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-one* adult prisons, which includes two privately operated institutions. We continue to provide quality reviews for Nineteen Community Based Correctional Facilities, the Hamilton County Justice Center.

* Dayton Correctional Institution and the Montgomery Education and Pre-Release were consolidated into one facility.

Denise L. Justice

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

The Ohio Central School System (OCSS) continues to provide quality educational experiences as a vital re-entry team player for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC). Although the budget is tighter than ever, OCSS has teamed together at new levels to improve communication, collaboration, and consensus as OCSS partners with department colleagues and the community to offer cutting-edge programming that is not only fiscally conscious and provides a cost-savings for DRC but also creatively improves and increases services to the prison population. OCSS licensed instructors are professional leaders providing quality education and resources to help the offender successfully transition back into Ohio neighborhoods.

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. The main goal is to increase the number of education program completers. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 which started July 1, 2009 and concluded on June 30, 2010, many program highlights and leaders evolved. Director Mohr believes, "At any time anyone can be the most important person in any organization." The OCSS Philosophy is "Here to Serve," in support of assisting the Director’s Wildly Important Goal (WIG) to reduce the prison population to 48,000 by July 1, 2013 DRC colleagues team to improve services. As a result of the effort, OCSS implemented action steps with the FY 2010 Strategic Plan to recognize exemplary teaching, highlight programs and provide quality services.

A survey was used to develop the goals for the OCSS FY 2010 Strategic Plan. Consensus collected from the field established the 2 C’s Committee which was created to improve communication and collaboration within the Ohio Central School System. Committee results established a system to utilize existing tools and resources to improve communication statewide.

The Fast Track GED program has become a popular tool to quickly prepare students for the GED exam while Character First was added to the academic curriculum to encourage successful educational experiences for improving test scores and transitional preparation supporting the DRC reentry initiative.

Career-Technical (Vocational) Education has evolved into the virtual realm to educate and certify participants. Virtual welders, and a first in the nation, virtual painting programs offer students the opportunity to participate in new educational experiences.

Library Services expanded and is reaching new heights in the area of patron training and service. A Library Science Technology Act (LSTA) Grant was obtained in cooperation with the State Library of Ohio to standardize a system of operation to provide an up-to-date system to train, coordinate, search, and share information system-wide. A few DRC administrators and certified librarians teamed to update DRC libraries to the 21st Century which will also improve patron skill level and ability to function in society upon release. The prison library system will now be compatible with the public library setup so utilization of continued resources is streamlined. Another advantage of the new system is that it is a cost savings for DRC that will also improve both staff and patron training and support while also advancing program services for the department at several levels.

The Ohio Central School System administration operates as a support center to the field and works hard to establish standards and provides quality educational services to those under DRC supervision. The department appreciates the commitment and dedication provided by OCSS as we continue to excel as recognized leaders in the field of correctional education.

Sincerely,
Pamela Sutton, ACI Employee of the Year

Pamela Sutton was selected by her peers as the Allen Correctional Institution (ACI) 2010 Employee of the Year. Ms. Sutton was hired as a Teacher in 1996 at ACI. She works with mental health students, and developmentally disabled students. She has taught Pre-GED and GED classes. She is currently teaching Adult Basic Education in ACI’s literacy unit.

Ms. Sutton works as a Professor for the University of Findlay. She is a member of the Hostage Negotiation Team, and is a participant in the Residential Transitional Mentoring Program. She has served as a Pathwise Mentor and Praxis assessor. Ms. Sutton is a dependable hardworking employee, who represents ACI well as the 2010 Employee of the Year.

Teachers Recognized for Exemplary Teaching!

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 were 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 five finalists were recognized. From the five finalists, a winner is selected.

This year the following five finalists were recognized. From the five finalists, a winner is selected. This year's CEAO Teacher of the Year winner was Mary Latorre from Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility. Mary will represent CEAO at the Region III Conference competition to be held in Ekhart Lake, Wisconsin in May 2011. The runner-up for the 2010 Teacher of the Year was Leslie Scheper from Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility. Both of these teachers represent the best that correctional education has to offer!

OCSS Fiscal Year 2010 Statistics

The Ohio Central School System is pleased to announce, on behalf of the Department, the cumulative enrollment figures for fiscal year 2010 which totaled 22,432 students served during this fiscal year. In this fiscal year 17,246 certificates were earned by Ohio Central School System students.

To date, eight Jumpy Books have been published for the DRC Jumpy the Kangaroo Family Literacy Initiative, with over 46,000 copies distributed. In addition, our partnership with Crayons to Computers, the greater Cincinnati free store for teachers, has enabled us to distribute over 25,000 children’s books to our reading rooms. The Ohio Central School System also supplied paper, crayons and art supplies to the reading rooms.

