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# NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

## DIVISION OF PRISONS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BULLETIN

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*Theodis Beck, Correction Secretary*  
*Boyd Bennett, Prisons Director*  
*Bonnie Boyette, Chief of Programs*

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*Rose True, Education Director*

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### **New Classes to Begin at Pamlico Correctional Institution**

Pamlico Community College continues their efforts to recruit an instructor for the new upholstery class tentatively scheduled to start this fall semester. Continuing Education has also submitted a proposal to add an additional Economic Literacy class to afford inmates an opportunity to enhance their financial skills. Proposed implementation date for this class is January 8, 2007.

Pamlico held its annual PCC/PCI graduation ceremony on Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. There were 194 graduates with 99 participating in the graduation ceremony. There were 30 community college staff attending and 30 inmate guests. The guest speaker was Mr. Larry Ponds, former Chief Deputy Sheriff and Magistrate of Pamlico County. He delivered a motivational speech addressing integrity and accountability. Upon completion of the awards ceremony, light refreshments were served. Pamlico CI's Horticulture class donated a beautiful flower arrangement for the ceremony. Inmate Service club donated a cap and gown portrait to each graduate.

#### **In other news from Pamlico CI:**

- Summer enrollment was good. There were 51 inmates enrolled in vocational courses and 62 enrolled in academic education. Ten inmates enrolled in Night GED at this time.
- Napoleon Hill, Character Education, and Anger Management resumed the last week of June and are well attended.
- Fall registration will be held August 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Fliers have been posted throughout the institution to inform the inmate population. The PCI staff is anticipating a great 2006-2007 school year.

### **Students at Polk Correctional Institution Participate in Creative Writing Contest**

Polk Academic and Vocational School had several students to participate in the 2006 Annual Inmate Creative Writing Contest. Out of the numerous entries submitted, thirteen pieces were selected for final judging. The thirteen entries were in the following categories: five poems, four short stories, and four essays. The students shared an array of topics, which included life, love, success, changes, inner strengths, and personal experiences. Judges were selected from among the prison staff.

### **Educational News at Foothills Correctional Institution**

Foothills celebrated Administrative Professionals Day in April honoring Pam Buchanan, our office manager who coordinates all the comings and goings in the educational office. We recognized the outstanding volunteers, who generously donate their time to the facility and work one on one with the inmates, with a special banquet. Though each new student is given the TABE test upon entry to the facility, the school conducts TABE testing twice a year of all students to gauge academic progress. Our YOP (Youthful Offenders Program) is going strong with the wonderful addition of several classes from UNC-Asheville in political science and sociology.

In May, National Teacher Appreciation Day was celebrated with a special breakfast and briefcase bags for all staff members. We had our annual Employee Appreciation Seminar which recognized the officer of the year, the employee of the year and the supervisor of the year as well as special retirees. Mary Ann O'Neil, the school guidance counselor, was recognized for 30 years of service!

In the vocational and horticultural programs, there was such an abundance of vegetable and flower plants that we held a facility wide sale which enabled everyone to start their spring gardens! We were also happy to welcome a new half time ESP teacher Charlotte La Bore, who will be splitting her time between FCI and Western Youth Institution. We had perhaps the most successful graduation ever with 60 students receiving diplomas, certificates and degrees. The event went off flawlessly and families, staff members and students were all at their best.

June brought us the Regional Security Audit which was passed with flying colors. Our staff donated their community service hours to proctoring the End-of Grade tests in the local school system. Several of our teachers presented at a DOP system-wide Title One reading conference. We also welcomed Mike Swink as our new Language Arts teacher and look forward to him starting in July.

Foothills Correctional Institution is committed to providing an education which encompasses more than passing grades on a test. We are dedicated to creating a new literacy which gives our students the tools to navigate a legitimate society.

