



OHIO CENTRAL SCHOOL SYSTEM 2016 Annual Report

Ohio

Department of
Rehabilitation & Correction

John R. Kasich, Governor
Gary C. Mohr, Director
Denise L. Justice, Superintendent



ADULT
LITERACY



A Look Inside

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Our Vision, Mission, and Philosophy



The Ohio Central School System (OCSS) is a school district operating within the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC). The purpose of the school system, as described in Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 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." OCSS has developed a vision, mission, and philosophy that coincide with this legislation and charter.

Vision Statement

It is the vision of the Ohio Central School System that all inmates of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction will be provided the necessary academic, job training, and social/emotional skills required for successful reentry into society as effective, participating, and productive citizens.

Mission Statement

The Ohio Department of Education under ORC 3313.61 formally chartered the Ohio Central School System in April 1973. This charter provides ODRC with quality programming and OCSS the authority to seek additional federal funding. The Chartered School District enables the department to provide a comprehensive, thorough education program that addresses the needs of the vastly under-educated and under-skilled inmates. These services include Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE), High School Equivalency (GED®), High School Options, Apprenticeship Training, Library Services, Release Preparation, Special Education, Career-Technical Education (CTE), Transitional Education Program (TEP), Youth Transition Program (YTP), Education Intensive Program Prison (EIPP), and other educational programs as directed by the needs of the inmate population.

Philosophy

The Ohio Central School System subscribes to the principles of American democracy, including a genuine belief in the paramount importance of the dignity and worth of all individuals. The basic purpose of American education is to perpetuate and improve this democratic society in which it exists. In keeping with the above precepts, correctional education maintains the mission of providing the fullest possible development of each participant's talents and potentialities, in order that they might participate more effectively in the cultural, political, social, and economic life of this society.

The Ohio Central School System acknowledges that each student is different in terms of his/her educational needs and desires and should be dealt with on the basis of these individual differences. Programs, therefore, will be designed to serve this multiplicity of differences. It is believed that participation in meaningful educational programs will elicit both behavioral and attitudinal change. While such participation is, in part, voluntary, individuals are counseled and encouraged to participate in those educational endeavors that will most effectively aid them in strengthening self-image, creating positive attitude, and developing or increasing the quantity and quality of coping skills needed to successfully re-enter today's highly complex and technical society. Assessment of the quality and relevance of educational content and practice shall be continuous. Every effort must be concerted to discover the most successful instructional methods for each student's individual educational needs.

The Ohio Central School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, or age in its educational programs or activities.



A Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Staff, Students, Parents, and Community Stakeholders:

The Ohio Central School System (OCSS) is instrumental in helping the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) reduce recidivism with evidence-based programs designed to improve ex-offender employability. Since becoming a chartered school system in 1973, OCSS has been focused on a student-centered approach toward academic achievement with productive practices that extend beyond prison walls.

As Superintendent, I am pleased to report that in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, OCSS enrolled 26,320 students and certified over 15,191 completers while continuing to expand educational services for ODRC. I take great pride in the fact that I began my career as a special education teacher and understand the time, effort, challenges, and dedication required to improve student achievement. I understand that a classroom-centered approach will help students succeed, but it also takes professional development, quality partnerships, advocacy, and an informed leadership to provide the resources required to reduce the recidivism rate statewide.

OCSS also facilitates the Certificates of Achievement and Employability (CAE) process for the State of Ohio and continues to oversee educational programming for ODRC, the Community Based Correctional Facilities (CBCF), and the Hamilton County Jail. Our focus as a school system remains steady while we increase our efforts to improve all areas of service daily. We want the best for our students, so in pursuit of this mission, we strive to develop as skillful professionals, mentors, role-models, supporters, teachers, and advocates for the entire prison population.

In the field of Correctional Education, we truly believe that all students have the potential to become productive citizens, so we work to ensure every student receives an education that will prepare them for the next level and beyond. As a school district, OCSS offers instruction for 27 Ohio prisons in the areas of Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE), Apprenticeship, Advanced Job Training (AJT), Career-Technical Education (CTE), Education Intensive Program Prison (EIPP), High School Equivalency (GED®), High School Options, Library Services, Release Preparation, Special Education, Transitional Education Program (TEP), Youth Transition Program (YTP), and other educational programs as directed by the needs of the inmate population.

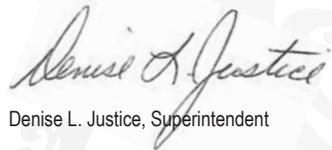
Recent data indicates that offenders who take advantage of educational programs while incarcerated are less likely to recidivate. The latest research conducted by the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute (UCCI) proves education has a positive impact on offender reentry. As the level of education increases, so does the rate of employment. Substantive findings demonstrate that educational programming makes a difference in decreasing offender misconduct while incarcerated and improves the employment outcome for the participant.