Students Served by Ohio Central School System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Students Served</th>
<th>Certificates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-GED</td>
<td>2,677 Students</td>
<td>912 Cert.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GED</td>
<td>3,653 Students</td>
<td>1,661 Cert.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Career Enhancement</td>
<td>1,018 Students</td>
<td>596 Cert.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TEP</td>
<td>594 Students</td>
<td>224 Cert.</td>
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<tr>
<td>EIPP</td>
<td>262 Students</td>
<td>198 Cert.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>1,412 Students</td>
<td>1,412 Cert.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Technical</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting / ABLE</td>
<td>3,155 Students</td>
<td>1,912 Cert.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Job Training</td>
<td>3,946 Students</td>
<td>1,479 Cert.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education / Title One</td>
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Total Students Certified by OCSS Fiscal Year 2010 = 17,246

OCSS reported serving over 42,000 children in the Reading Rooms located in the DRC visiting areas.
In the modern age, they are encouraged to reenter. The goal is for prisoners to leave behind the criminal life and contribute to society. Since 1973, the state has offered Ohio inmates educational opportunities at each of its facilities. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's Ohio Central School System serves adult learners. The Ohio Department of Youth Services’ Buckeye United School District serves youth from 10–21 who have committed felonies.

Programs range from literacy, General Education Development (GED) and high school, to skilled trades, to hobbies and crafts. Ohio State began the career and technical licensure program for aspiring prison instructors in 1974. It is a part-time, 40-hour sequence. “The corrections program is unique,” says Susan Nell ('77) of Lima, Ohio, a career and technical teacher educator at Ohio State since 1988. “Our teachers are in a nontraditional arena that requires a special set of skills. The college’s so-called ‘Route B’ licensure is a model for the country because it gives teachers those skills and increases the quality of instruction in correctional institutions.” Because of the workforce development and education program's success, the Home Builders Institute, a long-time partner with the college, invited Chris Zirkle, associate professor, and Nell to provide professional development sessions in Virginia in June. For two days, they worked with 30 construction technology instructors employed by the Virginia Department of Corrections. “It was very successful,” Zirkle said. Why do experienced professionals choose to teach convicted criminals? Nell, who taught culinary arts at Lima Correctional Institution before joining Ohio State, gave a compelling reason: altruism. “This is a population starved for attention; they need someone to give them time,” she said with passion. “Along the line, somebody failed them. They became ‘that kid,’ the one who eventually devolved into breaking the law. ‘Life is passing them by while they are in here,’ said Amanda Crist, who teaches office and computer technology to those students. “I interviewed and it felt so right.”

George Allen’s program at Richland also rigorously follows industry requirements such as the Ohio Barber Board’s 1,800 hours of training. His 20 students perform 100 haircuts every day, all a variation on the “medium sideburn taper fade.” Each year, board examiners come to Mansfield to test candidates from five correctional institutions in Richland’s state-of-the-art, 18-chair shop. Barbering is one of the best programs, Allen said. “You leave with a license, jobs are easy to get, and you can be very successful.”

The Ohio Central School System annual report for 2008 recounts the success of his student, Kenneth McKinney. Released from Richland in 2007, McKinney was promptly hired part time at a shop in Louisville, Ohio. Within three months, he was promoted to full-time barber. Other teachers recall former students who now rehab buildings or started their own landscaping companies. “These people need someone to say, ‘You are worth the effort’,” Nell said. Social responsibility urges us to improve the welfare of inmates. The United Nations calls education in America’s juvenile and criminal justice systems “a fundamental human right.” There also is a very practical reason to make the effort: it pays off. A U.S. Department of Education study showed that for every government dollar spent on education for inmates, two dollars are saved because those students did not come back. Crist said of her teenagers, “I don’t pretend that all will be secretaries or office managers. But I try to give them life skills—how to work with people on the job, how to be polite, how to show up on time, how to ask questions—those kinds of transferrable skills. “If they can’t earn an honest living, they aren’t going to succeed for very long.”

In my mom said I should turn over every rock,” she said. “My son was a Matters under the direction of teacher Jonathan Barrett produce pumpkins as a community service project. The process begins with the formation of potting containers made from newspapers. They are then filled with potting soil and seeds are planted. Several thousand of these containers are made. The students water and tend to the plants as they begin to germinate. Once the small plants become sturdy enough, they are moved to the field. The students can be seen at times in the field with hand hoes weeding the ground to eliminate weeds from taking over the plants. As the blooms begin to form, plants are inspected for any type of bug infestation and appropriate measures are taken to ensure the development of the pumpkin plants. As the plants begin to mature, students continue to monitor the progress to ensure the best possible field harvest of the pumpkins. After the pumpkins have matured, they are sorted by size. Most of the pumpkins are donated to organizations and groups for children. Some of the pumpkins are sold to staff as the proceeds are used to buy more seeds for the following year.

