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Correctional Education Association - Wisconsin

Training Day Links Jail Instructors, WTCS and CEA-W

As WTCS ABE-Education Director Peggy Meyers described it, the first Jail Instructor Training Day brought together three legs of a triangle --- jail educators, the Wisconsin Technical College System and CEA-Wisconsin. The Training Day held on Friday, April 25, 2008 at the Pine Ridge Lodge in Wautoma was planned by Peggy and CEA-W Community Corrections Board Member Laurie Jarvis.

The day began with a Meet and Greet. Each of the over 40 participants from about 30 counties introduced themselves and briefly described the programming at their jails.

WTCS President Daniel Clancy expressed his support for the efforts of teachers working in county jails. He emphasized that part of the WTCS mission is to serve overlooked populations, one of which is the incarcerated. He believes that there is natural link between the goals of education and corrections --- that being how education can turn lives around.

In the morning General Session, "Building of Strong Relationships with County Jail Staff", Laurie Jarvis who teaches at the Waushara County Jail teamed with Waushara County Sheriff David Peterson, Jail Administrator George Peterman, and Shift Supervisor Gary Thompson to describe how to build bridges and overcome obstacles that separate the mind-sets of jail teachers and security staff. They gave examples of how at the Waushara County Jail, Laurie took steps to build trust and credibility with the security staff.

In the first afternoon session, Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution Education Director David Picard and Probation and Parole Regional Supervisor Lance Weirsmas played and discussed the DVD New Directions: A Roadmap to Prison Life and Beyond. The film they helped to make details the issues faced by offenders from sentencing, through incarceration, to release. It emphasizes ways that an offender can use programming while incarcerated to turn his life around.

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In the final session, Sheboygan County jail instructor Sharon Abel addressed the challenge of “The Constant Flow: Managing the Chaos and Classroom Strategies that Work.” Sharon involved the audience to illustrate techniques for establishing relationships with new students and strategies for making the classroom chaos productive.

Based on the success of this first Jail Instructor Training Day, the Wisconsin Technical College System and CEA-Wisconsin will be considering holding another Training Day next year. All agree, however, we need to come up with a better title for the day.

Teri Schult Honored for Financial Literacy Work

On April 16th, 2008, at the Governor’s Residence, First Lady of Wisconsin and Honorary Chair of the Governor’s Council on Financial Literacy Jessica Doyle presented awards to individuals and organizations in recognition of accomplishments and contributions to the advancement of financial literacy. Teri Schult of Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College was honored as one of the “winners of individual awards.” Teri also teaches part-time at the Washburn County Jail in Spooner

In her introduction, Ms. Doyle praised Teri’s achievement, “Our next recipient has pushed for change in far northwest Wisconsin. Teri Schult of Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College spent countless hours getting businesses involved in Money Smart Week. She organized literature, newspaper articles and ads to invite community involvement. She taught fifth graders and girl scouts as well as their parents. Teri you set a high mark for individual leadership. Congratulations. “

Teri has been a leader in the Northwestern Wisconsin area for financial education. She has planned and led meetings to get others in our area on board for Money Smart week. She has spent numerous hours making sure that businesses and organizations were involved in offering mini classes. Teri also involved school children and their parents as she taught lessons to fifth graders and girl scouts on financial education topics. This is the second year that Teri has organized Money Smart Week, and the people involved in providing the sessions, as well as those participating in the sessions have grown.

Executive Officers		<p>The CEA-W News Review is published by the members of the Correctional Education Association-Wisconsin Chapter. The opinions herein are entirely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the executive officers, the Department of Corrections, or the body as a whole.</p> <p>It is our hope that this newsletter will be used to communicate information concerning activities, special events, new directions and policies of CEA-W and DOC.</p> <p>Articles for publication may be submitted to the CEA-W News Review CEAW News Review Editor Jerry Bednarowski at: W6443 Old Highway Road Menasha, WI 54952 920-734-5902 jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com</p>
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Jail Literacy Program to Launch in Walworth County

ESL and ABE classes will be taught in the jail

In collaboration with the Walworth County Jail, the Walworth County Literacy Council will introduce a new literacy program at the jail. The jail is located in Elkhorn, and housed 4,180 inmates in 2007. The target start date for the program is the summer of 2008. Two courses will be offered to inmates: 1) Adult Basic Education (ABE) literacy and 2) English as a Second Language (ESL). Initially, class size will be limited to 10 students for both ABE and ESL. The classes will each meet 2 times per week for one hour. The WCLC is currently looking for interested volunteer tutors to teach the classes. The WCLC awaits a grant determination for funding for the project.