Each day OCSS teachers are exploring ways to engage students in lessons that are more interactive and student driven, but as Ohio laws mandates, the district will continue to focus on student learning based on data driven decisions. The trends in business and industry drive the curriculum and training. As a result, ODRC is working in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS) OhioMeansJobs.com to provide online resources provide the offender with real-world job training, 21st Century skill builders, and real-time job search and employment matching proven to improve employability. In addition, OCSS took the initiative to offer expanded programming to the living units via educational television, providing tutor training, assisting with a tablet pilot for ODRC restrictive housing, providing community service opportunities, and improving access to the school CAIL under supervision in the evening and on weekends.

We, as a school system, are here to serve and are committed to help reduce crime in Ohio. OCSS has been a driving force in the industry as our educational accomplishments highlight us as leaders in the field of correctional education. We are committed to utilizing Communication and Collaboration to focus teaching and learning so that our students graduate career ready.

I know the administrators and instructional staff have been working tirelessly to meet the increased demands being placed on them. I realize each of us wants to make a difference in the lives of our students. I hope as a team we take the opportunity to provide improved instructional strategies that motivate students to learn. I want our team to challenge each student and provide them with interesting and creative experiences, but most of all, I look forward to another year filled with stories of great success.

Sincerely,



Denise L. Justice, Superintendent



The Results... 15,191 Students Certified!



The Ohio Central School System's cumulative enrollment figures for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 total 26,320 students.

An additional 11,934 students enrolled in spring quarter continued enrollment into FY 2016.

A total of 38,254 participated in education programs.

OCSS is pleased to report that a total of 15,191 certificates were earned by OCSS students in FY 2016.

The school system reported serving 29,957 children in the Reading Rooms located in ODRC visiting areas.

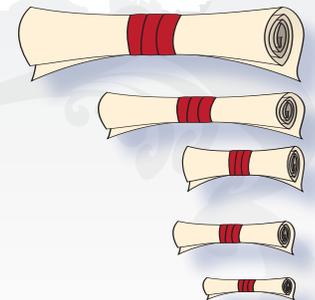
Inmate Population: 51,001

Students Enrolled: 26,320

Students Certified: 15,191

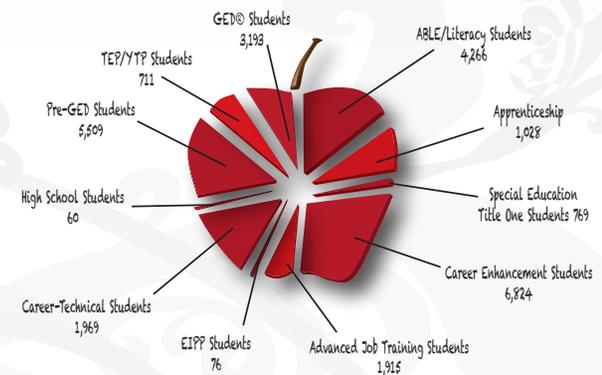
July 1, 2015 Enrollment: 15,038

Students Continuing: 11,934



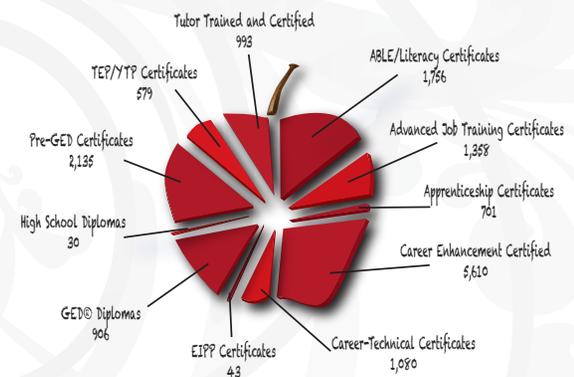
Students Served in Fiscal Year 2016

ABLE/Literacy Students	4,266
Pre-GED Students	5,509
GED® Students	3,193
Advanced Job Training Students	1,915
Apprenticeship	1,028
Career Enhancement Students	6,824
Career-Technical Students	1,969
EIPP Students	76
High School Students	60
Special Education/Title One Students	769
TEP/YTP Students	711
Total	26,320



