CEA Launches Second Tablet and A Virtual Secure Platform

Stephen J. Steurer, Ph.D., Executive Director

It is with great pleasure that I publicly announce that CEA has signed multi-year agreements with JPay and Union Supply to provide secure education tablets and a virtual school platform for all prisons, jails and juvenile facilities.

John Dowdell, Jerry McGlone and others have been working behind the scenes with JPay to move CEA into a strategic position in the correctional field. Also, much of this results directly from the recent White House meeting on technology for correctional education. That meeting was hosted by the US Departments of Education and Justice. Some great concepts resulted from work that a number of CEA members have been doing with technology during the last year or two. It all came together as a result of the 2014 CEA conference a few weeks ago where JPay and Union Supply, two commissary companies and a number of correctional leaders brainstormed the use of technology leaders in correctional education. The result, we believe, will be a giant step forward for education in prisons, juvenile facilities and jails. The project has been reported back to the White House.

More details will be announced over the next few weeks, but basically CEA is the exclusive content advisor for JPay and Union Supply. CEA and Union will continue to sell and enhance the content for the secure iPEP tablet which is locked down and does not operate on WiFi or connect to a platform. At the same time CEA and JPay have partnered for their open tablet and an agnostic secure virtual school platform. In the long term a secure platform could be transformational for the delivery of education.

One of the major stumbling blocks has been the funding to develop the platform. JPay has agreed to finance the secure platform for correctional settings. JPay promises to allow any tablet maker to access their platform. CEA will work with Union and JPay to bring aboard all major publisher and software providers. That is what we mean by agnostic.

The implications of all this are enormous. CEA is now intimately involved with the two major approaches for using tablets and advanced technology to enhance educational opportunities for the incarcerated. Union developed a secure tablet, locked down to prevent excursions onto the internet and then partnered with CEA to load the tablet (iPEP) with quality educational materials. With CEA's urging JPay agreed to create an agnostic and secure virtual school platform and allow educational publishers and educational service providers to link their websites to correctional sites. Both companies recognized CEA's pivotal role in the field of education for the incarcerated.

If all this is too much to swallow don't worry. We will be sending out more information as things develop.

Much thanks to Union and JPay who both agreed to hire CEA as their exclusive content provider and advisor.
Presidents Report
Morris Dews, President

There are times in life when you land in a place that you never planned to be or imagined you would be. Being president of the National Correctional Education Association (CEA) is one of those places. When I started as a correctional educator about 30 years ago I knew very little about teaching and less than anything about correctional education.

I was introduced to the CEA in 1988 or 89 (age does that to you) at a conference in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and Randy Shipe was the new CEA President. I was not an active member at the time and attended the conference to see what correctional educators did and what CEA was all about; the rest is history. All that I truly know and learned about correctional education I learned after joining CEA.

Today, I stand on the shoulders of those before me who encouraged, educated, mentored and proudly count as my CEA brothers and sisters. When you begin to mention names often some are omitted, but not intentionally. There have been many throughout my association with CEA responsible for my journey. Most of all it has been and continues to be the members who allowed me to represent CEA throughout this journey.

I want to thank a few very special people for their encouragement to do more than I thought I was capable. Dr. Steve Steurer, Douglas Chambers, Denise Justice, Don Kiffin, Tim Phillians, Norris Williams, Dr. Jerry McGlone, Dr. Carolyn Eggleston, and Rhea Bowman. In no particular order all of these individuals have helped prepare me for this position. Through their passion and dedication to CEA they have shown me that CEA is not just an educational organization, but the only organization truly dedicated to providing support and professional development opportunities for correctional educators.

To echo the words of past president David Webb, CEA has faced many challenges, however, still standing. We are now at a crossroads and will need the support of everyone if we are to continue to increase community awareness and legislative support for correctional education through public relations and legislative advocacy. The key to increase CEA’s membership is its members. Encourage friends and colleagues to join us in the fight to improve correctional education and provide support to correctional educators in becoming the best in our chosen profession. If you doubt the work we do makes a difference, walk into any prison classroom and immediately you will see the impact education has on the population we serve.