The jail literacy project began in the summer of 2007, as the WCLC Board of Directors embarked to research the need and desire for a literacy program within the jail. The first step was to survey each new jail inmate, via a questionnaire. The survey addressed demographics and the need for literacy classes. Board Member John Bigler created the jail survey, and Board Member Terry Schuerman prepared the questionnaire in Spanish. The survey was then distributed by jail staff to each new individual booked in the jail. From June 2007 to December 2007, 567 surveys were completed. The survey results clearly illustrate a need and desire for literacy classes in the Walworth County Jail.

“Beyond their sometimes hardened exterior and beyond the title of their offense, lies an individual who so often wants to change their life but does not know how or where to begin. I have represented individuals charged with everything from the most serious murder to a rather petty theft. My experiences have shown me that there must first be a *desire* to do the hard work to change their lives. Education is the key to change for so many of those incarcerated. Education instills esteem and power—power to leave the criminal ways behind them, to stop making excuses, and to create a brighter tomorrow”, says Brigitte Kutschma, former Public Defender in Walworth and Rock counties.

Several national studies have shown that correctional based educational programs have a significant impact on the recidivism rate. For example, a Three State Recidivism Study, published in 2001, focused on 3200 individuals who were released from prison in three states, Maryland, Minnesota and Ohio. The Study evaluated the 3 common areas of recidivism—re-arrest, re-conviction, and re-incarceration—between those who had participated in educational opportunities while incarcerated and those who had not. The Study found that educational participation while incarcerated reduced the likelihood of re-arrest by 13%; reduced the likelihood of re-conviction by 21%; and reduced the likelihood of re-incarceration by 29%. (Steurer, Stephen J., Linda Smith, and Alice Tracy, *Three State Recidivism Study*, Correctional Educational Association, Lanham, MD, 2001.)

Based on the local need and desire for jail literacy classes, the proven effects of educational jail programming nationwide, and the cooperation of the Walworth County Jail, the WCLC aspires to launch the jail classes this summer. ***If you are interested in this exciting & rewarding tutoring venture, please contact WCLC.***

reprinted from: Walworth County Literacy Council Newsletter

To join CEA go to:
www.ceanational.org

Join the CEA–Wisconsin Speakers’ List

The Correctional Education Association–Wisconsin is establishing a Speakers’ List comprised of educators, librarians, administrators and other individuals working in correctional education environments to provide lectures, workshops, and guest presentations to schools, government agencies, and community organizations. The presentations are provided free of a speaker’s fee. Travel, meal, and lodging expenses may be negotiated between the speaker and the agency hosting the presentation.

To be included on the CEA-Wisconsin Speakers’ List, you must:

- Be a current CEA member
- Complete the Speaker Information Form below
- Obtain approval from your supervisor to participate as a speaker
- Request that the organization receiving the presentation complete an evaluation that is forwarded directly to the CEA-W Board
- Be approved by the CEA-W Board

Speakers’ List Information Form

Name

Title

Institution/Organization

Supervisor

Phone

Email Address

Topic Title/Area

Topic Description (20 words or less)

Audiovisual Equipment Required

Please send the above information to:

Mary Stierna, CEA-W President

Wisconsin Resource Center

P.O. Box 16

Winnebago, WI 54985

stiermb@dhfs.state.wi.us

CEA-Wisconsin provides the Speakers’ List as a service, but CEA-W is not responsible for the content of the presentations. To insure the quality of the presentations, the CEA-W Board will periodically review the evaluations submitted by the host agencies. CEA-W reserves the right to remove anyone from the list at any time.



Friends of Correctional Education 2008 Award

Do you know someone who has been noteworthy in their support of correctional education?

This person may be a volunteer who contributes time and effort to an education program, a community agency employee who has presented special workshops, a business person who has donated funds or materials to make programs more effective, or an advocate of correctional education in some way. If such person has contributed to your facility's education program, submit his/her name to the Correctional Education Association-Wisconsin for the "Friend of Correctional Education Award."

Nominees cannot be employed by the Department of Corrections, Department of Health and Family Services, or a county jail.