Students Certified by OCSS in 2016

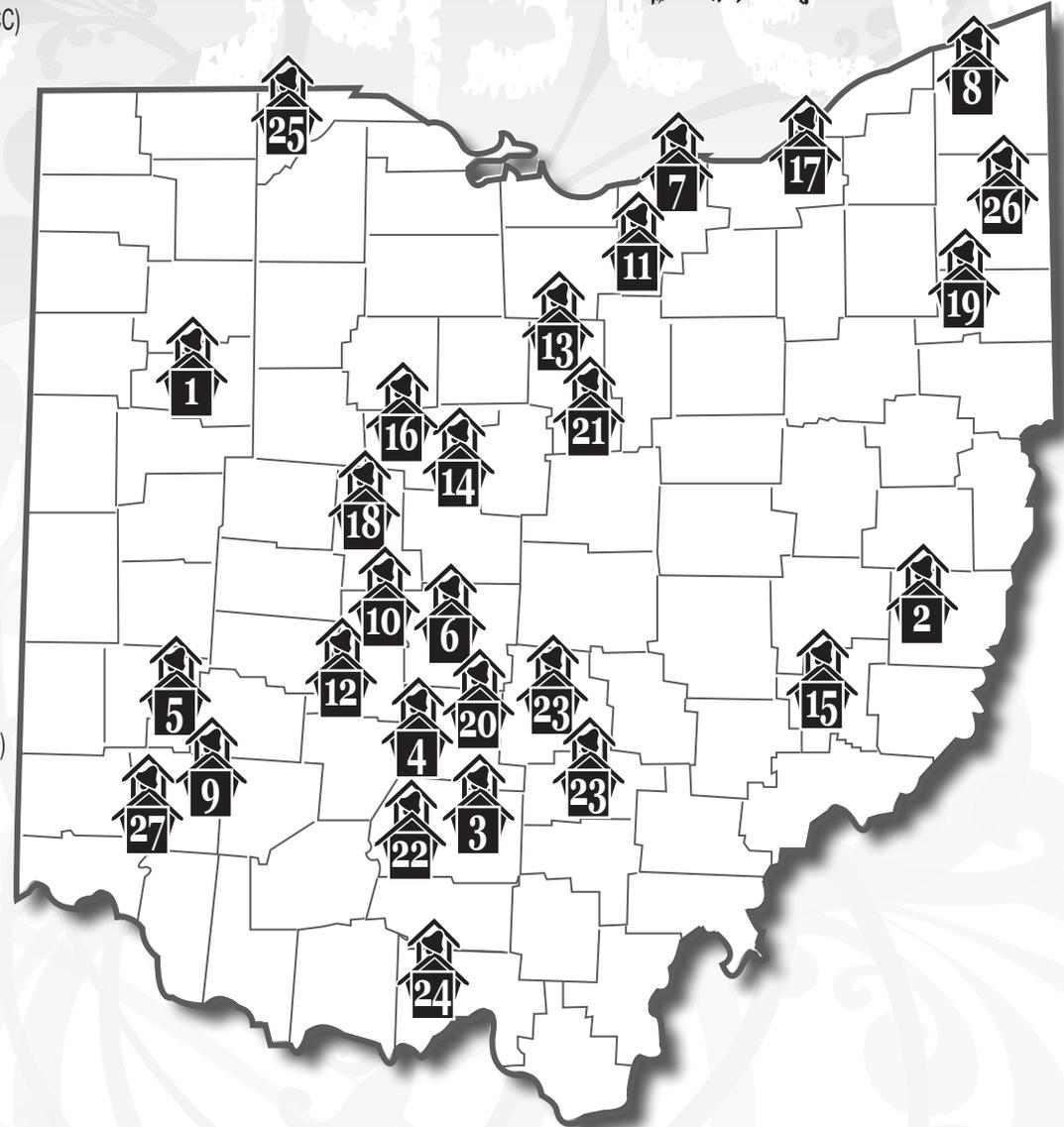
ABLE/Literacy Certificates	1,756
Pre-GED Certificates	2,135
GED® Diplomas	906
Advanced Job Training Certificates	1,358
Apprenticeship Certificates	701
Career Enhancement Certified	5,610
Career-Technical Certificates	1,080
EIPP Certificates	43
High School Diplomas	30
TEP/YTP Certificates	579
Tutor Trained and Certified	993
Total	15,191



Our Schools

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Allen Oakwood Correctional Institution (AOCI)
Fallen Timbers Branch - Allen
Lost Creek Branch - Oakwood | 15 Noble Correctional Institution (NCI)
Sequoyah School |
| 2 Belmont Correctional Institution (BeCI)
Eastern Horizons Center | 16 North Central Correctional Complex* (NCCC)
Harding Memorial Branch |
| 3 Chillicothe Correctional Institution (CCI)
Sherman School | 17 Northeast Reintegration Center (NeRC)
Robert Merrill School |
| 4 Correctional Reception Center (CRC)
Walker School | 18 Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW)
Clearview School |
| 5 Dayton Correctional Institution (DCI)
McLin School | 19 Ohio State Penitentiary (OSP)
Steel Valley School |
| 6 Franklin Medical Center (FMC)
Endeavor Branch - Zone A
Sacajawea Center - Zone B | 20 Pickaway Correctional Institution (PCI)
Shawnee Branch |
| 7 Grafton Correctional Institution (GCI)
Sherwood Anderson School | 21 Richland Correctional Institution (RiCI)
Hope Valley School |
| 8 Lake Erie Correctional Institution* (LaECI)
Lighthouse Learning Center | 22 Ross Correctional Institution (RCI)
Edward Tiffin School |
| 9 Lebanon Correctional Institution (LeCI)
Shaker Valley School | 23 Southeastern Correctional Complex (SCC)
Hilltop School - Hocking
Ridgeview School - Lancaster |
| 10 London Correctional Institution (LoCI)
Buckeye Branch | 24 Southern Ohio Correctional Facility (SOCF)
Tecumseh Branch |
| 11 Lorain Correctional Institution (LorCI)
Black River Branch | 25 Toledo Correctional Institution (ToCI)
Goose Hill Branch |
| 12 Madison Correctional Institution (MaCI)
Madison Branch | 26 Trumbull Correctional Institution (TCI)
Western Reserve School |
| 13 Mansfield Correctional Institution (ManCI)
Country Haven Center | 27 Warren Correctional Institution (WCI)
Turtle Creek Branch |
| 14 Marion Correctional Institution (MCI)
Hope Memorial School | |