CEA needs your input to guide the organization for the next 5, 10 and 15 years from now. I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!! Let’s make this the best year yet for membership and support for the Correctional Education Association.

69th Annual CEA International Conference and Training Event
Susan Nell, Awards Committee Chair

June 22-25, 2014, 303 correctional educators converged on the Crystal City Hilton in beautiful Arlington, Virginia. Participants came from around the United States, Canada, Malaysia and Norway. The 70+ workshops were filled with great information to take back to our facilities to share and implement as we all move forward with Education and Technology: The Pathway to Reentry.

With our proximity to Washington DC we were fortunate to have a distinguished group of governmental speakers who let us know that our contributions to the education of the incarcerated is recognized and appreciated. Greetings were extended to the attendees by Deputy Executive Director of the American Correctional Association Jeffrey Washington and Virginia
69th Annual CEA International Conference and Training Event
Susan Nell, Awards Committee Chair (continued from page 2)
Department of Corrections Director Harold Clark. Johan Uvin, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education – US Department of Education, and Gerri Fiala, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Employment and Training Administration – US Department of Labor kicked our opening session off by discussing education, career pathways and employment outlook.

On Monday evening 7 Regional Teachers of the Year were feted at the Black and White ball. Our keynote speaker was Scott Budnick, founder of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC) but better known as the Producer of the Hangover movies. Scott is very involved with the California Department of Corrections and was instrumental in bringing college programing to Ironwood Correctional. But Scott didn’t just speak on site at the TOY gala. We actually had a webinar between Scott in his office, students at Ironwood and the correctional educators at the TOY gala! This was a first for CEA.

Tuesday we were honored to have Karol Mason, Assistant Attorney General, address us during the Awards Luncheon. As head of the office of Justice Programs she oversees a budget dedicated to supporting state, local and tribal criminal justice agencies, juvenile justice programs and comprehensive programs for victims of crime. Ms. Mason let us know the value she places on what we do each day for our students.

There were 28 vendors in attendance with a wide array of academic and vocational programs, materials and services to share. Each evening there was an opportunity for conferees to congregate and network, sharing information and ideas. Montgomery County Correctional Facility graciously hosted a tour of their facility. Randy Shipe, former CEA President sent us on our way Wednesday with entertaining stories about his years in correctional education.

Thanks to the hard work of our committee members and onsite volunteers this year’s conference was a huge success.

Historical WEBEX Created at 2014 Annual Conference
Bob Holtz, Carpentry Vocational Instructor, Inland Valley Education Center California Institution for Men, Chino CA

Around 6:30 p.m. EST on Monday, June 23, the 69th Annual Corrections Education Association (CEA) International Conference created a historical WEBEX between attendees and correctional students. Nearly 2000 miles separated these two groups of people; yet today’s technology brought them together. Conference attendees walked into the grand ballroom at the Hilton Crystal City Virginia unaware they were to be witness to something great. The conference theme was “Education and Technology the Pathway to Re-Entry” and the perfect platform for what would develop that evening. Few attendees had insight to the historical moment to unfold; however, I did and was eager to be a part of this.

A 15’ x 20’ video screen hung in front of the ballroom for all attendees to view a first ever WEBEX collaborated and prepared by the CEA executive director Steve Steurer, Hangover movie producer Scott Budnick, and the exceptional group of college students and staff at Ironwood State Prison in Blythe, California. It was eerie watching the images appear on the screen and hearing the voices echo throughout the hall as guests and attendees began to fill the large room. All the CEA teachers of the year were preparing to enter the room to be recognized for achievements they had accomplished in their facilities throughout the country. It was the ideal time and location for history to be made as hardworking and ground breaking teachers and students crossed nearly 2000 physical miles to collaborate. The physical miles were quickly overcome as the participants were
separated by mere feet through technology. The broadcast to both ends of the country was summoned through bits and bytes of electrons passing each other and finding their way to each other in a seamless presentation. There we were wondering how we got there that evening and wondering where we’d go next.