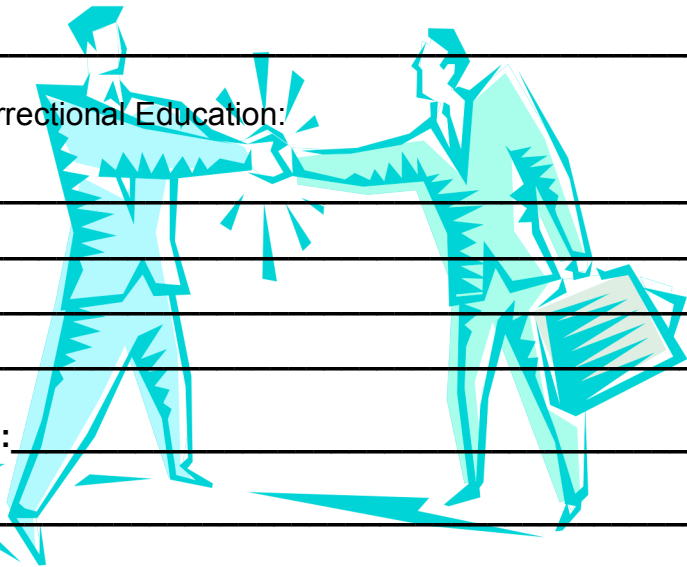
Friends of Correctional Education Entry Form

Name: _____

Contribution to Correctional Education: _____

Nominator's Name: _____

Institution: _____



Deadline: June 15, 2008

Submit your entry to:
Mike Breszee
CEA-W Awards and Recognition
Waupun Correctional Institution
PO Box 351
Waupun, WI 53963-0351

Phone: (920) 324-1147 Fax: (920) 324-7250

Email: michael.breszee@wisconsin.gov

Never Underestimate the Power of the Pen...

The La Crosse County Jail has been publishing an inmate newsletter called *Building Blocks* for the past year and a half. The inmates from both the male and female jails have had the opportunity to submit their creative writing pieces with the intention of sharing them with their peers.

Articles submitted range from personal life journeys to poetry and from jokes to current events and holiday histories and traditions. Past themes have included summer time, new beginnings, fishing stories, places in Wisconsin that would be fun to visit, and memories.

The idea of the newsletter was prompted by the ABE English classes offered in the Jail Outreach Program offered through Western Technical College. With the support and approval of Captain Doris Daggett, the help of volunteers and the county printing department, the newsletter has become a permanent publication in our jail.

by: Willa MacKenzie
Western Technical College

AJA Names Sharon Abel Civilian Employee of the Year

A Wisconsin county jail educator will be honored at the American Jail Association's 27th Annual Training Conference & Jail Expo in Sacramento, California on May 7. Lakeshore Technical College instructor Sharon Abel will be named the recipient of the AJA Civilian Employee of the Year Award for 2008.

Since 1991, Sharon has been responsible for Lakeshore Technical College's Adult Basic & Secondary Education for the Incarcerated Program in Sheboygan County.

According to Corporal Roy Kluss, one of the nominators of Sharon, "When she first started in 1991 our GED/HSED was non-existent. We had a small room with a couple desks, no computer, a few books and no funding to speak of. Since that time she has turned this program into a model for the rest of the state and nation. She is known locally and nationally for the work that she does in and out of our Detention Center. The work Sharon does outside her normal duties including research, grant writing, fund raising, presenting at conferences, coordinating our inmate library and basically anything that's needs to be done shows the dedication she has to her students, LTC, the Sheboygan County Sheriff's Department and our community. Her advocacy for education and life-long learning is contagious and truly makes a difference in the lives of her students and our whole community."

In addition to the AJA award, Sharon was honored as Region III Correctional Education Association Teacher of the Year in 2006.

Commenting on the AJA award, Sharon says, "It is a tremendous honor to have been selected as the American Jail Association's Civilian Employee of the Year 2008. Over the years I have depended on the AJA for learning and networking opportunities. As an instructor and a researcher, I place a high value on the AJA's professional publications especially *American Jails: The Magazine of the American Jail Association*. I am thankful to Cpl. Roy Kluss and Sheriff Michael Helmke for nominating me. Their support along with that of Capt. Karol Salata, Jail Administrator, is very much appreciated. I enjoy my work and I am very fortunate to be recognized for it."

Check Out CEA-W's Redesigned Website

CEA-Wisconsin has the most comprehensive website of any of the CEA state chapters. But we are not resting on our laurels. We have redesigned our website, adding more information for our members.

