

North Carolina Department of Adult Correction
Division of Prisons

EDUCATION DIGEST

EDUCATE, INFORM, MOTIVATE, INSPIRE

2022 Holiday Edition

*Happy
Holidays*

Volume 2, Issue 1

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Education Digest Rationale
EDUCATE, INFORM, MOTIVATE, INSPIRE

Superintendent's Holiday Wishes



I extend warmest holiday greetings to all those in our prison system who are involved one way or another in the education of the offenders. Education is rehabilitation. Every task performed that leads to the offender completing and graduating from a course or program, is taking the offender closer to full rehabilitation. I would like to thank each and every one of you for your unrelenting commitment and dedication supporting the offenders.

As you celebrate the “reason for the season” in this post-Covid era, take time to reflect on how fortunate we are to still be alive. Make sure you rest. If you overeat, then take time to exercise to remain fit and healthy. Your work with those who are in prison is valuable. After all, the safety of the entire community rests with you.

We salute all educators working in prisons—the Community College instructors, program directors and supervisors, officers and case managers, associate wardens for program, the prison warden and ALL those in charge of the safe operations of the facilities. Thank you for your hard work!

Again, happy holidays and stay safe!! Please read a book!

Regards,

Julie Jailall

Julie Jailall, Ed.D

North Carolina Department of Adult Correction Selects New Logo



After weeks of logo design concept creation and discussion, reviews and staff participating in surveys, the new Department of Adult Correction has its new logo! This DAC logo will represent the entire new Cabinet agency that was created and signed into law last year and will officially launch Jan. 1, 2023.

The logo is an open circle, including the agency name, “NC Department of Adult Correction.” It also includes the key mission-critical areas of the department: Protection, Innovation, Rehabilitation.

“It was important to us to include those key terms starting with ‘Protection’ to show our commitment to the safety of our staff, those sentenced to our custody and supervision, as well as the community at large,” DAC Secretary Todd Ishee stated. “Next is ‘Innovation’ and the fact that we want to continuously evolve, improve and grow our services and programs for the state.”

He added, “Ultimately, the goal is to help individuals come full circle with ‘Rehabilitation’ and to have a positive impact on lives with their successful return to their communities.”

The logo work group was put together months ago and included individuals from Community Corrections, Prisons, Correction Enterprises, the Department of Public Safety Communications Office, DPS Administration and Adult Correction Administration. The work group considered nearly 60 logo concepts that were submitted by employees and expert graphic designers. From those submissions, a final group of logos was selected for all DAC employees to rank their top five in a survey.

Based on the rankings, the final two concepts were identified. They included the chosen open circle, and the other option was the DAC acronym in the shape of an eagle. The open circle logo concept was by far the most popular. Thousands of employees responded to the survey showing great interest in the new department image and branding.

Now that a logo has been selected, new facility signage, office letterheads and other branding items will be produced in the coming weeks. Employees will start seeing the DAC logo on forms, p-cards and brochures.

There are no immediate plans to do away with the patches worn on Prisons, Community Corrections and the Special Operations and Intelligence Unit uniforms, as well as other sections with individualized logos, badges or patches. Those will be evaluated in the future to determine what adjustments, if any, are needed.

“I hope all DAC employees will stand with us and display the new logo proudly, and it will come to be known for the excellence we are working to achieve in this new premier department,” Secretary Ishee said.



EDUCATION SERVICES VISITS JOHNSTON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

The Education Services team visited Johnston Correctional Institution to introduce themselves, understand the educational programs offered and plan for future programming.

JCI Associate Warden of Programs Chris Batten and Program Supervisor Dawn Myers welcomed the education team and provided a tour. The facility offers spacious classrooms, several greenhouses, libraries and a substantial culinary arts laboratory and kitchen.

Currently, education programming includes food service technology, Basic Skills: HSE and Adult Basic Education (ABE). ABE was the only class in session during the visit. Students were eager to share what the instructor was teaching.

The team also met a food service instructor, who remains committed to teaching at Johnston Correctional. Due to a lack of instructors, many classes are currently not offered.

Before the COVID-19 outbreak, Johnston Community College offered Johnston offenders numerous courses such as carpentry/framing, electrical wiring, horticulture, employability skills, NCDOT Highway Construction Trades Academy and Career Exploration: Highway Construction. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, JCC has a shortage of vocational instructors, Batten said. However, the prison remains ready to accommodate any classes that JCC can provide.

Representing Education Services at Johnston Correctional were:

Superintendent Julie Jailall
Assistant Superintendent Brooke Wheeler
Vocational Education Coordinator Duane Cogdell
and Academic Education Coordinator Sherri Hill.