* Private Prison



Academic Programs



The Ohio Central School System provides comprehensive academic programming for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC). Academic education includes Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE), Advanced Job Training (AJT), the Education Intensive Program Prison (EIPP), High School Equivalency (GED®), High School Options, Special Education, Transitional Education Program (TEP), and Youth Transition Program (YTP). Offenders come to ODRC with an average reading level of less than the eighth grade. In addition, 50% of the offenders have suspected learning disabilities, and 18% of the under 22 population may qualify for special education services, so it is one of the primary goals of OCSS to teach basic literacy and numeracy to the offender population*.

OCSS in compliance with the ODRC Bureau of Information and Technology Services (BITS) makes technology secure for offender use and makes it possible for OCSS to implement successful programs that reduce idleness and improve offender skill sets. For example, BITS helped OCSS make it possible for each school to deliver technology-based instruction. These tools encourage learning and prepare offenders for release with the technological skills required to function in the 21st century workforce. It is important for OCSS to offer skill-building practice and assessments in the Computer Aided Instructional Laboratories (CAIL) while ensuring teachers have Internet access so they can utilize the BrightLink interactive projectors and SmartBoard technology in the classrooms. Ohio was one of the first states to pilot Android tablets in correctional education. OCSS and the Edwin Tiffin School on the grounds of the Ross Correctional Institution (RCI) were able to assist ODRC with Restrictive Housing reform by implementing the first tablet pilot for RCI Restrictive Housing.

OCSS teachers schedule students in the CAIL to work on practice test software including GED® 21st Century, Khan Academy educational videos, and WIN Learning. Reentry skill preparation tools are also available in the CAIL for the offender to work with the Keyblaze typing tutorial, MoneySmart, and WinWay Résumé Deluxe. The literacy labs offer Reading Horizons and the SpeedStudy English and Math practice, and to supplement instruction the teacher may incorporate the use of study buddies and/or tablet technology into the daily classroom instruction. The CAIL are equipped as official GED® PearsonVUE test sites, so teachers help the student prepare to obtain a high school diploma or High School Equivalency (GED®) by collaborating with the Guidance Counselor for those students who are ready to take the following computer-based assessments: CareerScope®, PearsonVUE GED® test, and the technical skills WebXam online assessment.

Graduation ceremonies are a big part of the school year for OCSS. The ODRC administrators, teaching staff, correctional staff, and students look forward to the annual event. OCSS is pleased to announce that in FY2016, the Clearview School, located on the grounds of the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW), was able to honor three students at the institution graduation ceremony who worked hard to obtain their High School Diploma.

Guest speakers are invited to speak to the students. To illustrate the impact such speakers have on those in attendance, the Hope Memorial School welcomed two guests to the Marion Correctional Institution (MCI) to talk with students about issues dealing with employability and self-worth. Mr. Graham and Mr. Hall traveled from the Fort Jackson Reentry House in Columbus, Ohio, to address the students. Benjamin began the presentation with information on self-inventory, equating taking stock of individual strengths and weaknesses to the same task when running a business. Brian related to the crowd by touching on many aspects of his past and what our students need to do in order to be successful. He related brilliantly to the audience of students, at one point telling the men that "he could still do 50." They knew exactly what he meant, so when it came time to answer questions, an audience member immediately asked him about the push-ups. Of course, Brian obliged him, doing 50 push-ups right there in front of everyone!

In addition to those ODRC schools mentioned above, several of the institutions have provided a photograph to highlight their 2016 graduates. Therefore, the following school graduation ceremonies are showcased in the back of this report:

- Chillicothe Correctional Institution (CCI) Sherman School
- Grafton Correctional Institution (GCI) Sherwood Anderson School
- Noble Correctional Institution (NCI) Sequoyah School
- Northeast Reintegration Center (NeRC) Robert Merrill School
- Pickaway Correctional Institution (PCI) Shawnee Branch
- Ross Correctional Institution (RCI) Edward Tiffin School
- Southern Ohio Correctional Facility (SOCF) Tecumseh Branch

OCSS congratulates all those achieving academic excellence this school year. Your future is looking bright. The teachers look forward to seeing and hearing about your productive futures.