Our original website was created by Tom Kershner with administrative support from Mike Breszee in October 2000. Since then, Tom has managed the website, adding pages and updating information. Included on the original website were pages with information on Special Announcements, the CEAW PowerPoint Presentation, Board Members, Past Presidents, Teachers of the Year, Friends of Correctional Education, CEAW Scholarships, Showcase Awards, CEA-W newsletters, and Parenting Connections newsletters..

Thousands have visited the website and it has received many accolades from National CEA officers and CEA members throughout the country.

The CEA Board wishes to thank Tom for his creativity and hard work that made the website a model for other state chapters. He did it all on a volunteer basis.

Taking over the design and management of the website will be Randy Kowalsky. Randy is a teacher at Southern Oaks Girls School.

Randy has transported all of the information from the old website. He has added new graphics and links to other websites. Now included is background information on the various CEAW initiatives: Teacher of the Year, Friends of Correctional Education, CEAW Scholarship, Showcase Award, and Creativity Contest. A County Jail Forum, a time-line of CEA-W milestones, and conference information have been added.

So go to www.ceawisconsin.org and check it out. We appreciate your comments and suggestions.

Get Published !

During the past year, articles from several Wisconsin correctional educators have appeared the Journal of Correctional Education. You are encouraged to join them.

If you have recently written a research paper for a university course, consider submitting it for publication in the Journal of Correctional Education. If you have developed a unique curriculum project, the Journal is interested in an article describing it. If you have read an interesting book relating to correctional education, contribute a book review. If you have found educational materials that are very effective, describe how you use them. If you have opinions on some educational philosophy or trend, write an essay.

Instructions for submissions to the Journal of Correctional Education may be found on the www.ceanational.org website. Questions may be directed to Journal Editor David Webb at dwebb@ashland.edu .

Learn All About CEA-Wisconsin at:
www.ceawisconsin.org

New Executive Board Officers Take Office

With the completion of their terms on the CEA-Wisconsin Executive Board, two long-time Executive Board members decided to take a break from holding office. DeNeal Ericksen is completing her term as CEA-W President. DeNeal has been a CEA-W Board member since 2003 serving as Minimum Security Representative, President-Elect, and President. Barb Rasmussen is stepping down as CEA-W Secretary. She had served in that post since 2001. During this period when DeNeal and Barb helped provide leadership for the Wisconsin chapter, the chapter has doubled its membership, initiated many new services and projects, and increased its sponsorship of conferences and training workshops.

Assuming offices on the CEA-Wisconsin Executive Board will be:

President --- Mary Stierna

Mary has been a teacher at the Wisconsin Resource Center for 11 years. WRC is a medium security institution run by the Department of Health and Family Services. WRC has a dual population housing inmates from the DOC who are experiencing mental health issues or have behavioral disorders and patients who are committed under the Chapter 980 law, as sexually violent persons, but are not quite ready for treatment at Sand Ridge Treatment Facility.

Mary works with the inmate population at WRC, teaching reading and financial literacy. She also teaches the Cognitive Interventions Program, and trains tutors. Mary has been on the board for the Wisconsin Institutions Literacy Council since it began. She is a member of the CEA Creativity Contest Committee and a former Region III CEA Teacher of the Year. Mary really enjoys working with other teachers on projects in the classroom, being on committees, and learning from others. Mary hopes to meet as many CEA-W members as possible over the next two years.

President-Elect --- Cory Anderson

For the past thirteen years, Cory has worked in the capacity of public school teacher, head coach, and administrator. Two years ago Cory's journey took him back into the classroom as a teacher in the correctional education setting at Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility. He is very passionate about helping all his students achieve success. This road begins with the formation of a new paradigm. Cory believes that persistent reinforcement furthers this shift and is energized by small and measurable gains experienced in the classroom.

Cory first joined CEA-Wisconsin in 2006 and in October 2007 took the next step as a presiding board member. This increase in his involvement demonstrates a strong bond in vision and mission that Cory shares with CEA-W. Both understand the importance of teacher growth and its relationship in advancing our students' achievement.

Secretary --- Sharon Neseemann

Sharon is also a teacher at the Wisconsin Resource Center. She has taught there for about 2 1/2 years and her days are filled with a variety of classes and programs. Before coming to WRC, Sharon was an adjunct instructor at the Marathon County Jail for six years. There her classes were focused on ABE/GED/HSED and Financial Literacy. At WRC Sharon teaches those classes, plus Mental Health Education and Managing Anger. In July of 2006, Sharon was trained as a WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) facilitator and she works with inmates to establish individual WRAP plans. Since coming to the WRC, Sharon has compiled a curriculum for the HSED 5.09 program and works with inmates in groups and on an individual basis to help them progress toward obtaining their HSED.