Attendees were the witness to something boundless and historical. There was great wonder and trepidation as CEA, Scott Budnick and a group of hardworking students traversed cyberspace and broke through countless barriers. Efforts worked flawlessly as the audience sat in wonder with some slight concern the attempt might fail and this ground breaking achievement would get frozen in time or lost somewhere in the information super highway. To the contrary, students participated eagerly, earnestly, and energetically all the while fielding questions from correctional educators from across the country. The questions from the audience were on target and the answers from the correctional facility classroom were thoughtful and meaningful.

A recording of this event did not occur due to requests of the facility, but I am certain these moments are emblazoned on all in attendance. This was an important moment in history and we will forever be thankful.

Obama Signs Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

As most of you know, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) passed both the Senate and the House in early July. Within a few weeks, President Obama attached his signature to make it law. It will replace the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) starting July 1, 2015.

For several years, CEA has been trying to find a way to restore post-secondary education funds for the incarcerated which had been lost with the budget compromise a few years back. Congressman Danny Davis of Illinois has been our chief architect behind the scenes. His staffer, Dr. Jill Hunter-Williams and I had been working quietly with the US Department of Education to insert key changes in WIOA.

With the support of all the major adult education groups, the maximum set-aside was changed from 10% to 20% in the bill signed by the President’s signature. It simply means you are able to work in your own state to get a bigger slice of the funding.

Dr. Hunter-Williams and I have also been working even more quietly for another change, language to allow set-aside funds to be used for post-secondary credit. This was most difficult; however, Democratic Congressman Davis of Illinois and Republican Congressman Miller of California worked together on an addendum to WIOA called a colloquy. This colloquy clarifies the definition of allowable expenses to include post-secondary credit courses. It is not mandatory but simply means that each state will have the option to spend WIOA set-aside funds not only on the current allowable activities, but also on college level courses. John Linton and his colleagues at USDOE were totally aware of our efforts behind the scenes. Recently retired Assistant Secretary Dr. Brenda Dann-Messier, fully backed and lobbied with the general adult education community for the 20% maximum set-aside. She and her staff were also aware of CEA efforts for the restoration of spending for post-secondary education. While not backing the language change publicly they did not speak against the proposal.

There have been reports on the changes in WIOA to members of the adult education community by various coalitions. While the 20% maximum has been mentioned in some reports no one has reported on the change for post-secondary
Obama Signs Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
Stephen J. Steurer, Ph.D., Executive Director (continued from page 5)

education credit. The change was “slipped in” during the floor vote. Sometime over the next several months the US Department of Education will look at WIOA, including the colloquy and will issue guidance to the field. None of these changes affect the current WIA for 2014-2015 and with funding levels still to be approved later this year.

We owe a great debt to Dr. Brenda Dann-Messier and her staff for all their support and a great deal of thanks to Congressman Danny Davis and Dr. Jill Hunter-Williams for working with CEA for several years.

I thought you might like to know what CEA has accomplished legislatively for you and that patience can pay off!

Denise Justice Receives Executive Director’s Award
By: Susan Nell, Awards Committee Chair

Dr. Stephen Steurer, CEA Executive Director, presented this year’s Executive Director’s Award to Denise Justice, Superintendent of the Ohio Central School System with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. She has worked in Correctional Education for the past 34 years and has held numerous positions in the Ohio Central School System during that time. She has been a Special Education Teacher, Education Specialist, School Administrator, Principal, Academic Director, Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent. As Superintendent she oversees a 30 million dollar budget annually and a staff of around 350. She is known as a tireless worker and an innovator who is always looking to improve and enhance the correctional education offerings for the students in Ohio. She has also held numerous positions in the Correctional Education Association over the years. The positions she has held include Region III Secretary and Director, President of CEA National, Past President of CEA National, and chair of several committees. She had remained on the board as an ad hoc member and has taken on many projects, including the website and conference oversight duties. Whenever something needs to be done Denise is always willing to step in and help out.