* OCSS monthly reports



Apprenticeship Programs

The Ohio Central School System offers apprenticeship training within the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. Apprenticeships are work programs sanctioned by the US Department of Labor (DOL), which teach hands-on skill development in a particular trade, enhancing employability. The OCSS apprenticeship programs use qualified prison staff to supervise and train inmates working toward an industry level certification while obtaining actual job experience. Students maintain a daily record of training plus 144 hours of related instruction per 2,000 hours of on-the-job instruction as prescribed by the Ohio State Apprenticeship Council. Upon completion the Ohio State Apprenticeship Council (OSAC) under the auspices of the DOL issues a certificate.

With continued effort of our institutional staff, enrollment has increased 6.5% from FY2015 to 2016, and our student completion numbers show a dramatic increase. In FY2015, there were 297 50% completers and 164 100% completers. In FY2016, the numbers increased to 474 and 317, respectively. This represents a 59.6% and 93.3% increase. This increase in student completion is due to staff encouragement and hard work of the apprentices*.

Currently, 50 apprenticeship occupations are operating within ODRC. Institutions periodically add apprenticeship programs that benefit the inmate population and institution, while ensuring the education is relevant in today's workforce. Apprenticeships range from Alteration Tailor to Welding. A few of the twenty-one expanded apprenticeships in FY2016 include Material Coordinator for the Eastern Horizons Center at Belmont Correctional Institution (BeCI), Stitcher through the McLin School at Dayton Correctional Institution (DCI), Lighthouse Learning Center at Lake Erie Correctional Institution (LaECI). Approval of Recovery Operator, Baker, and Health Care Sanitary Tech, and Steel Valley School at the Ohio State Penitentiary (OSP) approved apprenticeships include Material Coordinator, Cook, Maintenance Repairer Building, Recovery Operator, and Landscape Management Technician.

A few FY2016 apprenticeship program highlights include Richland Correctional Institution's (RiCI) Animal Trainer apprenticeship as shown in Danielle Hess's article "Inmates Train Dogs for Adoption Program." *The Mansfield News Journal* article noted how inmate apprentices feed, train, and exercise dogs to prepare them for adoption through a partnership with the Ashland County Dog Warden. Inmate Michael Garcia, a recent completer of the apprenticeship, stated, "We keep journals explaining the dogs' likes and issues. We have no idea what they've been through coming in, so we have to figure out how each dog thinks."

The RiCI Hope Valley School animal trainer apprenticeship also serves as a dog day care, training, and grooming facility where staff can bring their dogs. In a similar article titled "Prison Cat-fostering Program in Madison County May Help Inmates More Than Their Feline Guests" (12/2015), Holly Zachariah for *The Columbus Dispatch* wrote how animal trainer apprentices at Madison Correctional Institution (MaCI) and the Clearview School on the grounds of the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW) foster cats for adoption through their local humane society. The MaCI Madison Branch apprentices have fostered over 50 cats in FY2016.

* OCSS monthly reports



Career-Technical Education



The Ohio Central School System provides Career-Technical Education (CTE) to the offender population. CTE provides an industry based curriculum embedded in real-world experience. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, OCSS served 6,824 Career Enhancement students and certified 1,080 CTE students.

CTE students have the opportunity to earn industry level certifications, which are issued by state boards or nationally recognized organizations. Depending on the CTE program or pathway selected, eligible students can take the barber or cosmetology exam and earn a license by the Ohio Board of Cosmetology or Ohio State Barber Board, hold the American Welding Society (AWS) or Equipment and Engine Training Council (EETC) credential, participate in Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training, obtain certification in the Automotive Service Excellence (ASE), work to be a certified Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS), become an Ohio Certified Nursery Technician (OCNT) through the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association (ONLA), complete ServSafe, learn network cabling for fiber optic and copper applications (C-TECH), or obtain certification from the National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER).

OCSS computer labs are equipped with practice software to help students prepare for the WorkKeys Assessment and WebXam. The computer-based CareerScope® interest inventory and aptitude battery enhance career and educational planning, improve employability, and result in better opportunities for individuals to establish education and work goals and select the most appropriate education and training programs. The ACT WorkKeys test helps students understand the skill levels required for the careers they are considering. To illustrate this point, the Pickaway Correctional Institution (PCI) Shawnee Branch administers the WorkKeys test in the APS lab, and the Toledo Correctional Institution (ToCI) Goose Hill Branch APS instructors and students are pictured working in the computer lab. The WebXam is an online assessment. OCSS CTE online testing takes place during four months of the year. WebXam is delivered by The Ohio State University Center on Education and Training for Employment. WebXam tests mastery of knowledge in educational settings.