Sharon is excited about the opportunity to be a member of the CEA Board as Secretary and looks forward to working with the current board members and the CEA members from Wisconsin.

Valuable Internet Tools for Tutors

Brian Anderson, Tutoring Director at *Literacy Network* in Madison, Wisconsin has created a literacy “blog” which is an amazing tool for tutors and those interested in literacy topics. His website is incredibly insightful and has a ton of practical information, resources, and tutoring tips. His tutoring tips come from real tutors, just like you, who share a bit of wisdom they have developed through their literacy experiences. I encourage everyone to check out his blog at: www.literacynetwork.blogspot.com.

Online Citizenship Materials

Does your student want help preparing for the citizenship test? Below are two online resources for tutors & students alike!

www.uscis.gov This website contains a great deal of information and downloadable learning tools to help your student prepare for the citizenship test. Once at the USCIS main page, follow the prompts for “Education and Resources”. You may then select “Civics and Citizenship Study Materials” or “Resources for Adult Educators” which are among a wide variety of available options.

www.thinkfinity.org A wonderful tool for tutors! This site, sponsored by Verizon, provides citizenship resources, lesson plans, interactive activities, and so much more. It is easy & free to register with the site, in order to gain access to a plethora of literacy tools you can use!

Check It Out

If you are looking for an entertaining and inspiring book to read, check out: *How I Learned English: 55 Accomplished Latinos Recall Lessons in Language and Life*, edited by Tom Miller (2007). This great read is a compilation of essays from notable Latino figures, including a congressman, author, TV personality, and baseball player. They each reveal a personal and often fascinating story on their journey to master the “quirks and challenges” of the English language.

reprinted from: Walworth County Literacy Council Newsletter

Wanted : Creative Writings and Drawings

Once again, CEA-W invites incarcerated writers and artists to submit their works for the ninth annual edition of the CEA-W Creativity Contest. Each year CEA-W publishes original prose, poetry, and ink drawings from Wisconsin’s jail, prison, and juvenile facility populations. All levels of writers and artists are encouraged to offer submissions. Authors and artists whose works are selected will each receive two free copies of the booklet next January.

Encourage your learners to express themselves in drawings (black ink on 8½ by 11 white paper) and writings up to 1000 words including poems, letters, essays, and short stories. Winners are selected from all levels, so urge beginning writers to give it a try. The deadline for entries is August 1, 2008.

Please ask entrants to read the contest rules and fill out the submission form legibly. Entries can be sent to Libby Kraft at the WRC address on the submission form. Other members of the Creativity Contest Committee are Mary Stierna (WRC), Conrad Reedy (KMCI), Sharon Neemann (WRC), Lisa Packard (RCI), Jane Schirger (RGCI), Mark Terpening (CCI), Jason Brost (SOGS), Linda Lentz (JCBCC), Pandora Lobacz (LHS), Susan Casper (OSCI), Joy Ellen Schuster (Milwaukee County Jail), and Ray Schlesinger (OCI).

The booklets are typeset by inmates at RCI and printed by inmates at CCI. This publication reflects the professional commitment of CEA-W members to promote literacy. Each CEA-W member gets a free copy of the booklet. If you want to join the committee, contact Ray Schlesinger at OCI.