Staff members at MCI assist Jonathan Barrett with the delivery of the pumpkins. A total of 3,722 pumpkins were donated to these groups. Approximately 600 to 700 pumpkins were sold to staff members.
Mr. Hampton received his barber license in the spring of 2001 from the LoCI Buckeye Barber School. Shortly thereafter he was released and began a new journey working at a local barbershop in Cincinnati, Ohio. Mr. Hampton reports, “one year after that, with the help of my wife, we opened a barbershop in West Chester, yet, these accomplishments were only a stepping stone to my ultimate goal, the salon in West Chester, yet, these accomplishments helped us grow and continue to this day.”

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In a letter from the ODE Office of Career-Technical Education, the Director of the State Barber Board thanks the OCSs instructors for their help with Mr. Hampton. Mr. Warner states, “I know he worked at LoCI on a regular basis leading up to his instructor’s license.” He continues, “Your high level of service to Rodrigus Hampton, your students, your institution, and the taxpayers of Ohio is greatly appreciated.” Due to your dedication and commitment to the program, Mr. Hampton was prepared to test and now is very close to his goals being realized. The success story, according to Mr. Warner, is unlike any other in history. It reflects well on you, your institution, the Ohio Central School System, and the Ohio Department or Rehabilitation and Correction.

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In a letter from the ODE Office of Career-Technical Education, the Director of the State Barber Board thanks the OCSs instructors for their help with Mr. Hampton. Mr. Warner states, “I know he worked at LoCI on a regular basis leading up to his instructor’s license.” He continues, “Your high level of service to Rodrigus Hampton, your students, your institution, and the taxpayers of Ohio is greatly appreciated.” Due to your dedication and commitment to the program, Mr. Hampton was prepared to test and now is very close to his goals being realized. The success story, according to Mr. Warner, is unlike any other in history. It reflects well on you, your institution, the Ohio Central School System, and the Ohio Department or Rehabilitation and Correction.

From left to right: Mr. Ed Highley, Mr. Jerald Bell, Mr. Rodrigus Hampton, Ms. Betty Crawford, Mr. Howard Warner, and Mrs. Kimberly Chapman

The Western Reserve School TCI Handyman’s Workshop

The Trumbull Correctional Institution (TCI) Western Reserve School is pleased to recognize Mr. Greg Shaheen, TCI Maintenance Department Plumber, for his role in developing and instructing the very popular and successful Handyman’s Workshop. Mr. Shaheen is a licensed master plumber, state certified hydraulics technician and federally licensed universal refrigeration technician; and every Friday afternoon he provides participants with the current trade information as he reviews the skills necessary to succeed and invites field professionals from the surrounding community to share real life experiences of the trade.

The Handyman’s workshop outlines the basic understanding of plumbing trade which includes, but is not limited to, plumbing theory, Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) theory, tool identification and function, tool use, tool safety, basic framing and roof flashing. To further outline the program, each week the students watch a plumbing video on faucets. Next, Mr. Shaheen adds his real world experience to the video’s topic and provides further in-depth information using the actual object highlighted in the video. Students are then given a review packet that covers the topic discussed, and the following week the participants are tested to assess trade comprehension.

Western Reserve School students receive state certified apprenticeship hours as they work toward becoming a state certified master plumber. To date, 37 inmates have graduated from the program. The Ohio Central School System acknowledges the time and extra effort Mr. Shaheen has given to the apprenticeship program and is pleased with his dedication and progress.

The Department’s Ohio Central School System (OCSS) is committed to serving the community and has a history of pulling resources to donate towards a wish list for those in need. This December OCSS faculty and staff presented a Wal-Mart gift card in the amount of $1,400.00 towards making the Christmas holiday a little brighter for 59 children in the care of Pickaway Job and Family Services/Pickaway Children’s Services.

School System donates to Children’s Services

Superintendent Denise L. Justice said, “I’m pleased to share the results of our charitable efforts.” Justice continues, “OCSS takes pride in helping others, and it is always great to see everyone take action and come together to make a significant impact in someone’s life”. Through a combination of Jeans Days, the Ohio Central School System Holiday Party, and the Silent Auction the staff gladly gave of their time and resources to benefit this worthy cause.
Ohio Central School System

Goose Hill Branch Plumbing Apprenticeship Coordinator

The Toledo Correctional Institution (ToCI) Goose Hill Branch is very proud to have Plumber Bob Buchelt as a part of the ToCI Apprenticeship team. Mr. Buchelt has 24 years of plumbing experience. He is licensed in the State of Ohio in Plumbing, Backflow and Fire Sprinklers. He came to ToCI in October of 2007 and has been involved in the Plumbing Apprenticeship Program since October of 2008.

Mr. Buchelt has two goals. One is to become a practitioner in his apprenticeship program and the other goal is to become a Plumbing Career-Technical teacher. That way he can teach more people about plumbing.

There are two sayings that sum up Mr. Buchelt. “Plumbing is not what I do, it’s who I am” and “The only thing I like doing better than plumbing, is talking about plumbing.”