The CTE programs provide participants with the applied practice to learn and develop the skill base with the goal of gainful employment upon release. For example, over the course of the past several months on the grounds of the Grafton Correctional Institution (GCI), CTE Instructor Nate Conrad has been training the Sherwood Anderson School students how to groom African Violets according to the competitive show standards set forth by the African Violet Society of America. OCSS is excited about how the African Violets turned out and feel anyone would be hard-pressed to find one at any garden center that has half as many blooms!

Another example to highlight is the efforts by the CTE programs to generate funding to support institutional community service. The SCC Hilltop School located in Nelsonville, Ohio, held a plant sale and sold over \$2500 that will go back into the horticulture program to buy additional plants and project materials for the institution's community service initiatives. Shared Service Area (SSA) VIII Principal Angela Adams is pleased to say all 11 graduates received their ONLA certification, and a recent graduate obtained employment with a local nursery.

For several years now, the Allen Correctional Institution (AOCI) Fallen Timbers Branch has repaired and donated bicycles. This fiscal year, the AOCI inmates helped to restore six bicycles for the Restoration Half-Way/Temporary Housing Facility in Lima, Ohio. In addition, the London Correctional Institution (LoCI) Buckeye Branch conducted a State Barber Board Exam. Six students completed the two-year 1800-hour program, successfully passed the written exam, and will be issued barber licenses. LoCI Barber Instructors Betty Crawford and Rodriquis Hampton were proud of the level of dedication the students exhibited to the barbering craft.

OCSS is also pleased to announce that eleven Madison Correctional Institution (MaCI) CTE students obtained ONLA certification in FY2016, and eight of the eleven obtained "Master Technician" status by passing all four tests (Core, Landscape, Grower, and Garden Center). ONLA tests are offered to students in an effort to further their chances of employability within the horticulture industry. The Trumbull Correctional Institution (TCI) CTE Instructor Renee Twyman collected recipes from each member of her Food Management & Production Services class, had them printed, and presented them to the TCI Western Reserve School graduating class.

The Ross Correctional Institution (RCI) Edwin Tiffin School CTE Carpentry class built a bat condo or artificial bat roosting structure for the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). This ODOT project was part of their Northern Long Eared bat conservation contract. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) picked up the bat condo from RCI and erected it on the TNC 400 plus acre Cornuelle Property, located in southern Adams County.

In FY2016, the Harding Memorial Branch CTE Turf Management class at North Central Correctional Complex (NCCC) kicked off their milkweed project. Biologists Marci Lining, Charlie Allen, and Jeff Burris from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources delivered milkweed seed pods and explained the importance of milkweed for monarch butterflies. Teacher Scott MacCready will instruct his students on seed collecting this fall and seed planting in the spring. Most of the milkweed plants will be distributed throughout Ohio, and a small percentage will be kept at NCCC in a prairie plot. Deputy Warden Becky Joyce welcomed the biologists in support of the ongoing project.

The Ohio Central School System links the student's interest and passion to a career. To showcase this enthusiasm, many of the CTE program photographs are showcased in the collage section located in the back of this report and include highlights pictured from the following:

- Lebanon Correctional Institution (LeCI) Shaker Valley School APS students in lab
- London Correctional Institution (LoCI) Buckeye Branch CTE students obtain ASE
- Madison Correctional Institution (MaCI) Madison Branch CTE students pass ONLA
- Marion Correctional Institution (MCI) Hope Memorial School farm visit by CTE administrators
- Southeastern Correctional Complex (SCC) – Hocking Hilltop School community garden
- Toledo Correctional Institution (ToCI) Goose Hill Branch APS students working in the lab
- Trumbull Correctional Institution (TCI) Western Reserve School cookbook collection
- Warren Correctional Institution (WCI) Turtle Creek Branch poinsettias for Ohio venues



Library Services

Each ODRC institution provides library services to the inmate population. Some libraries provide music, films, and other media to enhance the library experience for the institution patrons. The Mandarin M3 Library Automation System tracks book loans and returns and makes locating overdue books much easier for ODRC staff.

Today, there are 27 institutions and 12 units/camps totaling 39 libraries run by 44 full-time library employees. The Toledo Correctional Institution (ToCI) Goose Hill Branch library is showcased in the collage located in the back of this report. Each main library and many camp libraries provide an online link to the LexisNexis law library materials as well as to the Ohio Reentry Connections/OhioMeansJobs.com (OMJ) so offenders are able to begin their job searches, résumé preparation, and reentry programming prior to release. Since its inception, an assortment of web links have been added to the OMJ computers in the ODRC libraries. Two such tools of note are the Ohio county Welcome Home County Videos and Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) Solutions. WOTC Solutions was implemented so that those inmates leaving institutions and going home to Ohio neighborhoods will be better able to jump-start their employment opportunities. This year, the Noble Correctional Institution (NCI) Sequoyah School library is highlighted as Julie Hupp, NCI Librarian, goes above and beyond to provide services such as workshops and themed events to pull in readers and gives notices to those 90 days to release to use the OMJ resources encouraging the NCI population to utilize the library and the tools available for reentry planning.