She has also served as the Correction Director for the Ohio Association of Adults in Continuing Education and as a board member for the DRC Training Advisory Committee. She was received the following awards: School Administrator of the Year from the Ohio Central School System and the President’s Award from the Correctional Education Association.

Tim Phillians Receives the Lifetime Achievement Award
Susan Nell, Awards Committee Chair

The Lifetime Achievement Award is the highest award offered by CEA. Tim Phillians has been actively involved in CEA since 1987. He has held numerous elected offices at both the regional and national levels, including President of CEA (2002-2004) and Region 3 Director (1995-1999). He has served
Tim Phillians Receives the Lifetime Achievement Award
Susan Nell, Awards Committee Chair (continued from page 6)

His contributions to CEA are numerous. He has worked tirelessly on the CEA National Audit Standards and has been active on the Standards Commission. Tim has been a CEA Auditor since its inception. He authored a completely revised Policies and Procedures Manual for the National Board. Tim has chaired the Constitution, Bylaws and P&P committee for years and continues to serve on the committee. His body of knowledge has proven time and time again to be invaluable for the National Board of Directors. He rewrote the Regional Constitution literally from scraps of paper! He revised the “cookbook” manual for National Conference operations, making it “more hands on” and practical. He has served as Oversight Chair for five national conferences. Whenever CEA needs a volunteer, Tim is first in line to accept responsibility. No committee is too large or insignificant for Tim's active participation. CEA as an organization has benefited significantly from his involvement.

Tim continues his support and contribution to the betterment of CEA in lesser though no less vital roles. The CEA Historian, Dr. Jerry McGlone stated, “No former CEA President has contributed more or for longer after their Presidency than Tim Phillians. His dedication and commitment to CEA is of the highest order. In my opinion, few have advanced the Organization more in the last 27 years than Tim Phillians. CEA would not be the organization it is today without him.”

Norris Williams Receives Presidents’s Award
Susan Nell, Awards Committee Chair

President David Webb selected Norris Williams as the 2014 CEA President's Award Winner. In April 1997, Norris Williams began his career as a correctional educator. He is a Master Electrician and brought with him into the classroom over 25 years of experience in the Electrical Field. During the next six years he spent one year teaching male inmates and five years teaching female inmates. In 2003, he was promoted to the position of Correctional Education Administrator responsible for Apprenticeship Programs as well as Career and Technical Education Program Credentialing for the Virginia Corrections System.

He is a twice Past- Director of the Correctional Education Association Region II, representing Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia.

He presently serves as Chairman of the National Correctional Education Association Long Range Strategic Planning and Conference Oversight Committee. He is the Treasurer of Correctional Education Association...
Bill Farmer started working for the Idaho Department of Correction as an Adult Basic Education Instructor in 1979. In his 35 years in correctional education, Bill has managed educational programs at the institutional level as well as statewide. He has worked at the Idaho State Correctional Institution and the North Idaho Correctional Institution with time also spent at IDOC’s Central Office. All this time, Bill has been a tireless advocate for correctional education. He has been instrumental in developing partnerships with postsecondary institutions as well as other stakeholders in the community. Bill is always looking for opportunities to enhance his programs and is constantly writing grants to fund his vision. Bill was instrumental in the Idaho Department of Correction receiving the Life Skills for State and Local Prisoner Project in the late 1990’s. Bill believes in the importance of correctional education and takes every opportunity to tell people why it is important.

Dr. Susan McKee is the President and CEO of Pace Learning Systems. Dr. McKee has been dedicated to developing high quality basic skills remediation and employability and training materials. She began her professional career in 1971 as an instructor for learning disabled students. Over the next seven years, she worked as a psychologist in mental health and with several public school systems to improve conditions for the special learner. Dr. McKee has demonstrated that students can succeed in academic performance and that their self-esteem can be greatly enhanced by experiencing success where they have previously failed, thus saying “Nothing Teaches Like Success.”