CLICK IMAGE TO VIEW RETIREMENT VIDEO MONTAGE

DIRECTOR SARAH COBB RECEIVES ORDER OF THE LONG LEAF PINE



**THE ORDER OF THE
LONG LEAF PINE SOCIETY**

THE ORDER OF THE LONG LEAF PINE

This is the highest award for state service granted by the Office of the Governor. Nominations can be made for retiring individuals who have 30 or more years of service in the State of North Carolina.

DIRECTOR SARAH COBB RECEIVES LONG LEAF PINE AFTER 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Sarah Cobb, Prisons' retiring director of Rehabilitative Services, was awarded the Order of the Longleaf Pine on Wednesday, December 7, 2022.

The honor is the highest that the Governor can bestow to a North Carolinian who has made significant contributions to the state and their communities through exemplary service and exceptional accomplishments.

Cobb began her career as a correctional officer at Blanch Correctional Institution, which closed in 1999. "The work we do protects my family and your family. It's an easy mission to buy into," she said at the farewell/award ceremony.

Presenting the plaque are, left to right: Loris Sutton, deputy secretary for internal affairs and intelligence operations of the new N.C. Department of Adult Correction; Todd Ishee, secretary of the new Department; Cobb; Brandeshawn Harris, Acting Commissioner of Prisons; and Pete Buchholtz, Acting Assistant Commission of Prisons.

Sarah's Farewell Message

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the State of North Carolina for 30 years. I consider many of you to be family or friend.

The work you do in Prisons is so very important. The mission and success of the agency depends on YOU. The success of our offender population is directly related to the opportunities you provide and the positive interactions between you and others.

You all do great work and I am happy to have worked alongside of you. Remember to be kind and do good to those around you. Remain safe and 'keep it moving!'"

Thank you always,

Sarah



SAVE THE DATE

2023 Reentry Conference

April 3-5, 2023

Sonesta Charlotte Executive Park
5700 Westpark Drive
Charlotte, NC 28217

Mark your calendars for the 2023 North Carolina Reentry Conference hosted by the North Carolina Department of Adult Correction.

Sessions will highlight promising practices, innovative programs, networking opportunities, and resources available to support justice-involved citizens. More details will be provided soon.

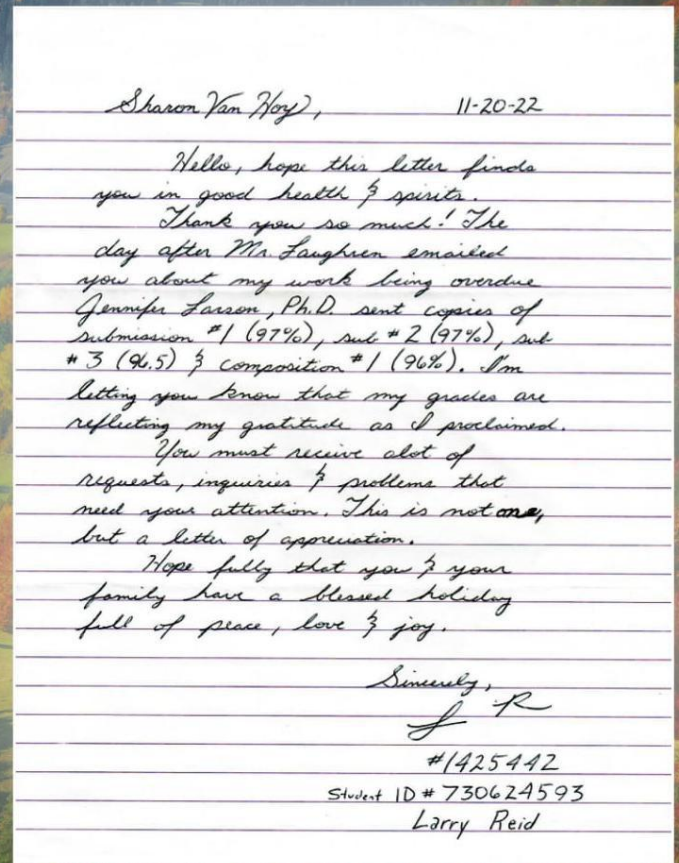
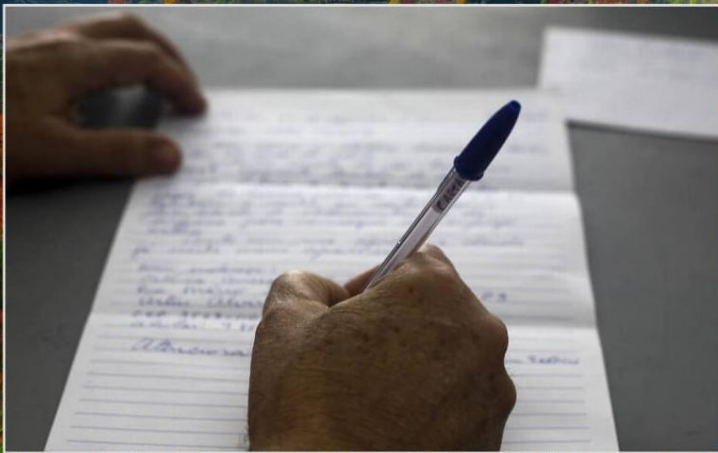
For More Info Please Contact
Monica Artis, Program Manager
monica.artis@ncdps.gov