ORW Collects School Supplies for those in Need

The Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW) participated in the annual United Way of Union County School Supply Drive between July 19th and August 6th. Collection boxes were placed in the Entrance Building for staff to make donations, and in the commissary so that inmates could donate as well. The school supplies will benefit the students of Marysville, Fairbanks, Jonathan Alder and North Union Schools. Items collected include cases of crayons, pencils, folders, notebooks, glue, scissors, markers, colored pencils and even backpacks.

Eligibility for participation in any of the programs requires that the inmate is between the ages of 18 and 24 upon entry and that the inmate has enough time to complete a year of apprenticeship while incarcerated. While a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED) diploma is preferred for enrollment, students can enroll in the DRC apprenticeship while they complete their GED in the academic classes provided at each institution. In addition, all enrolled students will participate in Job Skills Training and personal development classes with one of three sub grantees. In turn these same needs that require services upon release such as: medical, mental health, child care, transportation, housing and so on. When a need is identified, the sub grantee works with organizations that help the former inmate to be successful upon release.

ORW Construction Building Trades Apprenticeship Program.

Exceptional Exam Score

The Ohio Central School System (OCSS) is pleased to report that Mr. Howard Warner, Executive Director for the Ohio State Barber Board contacted Carl Witschi from the Richland Correctional Institution (RiCI) Hope Valley Barber School and informed the Career-Technical teacher that one of the OCSS students, Percy Cooper, tested for licensing in Columbus. There were 20 students tested which represented a cross-section of students from most of Ohio’s barber schools.

Mr. Warner stated that Mr. Cooper scored the highest score of all the testing candidates - the only candidate from the Ohio Central School System - and received 96% overall which is an exceptionally high score for a state board exam. We are very proud of Mr. Cooper’s efforts, and thank him for representing the RiCI Hope Valley Barber School in such a fine manner as he is now one of Ohio’s newest licensed barbers!
Apprenticeship Program

The Ohio Central School System within the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) offers the apprenticeship program in every institution within the correctional system. The apprenticeship programs within DRC are federally recognized through the Department of Labor and the Ohio State Apprenticeship Council. The prisoners must complete 144 hours of related craft instructional hours for every 2000 hours of on-the-job training. The prisoners must meet several criteria to participate in the apprenticeship programs such as:

- be 18 years of age;
- meet the minimum qualifications listed on the offender job description;
- have enough time remaining on their sentence to complete at least one-half of the required training schedule hours of their apprenticeship prior to release;
- be physically able to perform all work required of the craft;
- sign the federal form prior to admittance to an apprenticeship program.

Several institutions offer numerous apprenticeship programs based on the institutional infrastructure and expertise within that facility. The institutions with the most offenders participating in the apprenticeship programs are MANSIC (83), NCCI (59) and ORW (56). We currently offer 70 different State of Ohio multi-craft approved trades, Some of the more popular trades are the Animal Trainer, Cook and Janitor. There are currently 19 institutions that are running the Animal Trainer program, 15 institutions are running the Cook program and 14 institutions run the Janitor programs. The current number of offenders participating in the apprenticeship programs within the Department is 774. The program is great for the long-term offenders as well; they receive educational good time credit which in turn reduces the offender population and assist with meeting the Directors Big Wildly Important Goal (WIG) of reducing the prison population. The Ohio Central School System believes the apprenticeship programs are a great way to assist the offender in the reentry process by teaching them a skill set that they can take with them once released.

Reentry/Workforce Development Activities

Offender Workforce Development for the DRC Ohio Central School System (OCSS) is designed to enhance opportunities for successful employment and retention of returning citizens. Activities prepare offenders for employment and job search process. The Re-entry/Workforce Development Director solicits support through innovative pre- and post-release services designed to meet the needs of individuals returning to Ohio communities with criminal histories and a desire for sustainability. Collaborative partnerships across the state facilitate community linkages for released offenders. Training, education and technical support are also offered to community-organization agencies, job developers, One-Stop Shops, and other state agencies providing services to former offenders who are seeking to obtain and maintain sustainable employment. The Federal Bonding Program and the Work Opportunity Tax Credit are two support incentives:

Federal Bonds

• The Federal Bonding Program is an employment incentive program designed as a post-release service to encourage businesses to consider returning citizens for employment in that they are often categorized as “not bondable” and denied work opportunities.

Work Opportunity Tax Credit

• Work Opportunity Tax Credit and the Welfare-to-Work Tax-Credit (WOTC) Program are incentive programs promoted by DRC in partnership with Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services to encourage employers to hire former offenders and other hard-to-hire job seekers. WOTC is designed to help job seekers who are in need of employment acquire work experience and move toward economic self-sufficiency.

Character First

In 2010, the Ohio Central School System adopted a new character education curriculum, Character First, which is a product of the Character Training Institute, Oklahoma City, OK. The curriculum, which was developed for prisons, is based on the philosophy that character is made up of the qualities built into an individual’s life that determines his or her response to a specific stimulus, regardless of circumstances. The curriculum was provided by the Character Training Institute for 332 education staff in November 2010. The 49 character qualities are now being developed within the classrooms at the teachers’ discretion as teaching moments present themselves.