Norris Williams received the President’s Award for the Virginia Apprenticeship Counselors and Coordinators Association. Region II, President of Virginia Apprenticeship Alumni Association, and the Director of Richmond Area Apprenticeship Counselors and Coordinators Association. Other professional organizations in which he maintains membership are the American Corrections Association, Virginia Corrections Association, and the Virginia Governmental Employees Association. He has a passion for correctional education as a viable force in the rehabilitation of offenders.
James Palmer, 2014 International Teacher of the Year  
Region I, Pennsylvania

James Palmer has been a vocational instructor for 23 years. He was the Agricultural Science Instructor and the FFA advisor at the Huntingdon Area High School for 16 years, before joining the instructional team at the Youth Forestry Camp #3 at Trough Creek State Park. The school is run by Tuscarora Intermediate Unit #11.

James has been a CEA member since 2007 and has taught in Corrections Education for 7 years. At the camp, he instructs students in the areas of: Arc welding, Mig welding and Oxyacetylene, Building and Home Maintenance, Woodworking, and Small Gasoline Engine Repair. Students earn certificates and leave with a competency chart indicating the skills and tasks they have mastered in the vocational program. In each vocational area, students are trained in personal safety, machinery safety, skill mastery, and career opportunities.

James's philosophy is, “You have to meet the students where they are mentally, emotionally, socially, and personally before you will see progress academically or vocationally. If they see you as a person, they are going to respond to you as a person.” Isn't that how we respond to people?

James and his wife Lora live on an active 60 acre farm in Todd, PA. They have 6 biological children and have opened their home to foster children. They have adopted 5 children over the past 3 years. They are members of the Beavertown Bible Church and in their spare time, they enjoy riding horses, boating, camping, vacationing and their classic cars.

Melissa Ann Nichols, 2014 International Teacher of the Year  
Region II, West Virginia

She earned a BBA in Marketing with a minor in Advertising from Marshall University. She also holds a Mathematics certification in grades 7-12 and a MA in Learning Disabilities from West Virginia University.

Melissa has taught at SMCC in St. Marys, West Virginia for seven years. The first five years were in Adult Basic Education where she worked with students to increase basic skills, as well as, achieve High School Diploma Equivalencies. Over the past two years she has instructed in Life Skills, currently teaching classes that earn college credit. These include Thinking for a Change, College Transitions, SPOKES, and Keyboarding.

Prior to institutional education Melissa taught in both public middle Melissa Ann Nichols is currently a Life Skills Instructor at St. Marys Correctional Center. She comes from a legacy of engineers, nurses, and educators.

She earned a BBA in Marketing with a minor in Advertising from Marshall University. She also holds a Mathematics certification in grades 7-12 and a MA in Learning Disabilities from West Virginia
Deb Withem, 2014 International Teacher of the Year
Region III, Ohio

I heard the calling to become a teacher in 2000. At the time, there was a shortage of teachers in Texas. The state had an alternative certification program which allowed eligible candidates to begin teaching immediately, with a provision that participants would complete 30 semester hours of coursework in three years.

I interviewed for a fourth grade language arts position in a low income school district and received the job offer at 3:45 PM the day before the school year began. I attended Meet the Teacher that evening and embarked on my journey as an educator at 8 AM the next morning. Although it was not easy teaching all day and attending classes at night, through hard work and determination, I was able to complete the program in less than two years.

After completing the certification program, my family and I relocated to Ohio, where I obtained a K-8 Ohio license. Unable to secure a full-time teaching position, I began substitute teaching for local school districts. I soon became the favorite substitute of many teachers.

I vividly remember the day I received the call from Hocking Correctional Facility’s personnel director. It was shortly after 9 AM on Friday, December 19, 2003, one of the few days I wasn’t scheduled to sub. Correctional educator was not my dream job, but it was a full-time position, so I agreed to report for duty as HCF’s new literacy teacher on January 5. During those next two weeks, anticipation built, along with a huge dose of nervousness. I was about to walk into a prison full of convicted felons. What was I thinking! Hadn’t I seen enough prison movies to know this was not a good idea? My attitude changed, however, once I spent some time in the classroom. Now, when outsiders ask what it’s like to teach in prison, I smile a knowing smile and say, “It’s not like what you see in the movies.” Although my official title is literacy teacher, in 2005, I was selected to also serve as the Transitional Education (TEP) instructor. To further the educational opportunities at HCF, I contracted with Hocking College to facilitate distance learning courses.