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ADULT CORRECTION
Reentry Programs and Services



Mountain View Correctional Institution

OFFENDER'S LETTER OF APPRECIATION



11-20-22

Sharon Van Hoy,

Hello, I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits.


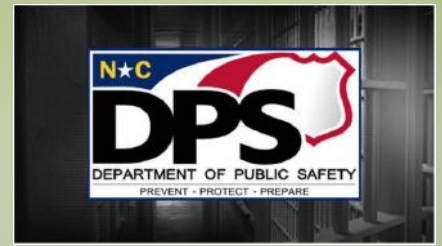
Thank you so much! The day after Mrs. Laughren emailed you about my work being overdue Jennifer Larson, Ph.D sent copies of submission #1 (97%), submission #2 (97%), submission #3 (96.5%), and composition #1 (96%). I'm letting you know that my grades are reflecting my gratitude as I proclaimed.

You must receive a lot of requests, inquiries, and problems that need your attention. This is not one, but a letter of appreciation.

Hope fully that you and your family have a blessed holiday full of peace, love, and joy.

Sincerely,

L.R.

A close-up photograph of a black graduation cap with a gold tassel hanging from the top. The tassel is in sharp focus, while the cap and the background are blurred. The background shows a red ribbon and a white object, possibly a diploma or book, resting on a surface.

Does prison education impact offender conduct and recidivism?

BY REBECCA BROOKE WHEELER

The original article appears in "Corrections Today" Magazine and was submitted by Assistant Superintendent Brooke Wheeler of NCDAC

Introduction

Twenty-five percent of the world's prison population is housed in the United States, but the U.S. hosts only 5% of the total world population (Obama, 2015). This corresponds to two million individuals who are incarcerated in America, as of 2012 (James, 2015). America spends a staggering amount of money to house and care for the imprisoned population. In 2015, \$43 billion was spent on prison programs (Vera Institute of Justice, 2021) even though 76.6% of those who were released returned to prison within five years (National Institute of Justice, 2014). With 95% of all offenders who are imprisoned being released back into their communities (James, 2015), it is critical prison and government leaders utilize the most effective methods of rehabilitating those in prison.

Prisons are full of people who dropped out of school, struggle with literacy or math, and are angry as a result of academic frustration, bullying and other negative educational experiences (Reese, 2017). Reese (2017) suggested a lack of education is the common denominator among the incarcerated population. Many individuals who are sentenced to prison have low levels of literacy, which limit productive employment options and, therefore, may lead to their participation in illegal activities (Reese, 2017). It stands to reason education provides opportunities and options that are not available to those with lower education levels. Over 2,400 years ago, Aristotle and other philosophers maintained that education was the pathway to creating responsible, literate society members who could reason and govern appropriately (Smith, 2020). Their forward thinking was not employed on a widespread basis until formal education began to take a more prominent role in society in the mid-20th century (Justice, 2000). Studies have determined education is able to improve critical thinking skills, improve pro-social behaviors, provide skills for employment and help offenders stay out of prison once released (Brazzell, 2009). Understanding the value of education to the general public, education could be the answer to rehabilitating incarcerated individuals. If offenders are taught to think critically and to understand the history and science of the world, they can make better, more informed choices and they will have more choices available to them to be successful.

Image opposite page: istock/sengchey

Types of prison education programs

There are many different types of educational programs that are offered in American prisons today. Categories of prison education programs include High School Equivalency diploma, Human Resource Development courses, personal improvement classes, vocational programs which may or may not end with state or national certification and post-secondary education programs. All are provided with the intention to assist offenders with finding employment upon release or to assist with managing their incarceration.