Beyond Repentance - Career & technical educators give prisoners the means to truly change their lives


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Coming over a rise on a two-lane road in northeastern Ohio, travelers are confronted by a stunning sight—a huge concrete structure that for almost 100 years was the Mansfield Reformatory. It was designed, historians say, “to encourage inmates back to a ‘rebirth’ of their spiritual lives...to turn away from their sinful lifestyle and toward repentance.” How that sight might have struck terror into the hearts of the men sentenced to spend years there. Just to the east is a modern building, a log cabin in the woods. This is the Richland Correctional Institution, a prison holding 2,500 men in no-nonsense, low-slung rectangle of no particular architectural note. Its purpose is not as obvious, until rolls of razor wire glint in the sun. This is the Richland Correctional Institution, a prison holding 2,500 men in no-nonsense, two-story block housing at the edge of a treelos, 10-acre lawn. Inside low walls on the opposite edge, a cadre of educators spend their days encouraging inmates in a rebirth of a different sort—a move into a more promising future. They are the career and technical teachers, many of whom are very aware of the power of transformation. After all, they chose to move from the world of business, into the profession of education, to make a difference for people they consider “not typical.”

Mansfield Reformatory was built in the late 19th century, they were encouraged to reform. In the 20th century, they were encouraged to repent. In the 21st century, they were encouraged to reform.
Apprenticeship Program

The Ohio Central School System within the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) offers an apprenticeship program for adult offenders who are interested in gaining skills that will help them obtain and maintain work. Offenders who successfully complete an apprenticeship program can apply for a federal bonding program that allows employers to hire them.

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Beyond Repentance - Career & technical educators give prisoners the means to truly change their lives

By: GEMMA MCLUCKIE

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Coming over a rise on a two-lane road in northeastern Ohio, travelers are confronted by a daunting sight—a huge, institutional building with an architectural note. Its purpose is not as obvious, until rolls of razor wire, steel doors and a cadre of educators spend their days encouraging inmates to get back on the right track. This is the Mansfield Reformatory. It was designed, historians say, “to encourage inmates back to a ‘rebirth’ of their spiritual lives...to turn away from their sinful lifestyle and toward repentance.” How that sight must have struck Mansfield reformers in the 1860s. Today, the Richland Correctional Institution, a prison holding 2,500 men in non-nonsense, two-story brick housing at the edge of a treesless, 10-acre lawn. Inside low walls on the opposite edge, a cadre of educators spend their days encouraging inmates in a rebirth of a different sort—a move into a more promising future. They are the career and technical teachers, many of whom are very aware of the power of transformation. After all, they chose to move from the world of business, into the profession of education, “as an associate degree,” said Tom Oswalt, who leads the commercial baking program. He was in business for 15 years, but “this is the most fulfilling work I’ve ever had. It has its trials and tribulations, but it’s unique.” His students don’t realize they are benefiting from a long-standing program in the College of Education and Human Ecology, the preparation of corrections educators in Workforce Development and Education. It is a path to Ohio Department of Education teaching licensure for men and women who are skilled in their trades but don’t have bachelor’s degrees, or who have postsecondary degrees but not in education. They have been hired to teach by one of the two Ohio corrections systems and now need help with pedagogy. Eventually they may apply for a standard license valid for teaching students ages eight and above. “It’s a different setting, completely different,” said Jeremy Russell, who after 16 years as a carpenter began teaching Richland inmates in 1999. The pounding of hammers and the whine of a table saw in the workshop classroom competed with conversation. Men in matching blue T-shirts were building a framed wall and installing roofing shingles on doghouses. “This gives people knowledge they can use after they leave,” said Russell, who was licensed after completing education and human ecology’s workforce training specialty. Opening the cell door Data show a disproportionate number of prisoners are poor, undereducated or members of minorities. In 2008, for instance, almost 60 percent of the 1,600 youth being held in Ohio were African American.

In 2009, 30 percent of Ohio’s adult male prisoners and 20 percent of the female were functionally illiterate. Almost two-thirds of the men and three-fourths of the women were unemployed when they broke the law. A whopping 80 percent hadn’t finished high school. Half had learning disabilities and almost one in five needed special education. The criminal justice community has long sought ways to change offenders’ habits, actions and condition. In the 19th century, inmates were encouraged to repent. In the 20th century, they were encouraged to reform. 
Mr. Buchelt has two goals. One is to become a member of the City of Toledo Plumbing Control Board. This board oversees administering the Journeyman plumbing test, and oversees various plumbing projects throughout the city of Toledo. He is in the process of coordinating with the City of Toledo to come into the institution to administer the Journeyman Plumbers’ Test to the plumbing apprentices who complete the apprenticeship program. His other goal is to become a Plumbing Career-Technical teacher. That way he can teach more people about plumbing.