Melissa Ann Nichols, 2014 International Teacher of the Year
Region II, West Virginia (continued from page 9)

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Prior to institutional education Melissa taught in both public middle and high schools for over 20 years. She taught Mathematics, Dance, English, Science, and Computer Programming.

Her husband of 14 years, Terry, is greatly supportive of her career efforts. She has four successful children and four grandchildren, with one on the way.

She is active in her church. She enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, Zumba, drawing, farming and family gatherings.
Deb Withem, 2014 International Teacher of the Year
Region III, Ohio (continued from page 10)

at the institution two to three nights a week for several semesters.

Upon the retirement of our GED/PreGED teacher in 2008, I took on the responsibility of teaching those classes, as well as literacy and TEP, and did so until a replacement was hired in 2012. In addition to my teaching duties, I also serve on several committees and have been a member of the regional hostage negotiation team since August 2005. In my 9 ½ years, I have found teaching in prison to be highly rewarding. Do you know how it feels when a student tells you he is now able to write a letter to his wife of 30+ years, all because of you? I do. Have you ever gotten misty-eyed as you watched a 55-year old man read his first book through tears of joy?

I have. No, correctional educator was not my dream job, but now I cannot see myself anywhere else.

Larry Harding, 2014 International Teacher of the Year
Region IV, Washington

Larry Harding is an outstanding instructor currently managing the Walla Walla Community College/Washington State Penitentiary (WSP) Carpentry Program. Larry has had a career filled with an outstanding number of teaching successes both in terms of what his students have learned and the types of projects he has planned, supervised and completed.

Larry has been an outstanding employee for approximately 25 years working with the College and has worked with hundreds of students over the years preparing them for careers. Preparation of well-trained carpenters ready to work in all facets of building projects can be a daunting task. Larry has always excelled in this area and has assisted not only with the training of students as they head toward their careers but also as a mentor who is available as a resource for those students as they continue in the workforce.

Currently Larry is working on a Vocational Education work building at the Washington State Penitentiary that will house both a Building Maintenance program and the HVAC program for Medium Security inmates in the new South Complex being built at WSP. Working with his Minimum Security inmate students in the carpentry program, Larry has taken on the task of planning and construction of a 120” by 60’ clear span building complete with vocational training space and classrooms. Working in partnership with SBCTC and DOC headquarters Capital Projects and WSP DOC personnel led by Superintendent Steve Sinclair the project has moved forward at a brisk pace.

In addition to supporting DOC programming efforts, Larry has also navigated the plethora of procedures to have his students involved with construction of Habitat for Humanity houses. These Community projects allow students to learn valuable skills while giving back to the community with their participation in the building process. As of this date his students have completed four Habitat houses that families are now living in.

Learning under Larry’s guidance, students are learning real world skills that will allow them to interview and get hired in the field of construction and obtain living wage jobs. This provides a win win for the offender, and our communities alike.

Larry’s leadership, knowledge, and experience have been a remarkable asset for the students, college, and DOC.
Melissa Baltes, 2014 International Teacher of the Year
Region IV, Minnesota

Melissa Baltes has worked for the State of Minnesota, Department of Corrections for the past five years. She currently teaches English Language Learners (ELL) and Special Education. She also teaches the Parenting Class and is the Adult Diploma Coordinator for the Moose Lake Facility. Prior to coming to the Department of Corrections, she worked in the public school system as a special education teacher. Melissa graduated from St. Cloud State University in 2004 with her Bachelors of Science in Special Education. She is currently working on her Masters in Special Education from Bemidji State University. When she is not teaching, you will find her camping, outside, reading a good book, and watching her children grow up. She has a passion for teaching and truly cares about student success in school and life.

