Central School System will continue to serve our students to the best of our ability for the betterment of the great State of Ohio.

The Ohio Central School System is pleased to announce, on behalf of the Department, the cumulative enrollment figures for fiscal year 2009 which totaled 32,678. This includes 22,069 students served during the fiscal year and 10,609 students still enrolled. In this fiscal year 17,714 certificates were earned by OCSS students. The average monthly attendance for the beginning of the fiscal year was 11,182 students (24% of the inmate population). At the end of fiscal year 2009 the enrollment of 10,609 was 22% of the inmate population. This decrease in average monthly attendance of over 500 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 45,408 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. 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.

Denise L. Justice

OCSS Fiscal Year 2009 Statistics

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For nearly 26 years Dr. McGlone led the Ohio Central School System from a small, fledgling correctional school district to a leader in cutting edge programming, while maintaining an emphasis on providing one of the nation’s greatest compilations of inmate programming opportunities. His focus was always on how the OCSS could prepare our students to be productive citizens when they reentered society.

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2009 Ohio Central School System

Annual Report

Career-Technical Program Certifications

The Ohio Central School System (OCSS) as part of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) offers 32 Career-Technical occupations through 100 programs statewide. Since OCSS is a chartered school system, these programs are approved and funded by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), Career and Technical Education Division established by ORC Chapter 3303. Similarly, all DRC Career-Technical teachers are certificated/licensed by ODE.

Upon entering the prison system, potential students who show an interest in career-technical education are assessed with Career Scope to determine their interests and abilities. They are then counseled as to the results of their assessment and informed about which career-technical programs match their results. Since students are assessed with Career Scope to determine their interests and abilities, they are then counseled as to the results of their assessment and informed about which career-technical programs match their results. Since OCSS is a chartered school system, these programs are approved and funded by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), Career and Technical Education Division established by ORC Chapter 3303. Similarly, all DRC Career-Technical teachers are certificated/licensed by ODE.

Program | Certification
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Administrative Office Technology (AOT) | Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS)
Automotive | Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)
Baking/ Food Service | ServSafe
Barbering | License by Ohio State Barber Board
Construction Trades: Construction Technology (Building Maintenance), Cabinet Making, Carpentry, Drywall, Masonry, Plumbing, Resilient Flooring, HVAC and Welding | National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCEER) plus a 30 hour Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) card
Heating, Ventilation and Air (HVAC) | Section 608 EPA Certification
Cosmetology | License by Ohio Board of Cosmetology
Horticulture | Certification through Ohio Certified Nursery Technician Ohio Nursery/Landscape Association (ONLA)
Power Equipment Technology | Equipment and Engine Training Council (EETC)
Welding | American Welding Society (AWS)

The Career Enhancement program is not a traditional education program. Instead, the system becomes an educational institute to serve short-term offenders. The Career Enhancement programs are offered every five weeks (or twice per quarter) and are first offered to short-term offenders falling in the 91-365 day range. The modules offered each quarter are designed to provide employment readiness skills that can either stand alone or may build on skills developed in earlier modules. Program participants are able to participate in Career Enhancement programming in the afternoon and have the ability to address other program needs in the morning and evening hours. These CE programs are delivered by existing education staff, including career technical instructors, academic teachers and other education staff as deemed necessary.

• 6,578 students participated in Career Enhancement programs in FY2009.
• 5,638 students achieved Career Enhancement certificates in FY2009.
• 86% Completion Rate in FY2009.

Future of Career Enhancement
The Ohio Central School System has ongoing plans to develop Career Enhancement programs for academic teachers in the near future as well. Past spring, an academic teacher developed and implemented a CE program as a pilot and the feedback has been very positive. The Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and the Ohio Central School System will continue to transform programs to meet the needs of the students.

Franklin Pre-Release Center Career-Technical Drafting Program

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Upon release, a career passport is prepared for each career-technical completer. The career passport contains any certificates or licenses that the student achieved including a certificate of completion from the DRC Ohio Central School System. Also included is an official transcript from OCSS, a resume, a list of competencies achieved and a letter from the Career-Technical Director which explains the documents. This passport is then sent home so the ex-offender can use it to show potential employers what skills they have acquired and how much they have achieved.

Ohio Central School System

Congratulates All 2009 Graduates
The story of Amy Detlor is an example of how we, as educators can change the lives of the students and keep a positive outlook. Amy Detlor is a feel-good success story for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. Amy, like many high school students of today, experimented with recreational drugs. This led her on a self-destructive pathway that culminated with her being sentenced to prison in June 2004, at the young age of twenty years old. Instead of bemoaning the fact that she was in prison, Amy took control of her situation and with a positive outlook learned from her experience.