There are two sayings that sum up Mr. Buchelt. “Plumbing is not what I do, it’s who I am” and “The only thing I like doing better than plumbing, is talking about plumbing.”

ORW Collects School Supplies for those in Need

The Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW) participated in the annual United Way of Union County School Supply Drive between July 19th and August 6th. Collection boxes were placed in the Entrance Building for staff to make donations, and in the commissary so that inmates could donate as well. The school supplies will benefit the students of Marysville, Fairbanks, Jonathan Alder and North Union Schools. Items collected include cases of crayons, pencils, folders, notebooks, glue, scissors, markers, colored pencils and even backpacks.

Eligibility for participation in any of the programs requires that the inmate is between the ages of 18 and 24 upon entry and that the inmate has enough time to complete a year of apprenticeship while incarcerated. While a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED) diploma is preferred for enrollment, students can enroll in the DRC apprenticeship while they complete their GED in the academic classes provided at each institution. In addition, all enrolled students will participate in Job Skills Training and personal development classes with one of three sub grantees. In turn these same apprenticeships are also evaluated for needs that require services upon release such as: medical, mental health, child care, transportation, housing and so on. When a need is identified, the sub grantees works with organizations that help the former inmate to be successful upon release.

Exceptional Exam Score

The Ohio Central School System (OCSS) is pleased to report that Mr. Howard Warner, Executive Director for the Ohio State Barber Board contacted Carl Witschi from the Richland Correctional Institution (RiCI) and informed the Career Technical teacher that one of the OCSS students, Percy Cooper, tested for licensing in Columbus. There were 20 students tested which represented a cross-section of students from most of Ohio’s barber schools.

Mr. Warner stated that Mr. Cooper scored the highest score of all the testing candidates - the only candidate that work in conjunction with the career technical programs: Construction Building Trades at the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW), Pipe Fitter/Welder at Marion Correctional Institution (MCI) and CNC/Machinist Trades at Grafton Correctional Institution (GCI).

Currently, over 80 student apprentice graduates in the State of Ohio have been released within the past year and another 60 student apprentices are in class currently who will complete their one year of apprenticeship in the spring of 2011. It is anticipated that over 160 inmate apprentices will have participated in the program during the two year grant cycle that ends in 2011.
Mr. Hampton received his barber license in the spring of 2001 from the LoCI Buckeye Barber School. Shortly thereafter he was released and began a new journey working at a local barbershop in Cincinnati, Ohio. Mr. Hampton reports, “one year after that, with the help of my wife, we opened a barbershop and then a beauty salon in West Chester, yet, these accomplishments were only a stepping stone to my ultimate goal, the barber school.” He continues, “So I eventually took a chance and called Mr. Howard Warner, Executive Director of the State Barber Board, and asked if I could return back to LoCI and train to become a licensed instructor. Mr. Warner directed me to Mrs. Crawford and was willing if the institution agreed,” said Hampton. With the approval of Warden Timmerman-Cooper, and OCSS Principal Crawford, it was agreed upon to allow me to re-enter the institution and train under instructor Crawford. After several months of hard work, Mr. Hampton passed the test. The final examination was completed at the LoCI Buckeye Barber School. We are also pleased to report that Mr. Rodrigius Hampton is now a licensed barber instructor for the State of Ohio. Mr. Hampton states, “I knew opening a barber college would be a lot of hard work and sacrifice, so I set obtainable goals to achieve my dream and open the X-quisite Cut-z School of Barbering.”

In a letter from the ODE Office of Career Technical Education, the Director of the State Barber Board thanks the OCSS instructors for their help with Mr. Hampton. Mr. Warner states, “I know he worked at LoCI on a regular basis leading up to his instructor’s license.” He continues, “Your high level of service to Rodrigius Hampton, your students, your institution, and the taxpayers of Ohio is greatly appreciated.” Due to your dedication and commitment to the program, Mr. Hampton was prepared to test and now is very close to his goals being realized. The success story, according to Mr. Warner, is unlike any other in history. It reflects well on you, your institution, the Ohio Central School System, and the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.

Western Reserve School TCI Handyman’s Workshop

The Trumbull Correctional Institution (TCI) Western Reserve School is pleased to recognize Mr. Greg Shaheen, TCI Maintenance Department Plumber, for his role in developing and instructing the very popular and successful Handyman’s Workshop. Mr. Shaheen is a licensed master plumber, state certified hydraulics technician and federally licensed universal refrigeration technician; and every Friday afternoon he provides participants with the current trade information as he reviews the skills necessary to succeed and invites field professionals from the surrounding community to share real life experiences of the trade.

The Handyman’s workshop outlines the basic understanding of plumbing trade which includes, but is not limited to, plumbing theory, Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) theory, tool identification and function, tool use, tool safety, basic framing and roof flashing. To further outline the program, each week the students watch a plumbing video on faucets.