Studies have determined education is able to improve critical thinking skills, improve pro-social behaviors, provide skills for employment and help offenders stay out of prison once released (Brazzell, 2009).

There are multiple currently accepted pathways to the high school equivalency diploma in the United States today (Rosen, 2017). Until 2014, the General Education Diploma (GED) was the only pathway to earn a high school equivalency diploma. In 2014, the GED was recalibrated, and two other companies (HiSET and TASC) joined the GED as alternative pathways to earn an HSE. Some states also offer competency-based pathways to a high school diploma (Rosen, 2017). Opportunities vary by state, but most states offer some pathway to earn a high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma to incarcerated individuals. As a part of HSE, most prison systems are also compelled to provide special education services for individuals who qualify (Rosen, 2017). There is a high prevalence of offenders who require special education services, including many with learning disabilities, emotional/behavioral disabilities and mental illness (Brazzell et al., 2009).

→

Click the link icon to the right to view the article in its entirety



Growth and Learning: Horticulture Classes at Lumberton Correctional



Narrated By: Jeffery McPherson

The horticulture program offered by Robeson Community College has been in place since the inception of Lumberton Correctional Institution in 1994. My roots at both run deep.

RCC President Melissa Singler is a dear friend and former student from when I was the horticultural teacher at Hallsboro High School in Columbus County in the early 1980s. She reintroduced herself to me after she accepted the position with RCC. I am so proud of her!

I have known LCI Warden Mary Locklear for more than 16 years. She truly has an affinity for our horticulture program. Her support and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated.

During my 17-year tenure as the horticultural instructor, I have updated our syllabus several times to accommodate additions to the program. Some recent additions have been tilapia and vegetable aquaponics, tomato and cucumber hydroponics and strawberry plasticulture. We often discuss new topics.





The springtime class differs greatly from the fall class, just as each season varies. Each class consists of 25 offenders who register to become students through RCC.

The current class finished harvesting and shelling the peas and butterbeans from the garden in late October. The three frosty mornings experienced Oct. 17, 18 and 19 put an end to the late summer varieties of our muscadine grapes, bunch grapes, beans and peas, squashes of many varieties, okra, assorted melons, sweet potatoes, peanuts, cucumbers and more.

Just before the killing frost, we harvested one of our most unusual and coveted crops—sugar cane. The patch may be considered small by some, but for us it is very big.

Sugar cane is always a home run with everyone. It is good public relations too. We usually harvest between 1,000 and 1,300 stalks of sugar cane each fall. This year we gave about 400 stalks to RCC for all staff, including teachers, housekeeping, maintenance and administration. We gave more than 200 stalks to staff at LCI. We saved the rest for my students and me to chew and enjoy. Also, we saved a few stalks for planting next year.

We are currently planting and growing our fall and winter vegetables. We always grow enough collard greens to feed our camp, and that's more than 800 offenders, several times each year.

Our collards are special. They are named Lottie collards after an African woman who was enslaved. She braided the collard seeds into her hair before being captured and sold into the African Slave Trade. She ended up living in North Carolina.



We keep this special strain of seeds pure by isolating the plants before they go to seed. We also give away these seeds upon request.

Our cabbages grow gigantic in size. Our Just Right turnips may weigh over 10 pounds each. Mustard and radish grow very fast, so we make several plantings during the winter months. When days get dark and dreary, nothing breaks the ice like some Red Hot spicy radish and some fresh Danvers baby carrots right after Christmas.



We even grow tomatoes and cucumbers inside for fresh picking throughout the winter. Each student has his own indoor and outdoor garden spot to help keep them busy and happy. I believe because of this, my students are glad to do what I ask them to do.

I cannot exaggerate my joy over watching each student use a tiller for the first time, or designing their My Five Acre Project. Some even are willing to taste a vegetable they swore they would never eat. I wish you could be there when we have our three-day lecture titled "From Photons to Vinegar." The students fill their notebooks with information. These are just a few examples why I love my job so much.

There is a myriad of topics to cover in horticulture. Subjects range from propagation to starting your own landscape maintenance business. I don't have the space to describe all the subjects we cover from our syllabus.

The comradery in our class is addictive. Our class motto is "Let Us Always Remain Gentlemen." Everyone participates enthusiastically when we say it out loud. We always say this prior to eating our homegrown fruits and vegetables.

Each May and June, we grow flowers and bedding plants. These are used for giveaways at numerous college functions and for various beautification projects throughout the year. Growing these things is good for hands-on experience of the students. We are thankful for the tools and supplies we receive each year from RCC and LCI to keep our program growing strong.