Each year, OCSS pilots programs to find ways to better serve staff and boost the skill level of the offender population. One result of this effort was to test a shared catalog as a tool for staff to access books and materials from the staff library located at the Training & Education Center (TEC) in London, Ohio. This Mandarin Web OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog) is another resource available as a result of the statewide Library Automation grant. The DRC Shared Catalog holds, but is not limited to, foreign language books, criminal justice textbooks, paralegal guides and textbooks, literacy materials, High School Options text books, GED® preparation materials, and other teaching materials. There is also a small collection of books related to starting a business. This is the first Inter Library Loan (ILL) program available to staff through OCSS. All ODRC staff can search the Web OPAC (shared catalog) and request the TEC books and materials from the Library Administrator. The goal in the next few years is to merge all the ODRC library catalogs so that books currently in the system can be used and possibly lessen the number of ILL books ODRC will need to request from neighborhood libraries. The Mandarin M3 System standardized the library process statewide and has made it far easier to locate books that have not been returned.

In FY2016, Chuck Steinbower, Correctional Reception Center (CRC) Librarian, obtained the National Education Association (NEA) Foundation Student Achievement Grant through the SCOPE Teachers Union and the Ohio Central School System. The NEA grant focuses on the 50th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and School Desegregation. The NEA grant paid for the books the teachers from CRC, the Franklin Medical Center (FMC), and the Pickaway Correctional Institution (PCI) were given on the Voting Rights Act, which their students read. Superintendent Denise L. Justice suggested using Political Cartoons from the Opper Project for lessons on the Civil Rights Movement. The OCSS Walker School hosted local Columbus, Ohio, artist Aaron Thomas and his talent for Korean Anime Cartoooning with a Civil Rights theme at CRC. Mr. Thomas conducted a workshop to discuss the art with juvenile and adult offenders who signed up for the event. Mr. Aaron Thomas made this observation: "Like Ice Cube, 'today was a good day.' It was the first day of my Black History Month - Anime/Comic Narrative Workshop out at CRC near Orient, Ohio. The participants in my class were awesome and seemed to thoroughly enjoy it, as they didn't want to leave when it was over. It was a great experience as usual, and I am looking forward to the next session! I can't wait to see what these brothers come up with for their short stories and comics."



Reentry Education



The Ohio Central School System (OCSS) is pleased to report this Fiscal Year (FY) that 38,254 students participated in education programs statewide. OCSS staff continues to stay active in professional organizations on the state, regional, and national levels, frequently presenting at conferences on a variety of our school district's initiatives. We are often contacted by other State Department of Corrections to share ideas and information to improve the field of correctional education.

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) issued 114 Certificates of Achievement and Employability (CAE) in FY2016, and OCSS assisted with the process. Applicants must have completed a vocational program, a behavioral program and achievement and rehabilitation programs, including 120 hours of community service. Since Director Gary C. Mohr signed the first three certificates, this program has remained pivotal in preparing students for their return to society. The Advanced Job Training (AJT) programs continue to encourage the CAEs in education and job training skills. This program is defined by its ability to provide the ODRC population with the opportunity to enhance skill development and credentials necessary for participants to obtain employment upon release.

OCSS provides advanced employment skills training to offenders that hold a High School diploma or High School Equivalency (GED®) in the form of AJT coursework. The AJT classes are offered through the Ohio Penal Education Consortium (OPEC) partners. This consortium is made up of a combination of both state and privately funded colleges and universities. Ashland University (AU), Marion Technical College (MTC), Ohio University (OU), Sinclair Community College (SCC), Urbana University (UU), and Youngstown State University (YSU). Those who qualify for post-secondary education can work toward a certification offering basic skill development courses and participate in community service opportunities with the goal of obtaining employment upon release.

Also in FY2016, the Sinclair Community College AJT students were especially pleased with the plants and flowers they prepared and displayed throughout the grounds of the 2016 Ohio State Fair. At Dayton Correctional Institution (DCI), women are able to take advantage of the certificate programs that are offered by SCC. Many inmates have lost their careers, and SCC gives inmates the opportunity to regain their self-confidence through learning and their sense of independence upon completion. Many women have appreciated the time and commitment that faculty and staff give so that these women have a second chance. After release, they have a connection to the community and a Sinclair transcript to help them continue their education or enter the workforce. Unique opportunities experienced by some students include working in service learning projects and speaking to the public at the main campus.

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) recognizes and offers education programs and reentry planning to assist ex-offenders in their reintegration to society and to ultimately reduce recidivism. Considering inmates who participate in educational programming and take classes are less likely to return to prison, encouraging education while incarcerated is a major step to reentry.

Urbana University's impact on incarcerated individuals is seen while students are attending and upon release in the communities those students serve. Urbana students transform their way of thinking. For example, two students were able to earn credentials, return to society, continue their education by earning additional credentials and degrees, and help their community by creating Gemini Reliance. This organization is a support system for individuals who may not have anyone positive in their traditional system. They provide housing for individuals seeking a better life and help students find jobs by linking them with the local resources in the community.