## **Harnett Students Build Items for Annual Benefit Auction**

On June 3, 2006, the Annual Benefit Auction sponsored by Central Carolina Community College's Foundation, was a big success raising approximately \$8,000 for CCCC's Harnett County Scholarship Program. The auction took place at the College's Harnett County Campus in Lillington, North Carolina. The Carpentry, Welding, and Masonry programs at Harnett Correctional Institution built the auction items from materials purchased by the Foundation. Handcrafted items including furniture, grills, and yard ornaments were auctioned to the highest bidder. Special recognition should go to Carpentry instructor, Edward Taylor, Welding instructor, Charles Bell, and Masonry instructor, Charles Hickman for once again making this auction an outstanding event and to Provost Bill Tyson and his staff who hosted the event. These types of events are made possible because of the strong partnership between DOC and CCCC/HCI.



**Queen Anne Lowboy Desk  
sold at the CCCC Foundation Auction 2006**

## **Students Experience “Real World” Activities at Western Youth Institution**

On Friday, May 12, 2006, Western Youth Institution (WYI) held its first “Real World Simulation”. The “Real World Simulation” was an activity in which approximately one hundred inmates worked along side institutional staff and educational guests in preparation for non-custodial activities once they are released. Each inmate was provided with a real world job and corresponding salary. The salary was based loosely on educational achievement. From that salary they were asked to plan monthly budgets which required them to evaluate the costs of transportation, utilities, housing, etc. When asked about the experience, many of the participants expressed appreciation for the learning activity.

On June 16, 2006, Mr. Michael Swink, a seasoned social studies and English teacher at WYI, was selected by his peers as Teacher of the Year for the 2005-2006 academic year. During the GED commencement ceremony, Mr. Swink was provided with a plaque recognizing his instructional excellence and shared with the graduates a few words of wisdom concerning their academic future.

## **Educational Programs are a Success at Davidson Correctional Center**

Davidson Correctional Center continues the excitement in the educational programs at our facility. The programs that are offered at Davidson Correctional Center are: Human Resource Development, Horticulture, Part-Time GED and we have just finished our last session of the Financial Literacy Class on July 6, 2006. These programs are and have been very successful at our facility.

Our Project Re-Entry Program and our Part-Time GED Program are two of the most successful programs at our facility. On May 12, 2006, we had two inmates graduate with their GED certificate. This was a very exciting and emotional time for them. During the past (6) six months, there have been a total of (9) nine inmates who have earned a GED.

Project Re-Entry is an exciting and one of the most rewarding programs that are offered at Davidson Correctional Center. This program is not only motivational, but has become a life changing experience for the inmates. It has helped the inmates build self esteem, and has motivated them to live a life style of positive change, not only for themselves, but for the youth in their communities. This program is offered to inmates who have (6) six to (18) eighteen months remaining on their sentence. The Project Re-Entry Program's mission is to improve reintegration of ex-offenders, reduce Criminal Justice costs and increase public safety through a pre and post-release system. The North Carolina Department of Correction, ex-offenders, community colleges, Job Link Systems, faith based ministries, employers, community organizations and residents work cooperatively to help the Project Re-Entry Program accomplish its goals.

The Project Re-Entry's vision is to support the restoration of the ex-offender's relationship to self, family and community by empowering the ex-offender to become a self-reliant, contributing member of his community and his family. The duration of the Project Re-Entry Program is (12) weeks per session. Inmates who sign up to participate are expected to remain in the class for the duration. Participants are not on gain time and are not awarded merit days. Upon their graduation from the program, inmates are given a certificate of completion. Inmates who complete this program have usually built a network of resources for success. These resources include employment training opportunities and job skills development.

Davidson Correctional Center would like to give special thanks to Mrs. Eller, instructor at Davidson County Community College, Mrs. Sophia Feaster, Piedmont Region Social Worker for Division of Prisons (DOP), and Mrs. Becky Sauter and Mr. Michael Thomas, program facilitators, for all the hard work they do to accomplish the vision of this program.

## Graduation Ceremonies Held

### Lumberton Correctional Institution:

On May 25, 2006, Lumberton Correctional Institution held a graduation ceremony for GED and Vocational candidates. Eight inmates were awarded GED certificates and fifteen inmates were recognized for completing vocational courses and the horticulture program. An additional eight inmates had earned a GED during the past year; however, they had transferred to another prison or were released. Vocational courses offered at Lumberton are Carpentry, Electrical Wiring, and Heating/Air Conditioning.