Amy was able to get into the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW) Clearview School Horticulture program in February 2005 and quickly mastered the material and became one of the top students in the class. She exhibited many of the employment skills needed in the workforce while at ORW, including good communication with coworkers, proper appearance, promptness, and a positive outlook.

Amy accomplished many things while in the Ohio Central School System (OCSS) Horticulture program as she advanced from a student, to an aide, and to an apprentice. She passed all three of the state ONLA (Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association) certification tests which immediately benefitted her upon release. Amy was hired on the first interview at Smith’s Gardens, a wholesale perennial nursery near Delaware, Ohio. Ken Smith, the owner of the nursery, later commented that Amy’s ONLA certifications and her ability to identify plants were the main factors in her hiring. Amy excelled at her new job and later in the year was promoted to a management position. Ken has been very pleased with his decision to hire an ex-offender and commented that in his business there are opportunities for hard working individuals with a solid horticultural background to excel and advance, regardless of past mistakes.

Amy has shared her positive approach and her success story to fellow offenders by speaking at the ORW Spring Graduation. Amy also shared her experiences at a meeting of the Muirfield Garden Club, whose members have served on the Advisory Committee for Mr. Weibel. In the fall of 2009, Amy was the keynote speaker at the Correctional Education Association (CEA) Conference in Dayton, Ohio. She continued to show her professionalism and communication skills during the speech and following panel discussion.

Amy’s story provides an example of how education can help to change lives. Education can and does transform the prison experience. Amy Detlor is a feel-good success story. The story of Amy Detlor is an example of how we, as educators can change the lives of the students and keep a positive outlook.
Western Reserve School Plumbing Apprenticeship Highlights

Under the supervision of Greg Shaheen, the Western Reserve School plumbing apprentices provide a valuable service to the Department of Corrections and have saved the Trumbull Correctional Institution (TCI) thousands of dollars in labor costs.

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Shawnee Branch – In Memory of Justin Hunter

Justin Hunter was a Title One Teacher for the Ohio Central School System. He worked for the Shawnee Branch, on the grounds of the Pickaway Correctional Institution (PCI), when his career and life was unexpectedly cut short. He passed away at his home in the fall. Mr. Hunter graduated from Gahanna Lincoln High School in 1997 and Wilmington College of Ohio in 2001. He was a proud member of the Pickaway Correctional Institution Hostage Negotiation Team, a wrestling coach at Finland Middle School, a husband and father of two.

Justin was a quality instructor and a team player as he supervised the student computer lab and the Shawnee Branch distance learning videoconference lab, oversaw the STRIVE program and assisted with the department's Reentry programming. Mr. Hunter was an integral part of the PCI teaching staff. He was an instrumental part of all the General Educational Development (GED) testing done at PCI. He helped with all the Pre-GED testing done in the computer aided instructional laboratories.

During the time period from June until his passing, PCI produced 56 GED graduates with Justin's extra effort. Due to the state fee waiver crisis in September, Justin had the student computer lab open five days a week for Pre-GED testing, in an attempt to qualify students before the August deadline. Justin was well liked and respected by the PCI inmates. He dealt mainly with the under 22 students, and ran the Youthful Offender Program. The PCI inmate Jaycees program collected $1,000 from inmates for the Justin Hunter Scholarship Award and a plaque to give to Justin's wife to honor his hard work and dedication. Mr. Justin P. Hunter was an asset to the Ohio Central School System and he will be greatly missed.

Fallen Timbers Branch Power Equipment Technology Program

The Fallen Timbers Branch Power Equipment Technology students at Allen Correctional Institution (ACI) are studying hard to become Power Equipment Technicians. These future technicians are training to work in shops that sell and repair items like lawn mowers, tillers, string trimmers, snow throwers, chain saws and garden tractors.

Since 1989 the student inmates have been able to volunteer for the facility's Power Equipment Technology (PET) Program, an intensive, year long career development program. This program is under the tutelage of Vocational Instructor Joseph Wahrer. While the Ohio Central School System's (OCSS) state accredited program is complex, its goal is simple: to prepare inmates for gainful employment once they regain their freedom and reenter their prospective communities.