Next, Mr. Shaheen adds his real world experience to the video’s topic and provides further in-depth information using the actual object highlighted in the video. Students are then given a review packet that covers the topic discussed, and the following week the participants are tested to assess trade comprehension.

Western Reserve School students receive state certified apprenticeship hours as they work toward becoming a state certified master plumber. To date, 37 inmates have graduated from the program. The Ohio Central School System acknowledges the time and extra effort Mr. Shaheen has given to the apprenticeship program and is pleased with his dedication and progress.

School System donates to Children’s Services

The Department’s Ohio Central School System (OCSS) is committed to serving the community and has a history of pulling resources to donate towards a wish list for those in need. This December OCSS faculty and staff presented a Wal-Mart gift card in the amount of $1,400.00 towards making the Christmas holiday a little brighter for 59 children in the care of Pickaway Job and Family Services/Pickaway Children’s Services.

Superintendent Denise L. Justice said, “I’m pleased to share the results of our charitable efforts”. Justice continues, “OCSS takes pride in helping others, and it is always great to see everyone take action and come together to make a significant impact in someone’s life”. Through a combination of Jeans Days, the Ohio Central School System Holiday Party, and the Silent Auction the staff gladly gave of their time and resources to benefit this worthy cause.
In the modern age, they are encouraged to reenter. The goal is for prisoners to leave behind the criminal life and contribute to society. Since 1973, the state has offered Ohio inmates educational opportunities at each of its facilities. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction’s Ohio Central School System serves adult learners. The Ohio Department of Youth Services’ Buckeye United School District serves youth from 10–21 who have committed felonies.

Programs range from literacy, General Education Development (GED) and high school, to skilled trades, to hobbies and crafts. Ohio State began the career and technical licensure program for aspiring prison instructors in 1974. It is a part-time, 40-hour sequence. “The corrections program is unique,” says Susan Nell (’77) of Lima, Ohio, a career and technical teacher educator at Ohio State since 1988. “Our teachers are in a nontraditional arena that requires a special set of skills. The college’s so-called ‘Route B’ licensure is a model for the country because it gives teachers those skills and increases the quality of instruction in correctional institutions.” Because of the workforce development and education program’s success, the Home Builders Institute, a long-time partner with the college, invited Chris Zirkle, associate professor, and Nell to provide professional development sessions in Virginia in June. For two days, they worked with 30 construction technology instructors employed by the Virginia Department of Corrections. “It was very successful,” Zirkle said. Why do experienced professionals choose to teach convicted criminals? Nell, who taught culinary arts at Lima Correctional Institution before joining Ohio State, gave a compelling reason: altruism. “This is a population starved for attention; they need someone to give them time,” she said with passion. “Along the line, somebody failed them. They became ‘that kid,’ the one who eventually devolved into breaking the law. ‘Life is passing them by while they are in here,’ ” said Amanda Allen, released from Richland in 2007. McKinney. Released from Richland in 2007, McKinney was promptly hired part time at a shop in Louisville, Ohio. Within three months, he was promoted to full-time barber. Other teachers recall former students who now rehab buildings or started their own landscaping companies. “These people need someone to say, ‘You are worth the effort.’ ” Nell said. Social responsibility urges us to improve the welfare of inmates. The United Nations calls education in America’s juvenile and criminal justice systems “a fundamental human right.” There also is a very practical reason to make the effort: it pays off. A U.S. Department of Education study showed that for every government dollar spent on education for inmates, two dollars are saved because those students did not come back. Crist said of her teenagers, “I don’t pretend that all will be secretaries or office managers. But I try to give them life skills—how to work with people on the job, how to be polite, how to show up on time, how to ask questions—those kinds of transferrable skills. If they can’t earn an honest living, they aren’t going to succeed for very long.”

The Ohio Central School System annual report for 2008 recounts the success of his student, Kenneth McKinney. Released from Richland in 2007, McKinney showed that for every government dollar spent on education for inmates, two dollars are saved because those students did not come back. Crist said of her teenagers, “I don’t pretend that all will be secretaries or office managers. But I try to give them life skills—how to work with people on the job, how to be polite, how to show up on time, how to ask questions—those kinds of transferrable skills. If they can’t earn an honest living, they aren’t going to succeed for very long.”

The Marion Correctional Institution (MCI) Hope Memorial School Production Agriculture students under the direction of teacher Jonathan Barrett produce pumpkins as a community service project. The process begins with the formation of potting containers made from newspapers. They are then filled with potting soil and seeds are planted. Several thousand of these containers are made. The students water and tend to the plants as they begin to germinate. Once the small plants become sturdy enough, they are moved to the field. The students can be seen at times in the field with hand hoes weeding the ground to eliminate weeds from taking over the plants. As the blooms begin to form, plants are inspected for any type of bug infestation and appropriate measures are taken to ensure the development of the pumpkin plants. As the plants begin to mature, students continue to monitor the progress to ensure the best possible field harvest of the pumpkins. After the pumpkins have matured, they are sorted by size. Most of the pumpkins are donated to organizations and groups for children. Some of the pumpkins are sold to staff as the proceeds are used to buy more seeds for the following year.