The guest speaker for the graduation ceremony was a current inmate who was selected for past accomplishments including earning a GED in April of 2006. Robeson Community College provided a full course meal for the graduates, programs staff, and college representatives. The caps and gowns were purchased four years ago by the Men's Club and the graduates wore them during the ceremony.



Graduating class at Lumberton Correctional Institution

### Tillery Correctional Center:

On June 20, 2006, twelve inmates graduated from Auto Mechanics and fifteen from Electrical Wiring. The graduates were given a pizza party to recognize their accomplishments.

### Western Youth Institution:

On June 16, 2006, Western Youth Institution held a commencement ceremony for its 59 GED graduates. Mr. Tommy Bursleson, former college and professional basketball player, was the guest speaker and spoke of his basketball career while sharing wisdom concerning "second chances". After the ceremony, a reception was held for inmates and their families. While providing inmates with an opportunity to earn their GED is a primary focus at WYI, there are many other aspects of the education program that have great importance to the population. Inmates who qualify are offered opportunities to earn college credits on-site and via college correspondence. Vocational programs such as plumbing and electrical provide inmates with opportunities to learn vocational skills and earn certificates of completion.

### Sampson Correctional Institution:

On Wednesday, June 7, 2006, Sampson Correctional Institution held its annual graduation exercise. The keynote speaker was Mr. James Ezzell, instructor of Adult Basic Education at Sampson Community College. Mr. Ezzell gave the graduates words of inspiration and reminded them that their only obstacle was themselves.

Sampson Community College awarded eight students certificates in Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Technology. Eleven students were recognized for receiving certificates in Horticulture Technology and fifteen students were recognized for receiving their GED. Upon completion of the exercises, the graduates enjoyed light refreshments in the unit dining facility.



Sampson Correctional Institution graduates

### Johnston Correctional Institution:

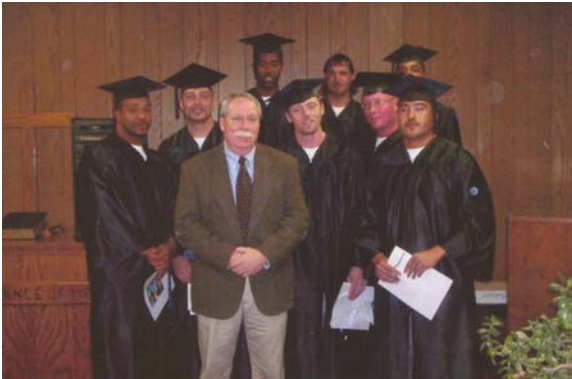
On February 23, 2006, JCI held its second GED graduation with 10 students receiving their GED. A special graduation ceremony was held and Ms. Nicole Sullivan, Manager of Office of Research and Planning, was the guest speaker. She addressed the importance of education in the process of working towards their reentry back into society. The graduates were allowed three (3) approved visitors to attend the ceremony. The Food Service Technology class prepared and served refreshments after the ceremony and the Recreation staff took photographs.

On April 24, 2006, a total of 101 recipients received certificates for completing one of the vocational trade programs offered at JCI. Mr. Lloyd Barnes, Wilson's Mill Planning Board, was guest speaker. He encouraged the graduates to continue with their education in skilled trades. He also spoke about the thriving construction workforce in North Carolina.

### Other topics:

- Two (1) cycle of Character Education was completed with 19 graduates. Mr. Ricky Dudley, Correctional Case Manager, attended and completed the Ethical Fitness training.
- Three (3) Programs Staff: Ricky Dudley, Correctional Case Manager, Timothy Jones, Programs Supervisor, and Nicole Mitchell, Correctional Case Manager attended the two day Napoleon Hill training in May.

- On June 15, 2006, HRD Job Readiness began. This class is taught by Dr. Grova Bridgers, from Johnston Community College. The curriculum includes interview training, the application process, resume writing, career exploration and various aspects of teamwork.



**Graduates at Johnston Correctional Institution**

**Durham Correctional Center:**

On 7/14/06, a graduation ceremony was held at Durham Correctional Center for inmates who completed our Human Resource Development class called "Employability Skills". The class is taught by Ms. Regina Barbee and is offered through Durham Technical Community College. The class imparts skills to assist inmates in preparation for re-entry in the community work force upon release. It also helps those who are preparing for participation in our work release program.