ODRC along with ODJFS and local workforce development partners teamed up to create the Offender Network for Employment to STOP Recidivism (O.N.E.-STOP) shops that are available to provide job search workshops, resources, tools, and as of this summer assistance with obtaining Ohio Medicaid or health care insurance information prior to release. The ODRC O.N.E.-STOP shops are dedicated to assisting offenders with pre and post-release focused employment, training, and support services. OCSS has always held the multi-agency partners in high regard as ODRC continues to develop programs and services in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS), the Department of Youth Services (DYS), and the U.S. Department of Labor. This year OCSS participated in the Northeast Ohio Re-Entry Business Summit held at the Cleveland Convention Center and provided a workshop and display of the latest OCSS offerings and achievements.



Staff Recognition

The Ohio Central School System is proud to highlight the teaching staff and showcase the many events that take place throughout the school year. Technology continues to be a driving force in the field of Correctional Education, and the teaching staff embraces the initiatives by using the materials and tools that help the offender better prepare for entering the workforce upon release. The administration and staff hold professional licensure, participate in professional development courses, attend and hold educational workshops, and are members of professional organizations. For example, the OCSS Shared Service Area (SSA) Principals and Assistant Principals attended a training hosted by the Ohio State University (OSU) titled Developing A Curriculum (DACUM). Also, a small group of teachers attended Reading Horizons training in FY2016.

The Pickaway Correctional Institution (PCI) Shawnee Branch staff along with PCI Recovery Services and Oasis staff met this year to collaborate with colleagues. This face-to-face time allowed each area to examine program mandates, structures, and student/client participation requirements. Each area also worked together to review schedules and discuss topics and program visits in order to improve communication and provide a unified effort for PCI programming.

The Correctional Education Association (CEA), founded in 1945, is a professional organization serving educators and administrators who provide services to students in the correctional setting. The Ohio chapter was founded in 1987. CEA is the largest affiliate of the American Correctional Association. In FY2016, Janet Carter, OCSS Career-Technical Instructor, was named the 2016 CEO Teacher of the Year. Janet teaches Administrative Professional Support (APS) on the grounds of the Madison Correctional Institution (MaCI). Ms. Carter was also honored at the Statehouse in April for her dedication and professionalism and was provided with a Resolution by Senator Hackett. In addition, Janet was recognized in August at the 70th Annual International CEA Conference and Training Event held in Long Beach, California. Congratulations again, Ms. Carter!

OCSS Eastern Horizons Center Instructor Kathy Brown received the 2016 Victim Services Coordinator of the Year award. Mrs. Brown works for the Belmont Correctional Institution (BeCI) as the CTE Administrative Professional Support Teacher but is equally a strong supporter of the ODRC Office of Victim Services.

In FY2016, the Ohio Central School System raised over \$1,000 for Pickaway County Job and Family Services (JFS). As requested, the donation was delivered as Wal-Mart gift cards to help JFS with Christmas for the 46 children they assist. JFS thanked OCSS representatives Melissa Peters and Pam Cass for the donation and said they needed it more than ever this year.

Special thanks goes out to Jonathan Barrett, Hope Memorial School CTE Production Agriculture teacher, along with other Marion Correctional Institution (MCI) staff members Rebecca Shafer, Lee Campo, and Guy Campo for delivering pumpkins to the Ronald McDonald House in Columbus, Ohio. This project is part of a community service initiative completed by MCI students in the CTE Production Ag program. Students assist with the whole process from planting the seeds in the field, controlling the weeds and insects as the pumpkin plants mature, and finally, harvesting the pumpkins. The Ronald McDonald House is only one of several organizations that receive pumpkins each year.

Mrs. Berry, ABLE/GED Instructor, was presented with a clock as a retirement gift from the Ridgeview School on her last day of class. The clock was specially designed and created by the CTE Carpentry students located at the Southeastern Correctional Complex (SCC). OCSS offers Best Wishes to our friends who retired in FY2016. Please keep in touch!

In addition, several of the institutions submitted group photographs of the school staff, which are also showcased in the collage of photographs located in the back of this report:

- Grafton Correctional Institution (GCI) Sherwood Anderson School
- Mansfield Correctional Institution (ManCI) Country Haven Center
- Northeast Reintegration Center (NeRC) Robert Merrill School
- Noble Correctional Institution (NCI) Sequoyah School
- Ohio Central School System Administration
- SCC-L Ridgeview School



2016... End







We are on the web!
<http://www.drc.ohio.gov>

Denise L. Justice, Superintendent
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
Ohio Central School System
Training and Education Center
1580 St. Rt. 56
P.O. Box 779
London, Ohio 43140
Phone: 740.845.3240
Fax: 740.845.3387
Denise.Justice@odrc.state.oh.us

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