Eighteen students are currently enrolled in the program, which is divided into eight study modules. These modules address a wide variety of subjects beginning with an Introduction to the Industry and Shop Safety. From there, students advance through classes on topics including metric madness, precision measuring, fasteners, tools and equipment, electronics, carburetion, and tires wheels and brakes. During each module, students are assigned various tasks to perform at their own pace. Once a module tasks are completed, students are tested and must show proficiency before moving on to the next module.

Students who successfully work through the modules are then given hands-on training working on ACI staff's personal power equipment. Mr. Wahrer emphasizes, “It is truly a WIN – WIN situation for both the staff and the students.” He continues, “The students learn to deal with real-world customers and real-world equipment problems.”

One project in particular was a RACING GO KART PROJECT that the students prepared on a weekly basis for a young aspiring female racer to race each week. Mr. Wahrer said the students learned so much from that project that it was immeasurable. He said with the rules and regulations of racing we had to double think everything we did on a daily basis...we went from getting lapped in six laps the first week to finally finishing second in a race at the end of the year. She was flying that night and was pushing the first place kart across the line. It was like winning the world championship for me as an instructor, knowing my students made that happen!

Some years ago Mr. Wahrer learned about the Equipment & Engine Training Council (EETC) and immediately wanted the ACI PET Program accredited. He said, “this professional, nationally recognized and industry supported organization is just what he was looking for.” He continued, “The EETC provides the student with practical, industry approved set of standards, to include subject content, hands-on experience, and...
the assurance that he as an instructor has some national recognized technical competence.” Mr. Wahrer is EETC Certified in five of the six areas and is working on his last certification.

While being interviewed Instructor Wahrer said he wanted to acknowledge that without his local advisory committee members the Fallen Timbers Branch PET program would not be what it is today. For example, ACI recently held the yearly Joint Advisory Meeting during the Annual Job Fair and six of the members attended the Job Fair to interview the inmates. Wahrer mentioned he has invited numerous guest speakers to the event over the years, like Team Harley Davidson, Tom Falcon of Falcon Engineering. Joe said, “Oregon Cutting Systems Service School, and Tech Tire Corp did a Service Repair Schools as well. Mr. Wahrer said, “both of those Service Schools Tested and Certified all his students.” He added, “it just doesn’t get much better than that...to have Factor Representatives Testing your students!”

Ohio Central School System Library Services Section Book Donations for 2008-2009

As of July 1, 2009, 18 of 31 ODRC institutions reported that they received book donations for the fiscal year 2008-2009 (38,979 books were donated, valued at $194,895). A majority of the donations came from community resources, such as estate clearances and homeowner relocations. St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church-Columbus and Upper Arlington Public Library were also major donation resources. ODRC Libraries in the outing areas of the state were able to get donations from their local public libraries looking to clear out donations they had received from their communities as well as weeding their own collections. Waldenbooks and Half Price Books as well as other local bookstores made donations to ODRC libraries as well.

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Donations were also received from a program promoting the Bill Cosby book, Come On, People! in which the authors urge struggling African American communities to “get on the path from victims to victors” by taking responsibility for their lives and their communities. Nobel Correctional Institution and Richland Correctional Institution agreed to try to have book discussion groups using the 100 donated copies of the book.

When contacted by the public offering donations, the Ohio Central School System provides a memo describing the donation process and encourages them to consider where their donations are most likely to go. Donations are not refused. Most materials go towards supporting special populations in the institutions: those inmates who cannot go to the library for a variety of reasons (illness, disciplinary measures, RTU, security status, etc.).

Ohio Central School System

DRC and DYS Teachers Recognized!
The Correctional Education Association of Ohio (CEAO) sponsors a Teacher of the Year Award contest annually. The winner of the contest is announced at the Fall Conference. Individuals eligible to win the award must be CEAO members and must spend at least 51% of their time teaching in a correctional setting. Nominations are received from the Ohio Department of Youth Services and the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. During the selection process, five finalists are chosen. From the five finalists, a winner is selected. This year the five finalists were, Vicki Gingas, horticulture teacher at Madison Correctional Institution; Raymond Joyal, math teacher at Louis Bromfield High School (Minnesota in April 2010. The Runner-Up for the 2009 Teacher of the Year was Vicki Gingas from the Madison Correctional Institution. Both of these teachers represent the best that correctional education has to offer!
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The Fallen Timbers Branch Power Equipment Technology students at Allen Correctional Institution (ACI) are studying hard to become Power Equipment Technicians. These future technicians are training to work in shops that sell and repair items like lawn mowers, tillers, string trimmers, snow throwers, chain saws and garden tractors.