**Pasquotank Correctional Institution:**

"It's a great day at Pasquotank Correctional Institution" is the catchy new phrase you will hear when calling PCI. This slogan was implemented just recently by Mr. Ernest Sutton, Pasquotank Correctional Institution Administrator I, and it truly exemplifies the progress being made in the education area. Mr. Hugh Patrick, Assistant Superintendent for Programs, has taken the point in pushing for education for inmates at PCI. Ms. Diane Turner, Education Coordinator for PCI, and Ms. Dorothy Saunders, Education Coordinator for College of the Albemarle, are moving forward and placing new and improved emphasis on education for inmates at PCI.

On May 5, 2006, Pasquotank Correctional Institution celebrated its spring graduation. Diplomas were awarded to thirteen (13) graduates in the Food Service Technology class (FST). Fifteen students also received certificates. The instructor, Mr. Gus Eddins, is known all over the state for his exceptional work in the food service area. He was promoted to the Coordinator of COA's Culinary Programs at the Edenton/Chowan campus in part because of his ability to command scholarship among his students, motivating them to excel and complete their degrees.

The HVAC class, taught by Mr. Michael Partyka, also had thirteen students who received diplomas. Entry Level I Certificates were received by fourteen (14) students and twelve (12) students received Entry Level II certificates.

General Equivalency Development (GED) certificates were earned by seventeen students during the academic year. Twelve (12) participated in the graduation ceremony. Ms. Lynetta Jordan, "The Motivating Minister", was the speaker for the occasion. Instructors Mr. Marcel Bowden, Mr. Ron Hepworth and Mr. Shelton Manning were on hand to congratulate their students, along with many administrators from PCI and COA and a host of family members and friends.

Ms. Lynne Bunch, President of COA and Mr. Sutton presented the diplomas to the students. Ms. D. Turner, Ms. K. Jordan and Mr. W. Mouring (all of PCI) presented beautiful plaques to the inmates who had made either the President's List or the Dean's List during the academic year. Refreshments were provided by the Food Service Technology Class. Ms. Jan Hepworth, substitute instructor, provided the music.

Pasquotank Correctional Institution's minimum custody Unit V held its very first graduation ceremony on May 16, 2006. Unit V had another incredible year with 71 inmates receiving their GED during the 2005-2006 academic year. Thirty-two (32) of those were earned during the spring semester and sixteen students were on hand for the first graduation exercise. Mr. Louis Stephenson, "The GED Man", gave words of inspiration. Refreshments were provided by Unit V. Ms. Bonnie Morgan and Mr. Dan Krohn are co-instructors at Unit V and are doing a fantastic job.

PCI was extremely honored on June 23, 2006 when Ms. Rose True, Director of Educational Services for the Department of Corrections/Division of Prisons and Mr. Arthur Clark paid us a visit from Raleigh to discuss ways we can improve our education program. They offered suggestions on new classes that could be offered in the future such as Industrial Maintenance, Industrial Sewing and a brick laying class for Unit V. Plans are already underway to explore the feasibility of implementing some of these classes. Yes, it is truly a great day at Pasquotank Correctional Institution.

**Southern Correctional Institution:**

On May 23, 2006 at 2:00 p. m., Southern Correctional Institution in conjunction with Montgomery Community College held its annual graduation exercise. The graduation ceremony was held in SCI's visitation area with Dr. Mary Kirk, president of Montgomery College, providing the commencement address. SCI had a total of forty-five (45) students to complete requirements needed to obtain certificates in the Business Administration, Culinary Technology and GED programs during the year. Thirty-six (36) students participated in the graduation ceremony with approximately forty (40) guests and fourteen (14) MCC staff members attending.

Certificates received during the ceremony included two (2) Business Administration certificates, nineteen (19) Culinary Technology certificates and fifteen (15) GED certificates.