Fred Wilson, 2014 International Teacher of the Year
Region IX, Wyoming

Fred Wilson is the Vocational Welding Instructor at the Wyoming Medium Correctional Institution located in Torrington, Wyoming. He earned his Bachelors of Science in Agricultural Education from Oklahoma Panhandle State University in 1996. Wright, Wyoming was where he started teaching Agriculture Education and was the FFA Advisor for nearly 30 students and where he earned “Rookie Agriculture Teacher of The Year” for 1997. While teaching high school, Wilson started seeing a trend with how he interacted with students and how administration started designating and enrolling particular students into his classes. He had an ability to work with the ‘troubled’ ones and turn them in a positive direction. That was very rewarding for a young teacher.

In the fall of 2010, Wilson returned to his hometown of Torrington, WY and started the Vocational Welding. In conjunction with Eastern Wyoming College and their welding department, WMCI offers a four class welding program that allows inmate students the opportunity to earn 12 college credits and a Certificate in Plate Welding. Mr. Wilson uses a ‘You Can, You Will’ philosophy with the inmate students. Students learn quickly that he will not give them an immediate answer to their questions or problems. They have to give a full-hearted effort to solve their problems first. Throughout the welding classes, students are continually introduced to new welding positions, electrodes and metal fit-ups. At the end of the nearly 5-month training program, welding students are treated to a full-fledged college graduation ceremony held in the facility. For most inmate students, this is the first time they have earned a diploma, worn a cap and gown, and have ever been told “Good Job- You did it! You are a graduate!”

To date, 49 inmate students have graduated the WMCI Vocational Welding Program under Mr. Wilson’s direction. Only three have returned to prison… that is less than 1%. Statistically, learning to weld is a great tool for Wyoming inmates to
Denise Gatewood, 2014 International Teacher of the Year
Region V, Arkansas

Denise Gatewood became an educator with the Arkansas Correctional School System in Pine Bluff, Arkansas in 2004. There, she teaches Adult Basic Education (ABE) level. Prior to her work in education, Ms. Gatewood worked at the ACS administration office as Student Record Coordinator.

For the past 10 years Ms. Gatewood has dedicated her career to educating inmates and providing life skill training to assist them upon their release from prison. Her personal goal is to challenge her students to grow in their weak areas. She works with students who are at different levels and tries to develop a pattern that will give them room to grow and expand on their own. She encourages students to have freedom that allows for expression and creativity. She believes students should be able to experiment with likes and dislikes, therefore, giving all students the opportunity to determine their strengths and weaknesses.

From 2010 - 2014, she served as Region V secretary/treasurer where she was responsible for maintaining the records, correspondence, and financial accounts. She served as secretary on the state level for two years. Ms. Gatewood has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. She received her Master's Degree in Educational Theory and Practice from the Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, AR.

Fred Wilson, 2014 International Teacher of the Year
Region IX, Wyoming

In Wilson's spare time, he stays busy raising three boys and one girl with his wife in southeastern Wyoming. All of his kids are active in school, sports, 4-H and growing up in the farm and ranching way of life. He is a volunteer for his local fire department keeping them from returning to prison.

Wilson's passion is volunteering with the local Search and Rescue. Just last year, he became an Apprentice Level Tracker and Lead Trainer. As Training Officer, he helps coordinate all of the training for the search and rescue group. Future plans for the WMCI welding program and Mr. Wilson are to eventually establish a permanent welding facility on site. This would be a great learning environment for inmate students to build projects that apply their new skill. It would allow for more work-experience then currently offered.
2014 CEA International Conference

Michael Shaffer and Denise Justice, Conference Chairs (continued from page 13)

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Newly Elected President’s Council Chair