Since 1989 the student inmates have been able to volunteer for the facility’s Power Equipment Technology (PET) Program, an intensive, year long career development program. This program is under the tutelage of Vocational Instructor Joseph Wahrer. While the Ohio Central School System’s (OCSS) state-accredited program is complex, its goal is simple: to prepare inmates for gainful employment once they regain their freedom and reenter their prospective communities.

Eighteen students are currently enrolled in the program, which is divided into eight study modules. These modules address a wide variety of subjects beginning with an Introduction to the Industry and Shop Safety. From there, students advance through classes on topics including metric madness, precision measuring, fasteners, tools and equipment, electronics, carburetion, and tires wheels and brakes. During each module, students are assigned various tasks to perform at their own pace. Once a module tasks are completed, students are tested and must show proficiency before moving on to the next module.

Students who successfully work through the modules are then given hands-on training working on ACI staff’s personal power equipment. Mr. Wahrer emphasizes, “It is truly a WIN – WIN situation for both the staff and the students.” He continues, “The students learn to deal with real-world customers and real-world equipment problems.”

One project in particular was a RACING GO KART PROJECT that the students prepared on a weekly basis for a young aspiring female racer to race each week. Mr. Wahrer said the students learned so much from that project that it was immeasurable. He said with the rules and regulations of racing we had to double think everything we did on a daily basis...we went from getting lapped in six laps the first week to finally finishing second in a race at the end of the year. She was flying that night and was pushing the first place kart across the line. It was like winning the world championship for me as an instructor, knowing my students made that happen!

Some years ago Mr. Wahrer learned about the Equipment & Engine Training Council (EETC) and immediately wanted the ACI PET Program accredited. He said, “this professional, nationally recognized and industry supported organization is just what he was looking for.” He continued, “The EETC provides the student with practical, industry approved set of standards, to include subject content, hands-on experience, and..."
The story of Amy Detlor is an example of how we, as educators can change the lives of the students and keep a positive outlook. Amy Detlor is a feel-good success story for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. Amy, like many high school students of today, experimented with recreational drugs. This led her on a self-destructive pathway that culminated with her being sentenced to prison in June 2004, at the young age of twenty years old. Instead of bemoaning the fact that she was in prison, Amy took control of her situation and with a positive outlook learned from her experience.

Amy was able to get into the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW) Clearview School Horticulture program in February 2005 and quickly mastered the material and became one of the top students in the class. She exhibited many of the employment skills needed in the workforce while at ORW, including good communication with coworkers, proper appearance, promptness, and a positive outlook.

Amy accomplished many things while in the Ohio Central School System (OCSS) Horticulture program as she advanced from a student, to an aide, and to an apprentice. She passed all three of the state ONLA (Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association) certification tests which immediately benefited her upon release. Amy was hired on the first interview at Smith's Gardens, a wholesale perennial nursery near Delaware, Ohio. Ken Smith, the owner of the nursery, later commented that Amy’s ONLA certifications and her ability to identify plants were the main factors in her hiring. Amy excelled at her new job and later in the year was promoted to a management position. Ken has been very pleased with his decision to hire an ex-offender and commented that in his business there are opportunities for hard working individuals with a solid horticultural background to excel and advance, regardless of past mistakes.

Amy has shared her positive approach and her success story to fellow offenders by speaking at the ORW Spring Graduation. Amy also shared her experiences at a meeting of the Murfield Garden Club, whose members have served on the Advisory Committee for Mr. Weibel. In the fall of 2009, Amy was the keynote speaker at the Correctional Education Association (CEA) Conference in Dayton, Ohio. She continued to show her professionalism and communication skills during the speech and following panel discussion.