Staff members at MCI assist Jonathan Barrett with the delivery of the pumpkins. A total of 3,722 pumpkins were donated to these groups. Approximately 600 to 700 pumpkins were sold to staff members.

Lee Campo and Jonathan Barrett unloading the pumpkins from the trailer to take into the hospital. The Nationwide Children’s Hospital is just one of the 30 to 40 organizations and groups that receive pumpkins.
Teachers Recognized for Exemplary Teaching!

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 were 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's CEAO Teacher of the Year winner was Mary Latorre from Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility. Mary will represent CEAO at the Region III Conference competition to be held in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin in May 2011. The runner-up for the 2010 Teacher of the Year was Leslie Scheper from Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility. Both of these teachers represent the best that correctional education has to offer!

Pamela Sutton, ACI Employee of the Year

Pamela Sutton was selected by her peers as the Allen Correctional Institution (ACI) 2010 Employee of the Year. Ms. Sutton was hired as a Teacher in 1996 at ACI. She works with mental health students, and developmentally disabled students. She has taught Pre-GED and GED classes. She is currently teaching Adult Basic Education in ACI's literacy unit.

Ms. Sutton works as a Professor for the University of Findlay. She is a member of the Hostage Negotiation Team, and is a participant in the Residential Transitional Mentoring Program. She has served as a Pathwise Mentor and Praxis assessor. Ms. Sutton is a dependable hardworking employee, who represents ACI well as the 2010 Employee of the Year.
operated institutions provides comprehensive educational programs and training in thirty-one* adult prisons, which includes Ohio certificates of high school equivalence, or pursue vocational training. The Ohio Central School System currently is to "provide educational programs for prisoners to allow them to complete adult education courses, earn the Ohio State Board of Education on April 9, 1973. The purpose of the school system, as described in Revised Code The Ohio Central School System, of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, was chartered through two privately to one facility published a system to utilize existing tools and resources to advance program services for the department at several levels. The Ohio Central School System (OCSS) continues to provide quality educational experiences as a vital re-entry team player for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC). Although the budget is tighter then ever, OCSS has teamed together at new levels to improve communication, collaboration, and consensus as OCSS partners with department colleagues and the community to offer cutting-edge programming that is not only fiscally conscious and provides a cost-savings for DRC but also creatively improves and increases services to the prison population. OCSS licensed instructors are professional leaders providing quality education and resources to help the offender successfully transition back into Ohio neighborhoods.

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. The main goal is to increase the number of education program completers. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 which started July 1, 2009 and concluded on June 30, 2010, many program highlights and leaders evolved. Director Mohr believes, “At any time anyone can be the most important person in any organization.” The OCSS Philosophy is “Here to Serve,” in support of assisting the Director’s Wildly Important Goal (WIG) to reduce the prison population to 48,000 by July 1, 2013. OCSS licensed instructors are professional leaders providing quality education and resources to help the offender successfully transition back into Ohio neighborhoods.

As a result of the effort, OCSS implemented action steps with the FY 2010 Strategic Plan to recognize exemplary teaching, highlight programs and provide quality services. A survey was used to develop the goals for the FY 2010 Strategic Plan. Consensus reflected from the field established the 2 C’s Committee which was created to improve communication and collaboration within the Ohio Central School System. Committee results established a system to utilize existing tools and resources to improve communication statewide. The Fast Track GED program has become a popular tool to quickly prepare students for the GED exam while Character First was added to the academic curriculum to encourage successful educational experiences for improving test scores and transitional preparation supporting the DRC reentry initiative.

Career-Technical (Vocational) Education has evolved into the virtual realm to educate and certify participants. Virtual welders, and a first in the nation, virtual painting programs offer students the opportunity to participate in new educational experiences.

Library Services expanded and is reaching new heights in the area of patron training and service. A Library Science Technology Act (LSTA) Grant was obtained in cooperation with the State Library of Ohio to standardize a system of operation to provide an up-to-date system to train, coordinate, search, and share information system-wide. A few DRC administrators and certified librarians teamed to update DRC libraries to the 21st Century which will also improve patron skill level and ability to function in society upon release. The prison library system will now be compatible with the public library setup so utilization of continued resources is streamlined. Another advantage of the new system is that it is a cost savings for DRC that will also improve both staff and patron training and support while also advancing program services for the department at several levels.

The Ohio Central School System administration operates as a support center to the field and works hard to establish standards and provides quality educational services to those under DRC supervision. The department appreciates the commitment and dedication provided by OCSS as we continue to excel as recognized leaders in the field of correctional education.

Sincerely,

Denise L. Justice

Denise L. Justice

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