Kim Barnette, Presidents Council Chair

As a professional organization, CEA does many great things for its members to improve the quality of the correctional working environment by seeking classroom funding sources, providing professional development of current topics, and educating lawmakers on the value of correctional education. As the newly elected President’s Council Chair, Kim Barnette’s primary goal is to ensure that the entire CEA membership is made aware of the constant work of the organization’s leaders and provide a voice to its members. Ms. Barnette’s work with other state and national organizations brings a new resource to CEA which will benefit the future of the association. She currently serves as the Education Representative on the American Correctional Association Board of Governors, which will better connect CEA to the overall corrections community. Her previous work as Louisiana’s State President for Adult Education and host of the 2013 Council on Adult Basic Education’s National Conference will bring a new perspective to CEA with regard to topics which affect adult education in a corrections and a non-corrections environment. After 29 years in education, Ms. Barnette is thrilled to serve the CEA membership as the 2014-16 President’s Council Chair. She expresses her desire to have open communication with all CEA members, and encourages the members to contact her at kbarnette@corrections.state.la.us with questions and concerns which need to be brought before the CEA Board.
2013-2014 Executive Board

President
Morris Dews
(804) 371-6033
Morris.dews@vadoc.virginia.gov

Past President
David Webb
(419) 289-5740
dwebb@ashland.edu

Vice President
Peggy Meyers
(607) 267-9684
Peggy.meyers@wtcsystem.edu

Secretary
Susan Nell
(614) 292-0455
nell.5@osu.edu

Treasurer
Jeana Ely
(405) 387-5473
Jeana.ely@doc.state.ok.us

President’s Council Chair
Kim Barnette
kbarnette@corrections.state.la.us

Council of Directors
Representative
Betty Abbot
betty.abbott58@gmail.com

Juvenile Justice Advocate
Rhea Bowman
(907)742-1120
bowman_rhea@asdk12.org

Region I
Ronn Bargiel
rbargiel@tiu11.org

Region II Director
Jacob Green
jgreen@k12.wv.us

Region III
Margaret Done
Margaret.Done@wi.gov

Region IV
Mary Feeney-Wilfer
feeneywilfer@hotmail.com

Region V
Toni Becktold
becktold@aol.com

Region VI
Ambrose Richardson
(208) 344-9826
arichard@idoc.idaho.gov

Region VII
Bob Holtz
Robert.holtz@cdcr.ca.gov

Region VIII
Lisa Williams
(334) 213-5006
Iwilliams@dys.k12.al.us

Region IX
VACANT

Executive Director
Stephen Steurer
(443) 459-3080 xt 1
ssteurer@ceanational.org

Administrative Assistant
Kiara Bell
(443) 459-3080 xt 3
kwilson@ceanational.org

2014-2015 Standards Commission

Fran Warsing, Chair (WV)
fwarsing@access.k12.wv.us

Jim Keeley (PA)
Jhkeeeley@gmail.com

Rhea Bowman (AK)
Bowman_Rhea@asdk12.org

Bill Sondervan (NC)
bills@aca.org

Bill Wood (MA)
wswood@doc.state.ma.us

Morris Dews (VA)
morris.dews@vadoc.virginia.gov

Roland Larkin (NY)
rlarkin@hotmail.com

Steve Steurer (MD)
ssteurer@ceanational.org

Kiara Bell
kwilson@ceanational.org

We are proud to present our new officers:
Kim Barnette, Presidents’ Council Chair
Fran Warsing, Standards Commission
Rhea Bowman, Standards Commission
Susan Nell, Executive Board Secretary
Inmates and educators around the world are discovering the value of Words of Peace. So much so that, special learning materials have been developed for use in prisons. Check out these materials which are called “Articles” in the downloads section of www.wopg.org.

You are most welcome to download, print and distribute these materials to your students. Each PDF includes a poster for teachers to display on classroom notice boards or for inmates to display in their living accommodations. The articles look good printed in color or black and white and are great to use as classroom handouts, homework assignments, texts for teaching English and other languages, as supplemental reading material for the Words of Peace videos. They are also designed for use in packets of materials delivered to inmates during periods of lock-down.

Words of Peace materials are being used as part of conflict resolution classes and peace study classes. Audio clips and videos are also available for free download in the “downloads” section of www.wopg.org.