Amy’s story provides an example of how education can help to change lives. Education can 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 *
1978-Chaudhry Arshad, Lebanon Correctional Institution *
1979-Don Alley, Marion Correctional Institution *
1980-No Regional Conference
1981-Bob Bott, London Correctional Institution
1982-Surjeet Bilkhu, Lebanon Correctional Institution
1983-Richard Evans, Chillicothe Correctional Institution *
1984-Andy Braunstein, Ohio State Reformatory *
1985-Betty J. Fogt, Ohio Reformatory for Women *
1986-Norm Rose, Pickaway Correctional Institution
1987-Susan (Meffley) Neil, Lima Correctional Institution
1988-Pat Crouthers, Ohio State Reformatory
1989-Pat Morganti, Department of Youth Services *
1990-Deborah Hempy, Madison Correctional Institution *
1991-Carol Diwogsh, Pickaway Correctional Institution *
1992-Kim Beasley, Lima Correctional Institution
1993-George Armbuster, Ross Correctional Institution *
1994-Jonathan Baker, Pickaway Correctional Institution
1995-Kathery Roberts, Franklin Pre-Release Center
1996-Rebecca Brunotte, Ohio Reformatory for Women *
1997-Thomas Brown, Madison Correctional Institution
1998-Beth Oehler, Hocking Correctional Facility
1999-Francis Sollie, Pickaway Correctional Institution *
2000-Misha Boyer, Lima Correctional Institution *
2001-Joan Pierce, Montgomery Education Pre-Release Center
2002-Rhonda L. Grys, Richland Correctional Institution *
2003-Leonard A. Quinn, London Correctional Institution
2004-Jonathan Barrett, Marion Correctional Institution
2005-David Mielke, Pickaway Correctional Institution
2006-Michael Frazier, Richland Correctional Institution
2007-Kristin Guthrie, North Central 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.
Career-Technical Program Certifications

The Ohio Central School System (OCSS) offers programs and services that are approved by the Department of Education (ODE) and the Ohio Central School System (OCSS). These programs are designed to prepare students for careers in a variety of fields. OCSS offers programs in the following areas:

- Administrative Office Technology (AOT)
- Automotive
- Baking / Food Service
- Barbering
- Construction Trades: Construction Technology (Building Maintenance), Cabinet Making, Carpentry, Drywall, Masonry, Plumbing, Resilient Flooring, HVAC and Welding
- Cosmetology
- Horticulture
- Power Equipment Technology
- Welding

These programs are designed to provide students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in their chosen careers. Students are assessed with Career Scope to determine their interests and abilities, and are then counseled as to the results of their assessments so that they can be placed in programming that meet their needs.

All career-technical programs that can be licensed by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) offer these assessments to the students so that they are prepared to take the state or national assessments. Upon passing the assessment, the certificates or licenses are received and filed so that they can be included in the student's career passport:

- Administrative Office Technology (AOT)
- Automotive
- Baking / Food Service
- Barbering
- Construction Trades: Construction Technology (Building Maintenance), Cabinet Making, Carpentry, Drywall, Masonry, Plumbing, Resilient Flooring, HVAC and Welding
- Cosmetology
- Horticulture
- Power Equipment Technology
- Welding

Upon release, a career passport is prepared for each career-technical completer. The career passport contains any certificates or licenses that the student achieved including a certificate of completion from the ODRC Ohio Central School System. It also includes an official transcript from OCSS, a resume, a list of competencies achieved and a letter from the Career-Technical Director which explains the documents. This passport is then sent home so the ex-offender can use it to show potential employers what skills they have acquired and how much they have achieved.

Future of Career Enhancement

The Ohio Central School System has ongoing plans to develop Career Enhancement programs for academic teachers in the near future as well. This past spring, an academic teacher developed and implemented a CE program as a pilot and the feedback has been very positive. The Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and the Ohio Central School System will continue to transform programs to meet the needs of the students.

On July 1, 2008, the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, along with the Ohio Central School System implemented Career Enhancement (CE) Programs statewide. The following bullet points contain a short description of this program concept and data collected from the first year of implementation. (July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009).

- 6,578 students participated in Career Enhancement programs in FY2009.
- 5,638 students achieved Career Enhancement certificates in FY2009.
- 86% Completion Rate in FY2009.

Congratulations All 2009 Graduates

The Career Enhancement program is not a traditional education program. Instead, the system becomes an educational institute to serve short-term offenders. The Career Enhancement programs are offered every five weeks (or twice per quarter) and are first offered to short-term offenders falling in the 91-365 day range. The modules offered each quarter are designed to provide employment readiness skills that can either stand alone, or may build on skills developed in earlier modules. Program participants are able to participate in Career Enhancement programming in the afternoon and have the ability to address other program needs in the morning and evening hours. These CE programs are delivered by existing education staff, including career technical instructors, academic teachers and other education staff as deemed necessary.
Ohio Central School System

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

In this, my first Annual Report as Superintendent, I am proud to have the opportunity to present for the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction the Ohio Central School System (OCSS) Annual Report. The Ohio Central School System is a vital team member in the Department’s goal to return offenders to our communities better prepared for reentry with increased education and employable skills. Through the efforts, expertise and knowledge of our staff, our students have an opportunity to become productive citizens.

From my perspective, the Ohio Central School System maintains its reputation as a benchmark for the nation in Correctional Education. We continue on the cutting edge with our Career Enhancement, Youthful Offender Apprenticeship and CEA Peer Literacy Tutor programming.