CEA-W – Creativity Contest Rules

1. Entries are limited to writers who are incarcerated in prisons, juvenile facilities, and county jails located in Wisconsin. People in alternative correctional programs such as bracelet monitoring, probation, and parole are not eligible.
2. **All entries must be the original work of the entrant.**
3. Submission emphasis will be placed on those enrolled in educational programs. Special needs students who have received high school diplomas but have skill levels at the basic education level are encouraged to apply.
4. Artwork must be black ink on white paper and allow for at least a one-inch margin around a standard 8.5 x 11” page. Wider and darker lines allow for better reproduction. Photocopies are allowed, but the teacher or representative must see the original work at the time of submission.
5. Writing is judged on voice, organization, and creativity. Any form of writing is acceptable: poems, essays, short stories, letters, etc. Writing can be as short as one paragraph, but should not exceed 1,000 words. Entries must be typed, double-spaced, with a maximum of 2 pages.
6. Only one submission for each category, art and writing, will be accepted from each entrant.
7. The enclosed release form must accompany the entry. The instructor is responsible for explaining that the work will undergo the usual editing process which any publication undergoes. All writing technicalities (punctuation, grammar) will be corrected. Instructors are advised not to correct students’ work. Assistance in writing should include suggestions for expanding ideas, development of themes, and organization. Over-correcting by instructors interferes with the voice of the writer. Entries may be reviewed locally by the Education Director or by DOC Central Office for appropriateness and security consideration as needs and policies dictate.
8. Entries must be signed by the Education Department contact person and received at the address on the release form by August 1, 2008. Winners will receive publications by January 2009. **No submissions will be returned.** Writers whose work is not accepted will not be notified.
9. The writer should include an address where he/she can be contacted in December, 2008. The institutional address can be listed, provided the student agrees to contact the instructor in December about contest results. For jail programs, booklets will be sent to the institutional address in care of the Education Department Contact Person, as listed on the form, for distribution to winners.
10. Writers retain copyright to their work. CEA-W has first publication rights and rights to the collection of work. Winners will receive two (2) copies of the book. No payment for published work will be provided.
11. Students may have their essays published anonymously. The release form, however, must contain the student’s real name and signature. This information will be used by contest coordinator only and kept confidential. Write “anonymous” or use initials (no pseudonyms, please) on the writing submitted, and staple the two together.
12. Illegible submission forms or entries may be disqualified.

SUBMISSIONS RELEASE FORM Correctional Education Association - Wisconsin "Creativity Contest 2008"

Libby Kraft
Wisconsin Resource Center
PO Box 16
Winnebago, Wisconsin 54985-0016
(920) 426-4310 ex. 4410

I hereby give the CEA-W permission to publish the following work(s), if selected for the contest publication. **These works are my original, unpublished writings and/or artwork.** I understand that the selections may be minimally edited. I further understand that after publication all rights will return to me, however, original works will not be returned. The titles of the works submitted (maximum two) are listed below:

A. Title(s): *May submit only one (1) of each category.*

Writing: _____ **Art:** _____

B. CEA-W will send each person whose work was selected two copies of the book. Please print clearly your full name and mailing address as of December 2008. Illegible submission forms may result in disqualified entries.

(Full Name) _____
(Inmate Number)

(Mailing address – Street Address) _____
(Institution where currently residing)

(Mailing address -- City, State, Zip) Check here if this is a juvenile facility.

C. On the line below, please print the way you would like your name to appear in the book if selected. You may only use your institution name, first name with last initial, initials only, or anonymous. No aliases.

(PRINT your name, initials, or anonymous)

D. Sign and date. By signing I verify that these works are my original, unpublished writings and/or artwork.

(Signature) _____
(Date)

E. Education Department Contact Person. (For county jails, the contact person will be responsible for distributing booklets to winning authors.)

(Signature) _____
(Facility)

(Print Name) _____
(Contact Info -- Phone or Email)

Please circle one: **Jr/Sr High School (DJC)** **ABE** **Intermediate** **HSED** **Post High School**

NOTE: This form must accompany all submissions. Incomplete or incorrect submissions forms may disqualify the entry. Submissions must be sent to Libby Kraft, WRC, by August 1, 2008.

President's Message

I just returned from the CEA Region III and IV Conference in Bloomington, MN. The conference was wonderful! I attended workshops on brain injuries, book clubs, teaching responsible thinking, and a life skills grant presentation. The keynote speakers were motivating and I even ate breakfast with author Jan Walker...both days! I met our Wisconsin Teacher of the Year, Linda Eberle. She is a wonderful person, very enthusiastic, and a great representative for Wisconsin.

There are a lot of wonderful things happening with CEA in Wisconsin. I am very excited about our state conference day on May 5. We have a wide variety of workshops scheduled. I am also very excited about Wisconsin hosting the 64th Annual CEA Conference in July of 2009 in Madison. We are continuing to work with the DOC on the Reaching In and Reaching Out handbooks to assist inmates and their families in staying connected during their time of incarceration. Also, our new website looks amazing, take some time to check it out!

I want to thank DeNeal Erickson for all of her hard work as the Wisconsin chapter President for the past two years. With DeNeal at the helm, CEA-W dramatically increased our membership, began hosting the state conference day and worked closely with DOC in developing the Reaching In and Reaching Out handbooks. DeNeal will be a hard act to follow! Thank you for your dedication to correctional education DeNeal!

Happy Spring everyone, Mary Stierna

CEA-Wisconsin News Review
Sharon Neemann, CEAW Secretary
Wisconsin Resource Center
P.O. Box 16
Winnebago, WI 54985