**GED graduates at Southern Correctional Institution**



**Southern CI graduates in Business Administration**

**Harnett Correctional Institution:**

On June 6, 2006, Shaw University held its commencement exercise at Harnett Correctional Institution's Chapel. Seven students received their Bachelor of Science in Business Management. Mr. Peter Strickland, Assistant District Attorney for Harnett County, delivered the commencement address.

On May 12, 2006, Central Carolina Community College held its 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Commencement Exercise at Harnett Correctional Institution. Twenty-two students received an Associate Degree in Business Administration. CCCC also awarded diplomas in the areas of Masonry, Electrical/Electronics Technology, Welding Technology, Carpentry, and Electronics Servicing Technology. Mr. John Slade, Executive Vice President for Instruction for CCCC, delivered the commencement address.

**Piedmont Correctional Institution:**

Piedmont Correctional Institution recognizes student accomplishments twice each year during a graduation ceremony. These ceremonies are held in the winter and summer to commemorate the hard work of the inmates in various programs offered. This year's summer graduation was held on June 30, 2006, to celebrate the accomplishments of the students along with Independence Day. Ms. Rose Cox, Judicial District Manager, was the guest speaker. Ms. Cox reminded the audience that everyone has the freedom to make choices. She instilled the idea that our choices can help us achieve our goals and empower us to become independent and productive citizens, of which this country is based. Sixty-five students received certificates for completing the GED, Auto Body, Light Construction, Anger Management, P.A.T.C.H., Character Education, and Transitional Services programs. Many students showed their determination to better themselves by receiving multiple certificates of completion from the various programs. Special thanks go out to Bible Missionary Church for providing refreshments and their continued efforts to make each graduation ceremony a success. The staff is very excited about the effort that the students have presented thus far this year and look forward to another group of students reaching their goals at the winter graduation.

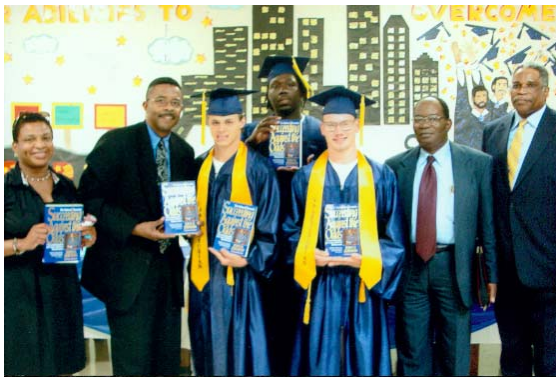


**A decorated cake helps to celebrate graduation and Independence Day at Piedmont Correctional Institution.**

**Polk Correctional Institution:**

Polk Correctional Institution employs an array of educational opportunities, ranging from basic reading, writing and computation to advanced vocational skills and training in social and life skills.

On June 22, 2006, PCI held its semiannual graduation ceremony. Attendants were the president of Vance-Granville Community College, local community members, DOC Education Central Office staff, PCI administrators, teachers, and members of various foundation boards, including the speaker, Mr. D. Gaddy, of the Good Work/Community Success Initiative Partnership in Durham. Mr. Gaddy's message was motivational, uplifting and inspiring for the graduates and potential graduate inmates. Prior to the date of the graduation, Mr. Gaddy visited PCI to familiarize himself with the mission and philosophy of the institution and to see its operation. On the date of the ceremony, he provided a gift to every inmate who participated, an unusual and considerate gesture by a guest speaker. The gift was a book titled, "Succeeding Against the Odds" by J. H. Johnson and L. Bennett, Jr. Certificates were proudly earned in the following categories: General Education Development, 41; Carpentry, 14; Commercial Cleaning, 8; Computer Applications, 23; Horticulture, 24. The total number of certificates equaled 110. In addition, there were 55 inmates who participated in the Youth Offender Program since the Fall 2005 graduation. This program is offered by North Carolina Central University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It provides educational experiences yielding college credits as well as certificates in social and life skills programs, and is funded by the United States Health, Education and Welfare Agency.



**Polk Correctional Institution**

**Note:** News items for the next issue of this bulletin must be received by November 10, 2006. Items can be sent via email to Johan deBrigard at [dje18@doc.state.nc.us](mailto:dje18@doc.state.nc.us) or fax to (919) 838-4764.