And yet it is the day-to-day basics in Literacy, GED, and Career-Tech education that we do best and that other correctional education systems use as a benchmark for “Best Practices”. Ohio is at or near the top in the country with the number of students earning certificates of completion in Academic, Career-Tech, Apprenticeship and Job Training. The number of completions is a testament to the hard work of the staff and students of the Ohio Central School System.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge our previous Superintendent Dr. Jerry McGlone. For nearly 26 years Dr. McGlone led the Ohio Central School System from a small, fledgling correctional school district to a leader in cutting edge programming, while maintaining an emphasis on providing one of the nation’s greatest compilations of inmate programming opportunities. His focus was always on how the OCSS could prepare our students to be productive citizens when they reentered society.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the OCSS and DRC staff who have made possible the accomplishments we will be highlighting in our annual report. I am proud of what you have done for the students, whom we are here to serve. You have given them tools which they can use to make their lives more positive and productive.

“Practicing the 2 C’s: Communication and Collaboration” has become my adage over the last several years. The Ohio Central School System will continue to serve as a Best Practices Correctional Education system even in these budgetary times. We will continue to embrace the Reentry Philosophy. We will continue to seek out community partners so the programming we start on the inside can be finished or enhanced on the outside. The staff of the Ohio Central School System will continue to serve our students to the best of our ability for the betterment of the great State of Ohio.

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Denise L. Justice

The Ohio Central School System is pleased to announce, on behalf of the Department, the cumulative enrollment figures for fiscal year 2009 which totaled 32,678. This includes 22,069 students served during the fiscal year and 10,609 students still enrolled. In this fiscal year, 17,714 certificates were earned by OCSS students. The average monthly attendance for the beginning of the fiscal year was 11,182 students (24% of the inmate population). At the end of the fiscal year 2009 the enrollment of 10,609 was 22% of the inmate population. This decrease in average monthly attendance of over 500 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 45,408 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. In addition, our partnership with Crayons to Computers, the greater Cincinnati free store for teachers, has enabled us to distribute over 20,000 literacy books to children in visiting rooms statewide.

2009 Annual Report

OCSS Fiscal Year 2009 Statistics

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* *Students Served in Fiscal Year 2009 = 22,069
* *Total Students Certified by OCSS = 17,714

*The addition of the Career Enhancement modules has increased opportunities for inmate students to achieve specific skills sets in a short amount of time. The successful completion of these modules is reflected in these numbers.
The Ohio Central School System Welcomes New Superintendent

The Ohio Central School System (OCSS) is pleased to announce that the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) named Denise L. Justice as the new OCSS Superintendent. DRC welcomed Mrs. Justice to the podium on October 11, 2009. Denise brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position, having worked for correctional education since 1980 as a teacher, pre-release instructor, school administrator, principal, academic director and as the Assistant Superintendent for over six years. Mrs. Justice is now the 5th Ohio Central School System Superintendent and replaces Dr. Jerry McGlone, who served as the DRC correctional education Superintendent since 1984.

Superintendent Justice is currently finishing her post-graduate work at the Ohio State University in Educational Leadership. She received her Bachelor's degree from Ohio Northern University and a Master's degree from the Ohio State University.

Mrs. Justice is a member of several educational associations and committees, including serving as the current President of the Correctional Education Association (CEA), a professional association serving educators and administrators who provide services to students in correctional settings. With almost 30 years experience in the field Denise's appointment assures DRC a smooth administrative transition for the nationally recognized education department.

The DRC Ohio Central School System was chartered through the Ohio State Board of Education on April 9, 1973. Since that time, OCSS staff continues to take great pride in providing one of the nation's most comprehensive offender education programs. As Superintendent, Denise L. Justice will lead the state's correctional education program from the department's OCSS Training and Education Center (TEC) located in London, Ohio.

The superintendent's duties include administering the department's education budget with areas of responsibility encompassing fiscal and budget operations, professional licensure, grants, policy, supervision, academic curriculum, career-technical (vocational) development, special education, library services, professional development, planning, organizing, directing, counseling, transitional programming and several other areas of management encompassing the field of correctional education. As the superintendent of schools, Mrs. Justice works hard to institute effective state-wide education priorities and has authority to establish standards for educational services to ensure program compliance with state and federal regulations for the benefit of the state-operated prisons, stakeholders, agency partners and ultimately the citizens of Ohio.

Congratulations Superintendent Justice and welcome.