I love my job and students. Sometimes there are difficulties, but the good always outweighs the bad. Someday, I plan to retire.

Until then I plan to enjoy and appreciate my students and my time spent at Lumberton Correctional Institution.

Let Us Always Remain Gentlemen!



2023 NCDAC School Education Conference
The Courtyard by Marriott Carolina Beach Oceanfront
100 Charlotte Ave, Carolina Beach, NC 28428

Save the Date

April 19-23, 2023

This conference is designed to serve school administrators, faculty and staff from the 4 NCDAC Prison Facility Schools



OFFICE OF GOVERNOR **ROY COOPER**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 22, 2022

Contact: Mary Scott Winstead

Phone: (919) 814-2100

Email: govpress@nc.gov

Governor Cooper Appoints Department of Adult Correction Secretary

RALEIGH: Today, Governor Roy Cooper appointed Todd Ishee to lead the newly created Department of Adult Correction. The Department was formed as a stand alone Cabinet Agency in the 2021-2023 budget that was passed by the legislature and signed into law by the Governor in November of last year.

“Todd Ishee brings decades of knowledge and experience to this role and I am confident in his ability to stand up and lead this new Department,” said Governor Cooper. “He is a nationally sought after leader and I am grateful for his willingness to serve as Secretary here in North Carolina and continue his critical work in our corrections system.”

“I am thankful for the opportunity to serve the people of North Carolina and lead this new agency. Our state’s corrections system is essential to not only keeping our state safe, but to help people move beyond their mistakes and live meaningful lives when they reenter our communities,” said Ishee.

Ishee brings more than 30 years of correctional experience to his new role as Secretary. He most recently served as North Carolina’s Commissioner of Prisons within the Department of Public Safety. He previously served as the Deputy Director for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction’s Office of Reentry and Enterprise Development. He started his career in corrections as a correctional officer and took on increasingly more supervisory roles, eventually serving as a region director, warden, security administrator, and operations chief. He has provided oversight of prison security, unit management, violence reduction, security threat groups and is a trained evaluator of all aspects of institutional security operations.

Ishee is a certified U.S. Department of Justice auditor for the Prison Rape Elimination Act and a certified auditor for the American Correctional Association (ACA). He has provided technical assistance to the National Institute of Corrections as an instructor for management of violent, high-risk offenders housed in the highest security level. He is a national and international presenter on a variety of correctional topics, including reducing the effects of solitary confinement, the importance of providing viable reentry opportunities for offenders and prison reform. Ishee received his bachelor’s degree in organizational management from Malone University.

Though Ishee was recruited in August to lead a national correctional organization, he will remain in North Carolina to start his new role as Secretary on October 3.

Sampson and Campbell Student-Offenders Honored



CLINTON – Six Sampson Correctional Institution offenders enrolled at Campbell University were inducted Wednesday into a national honors society for nontraditional college students.

The newest members of Alpha Sigma Lambda have maintained perfect 4.0 GPAs in the Second Chance Initiative, a partnership between Prisons and Campbell.

“I’m freaking out a little,” Jared Russell told the assembly of fellow student-offenders, Prisons leaders and Campbell faculty. “I never thought I’d be doing something like this – not even close.”

Ranging in age from 23 to 48, the six honorees are in the second class of Second Chance students. All 10 in the cohort are scheduled to graduate with an associate’s degree next summer.

The first cohort earned their two-year degrees in 2021, and most are on track to complete a bachelor’s degree within the year.



Warden Robert Van Gorder said that although the Second Chance Initiative is “a team effort,” the new scholars can take pride in their accomplishments.

“Having been with all of you since the beginning of this adventure, I applaud your growth as human beings, your inspiration in making a change and your compassion as you share the knowledge you have gained with each other,” Van Gorder said.

Dr. Rick Smith, Campbell's administrator of prison education, said Second Chance's track record at Sampson Correctional provides more evidence that higher education makes a difference in rehabilitating offenders.

“What we've seen is not only do the students do well academically, but they also begin to make better decisions,” Smith said. “They'll tell you that they're less impulsive. They think about the consequences. It gives them hope and self-confidence that they can have a better life.”

Prisons and Campbell will expand the Second Chance Initiative to Anson Correctional Institution in January 2023.

The program is supported by the Bob Barker Foundation, founded by Campbell alumnus and founder of prison and jail supplier Bob Barker Co. of Fuquay-Varina. Barker provided closing remarks at Wednesday's ceremony, saying he'd been inspired by research-based programs that used higher education to achieve unprecedentedly low recidivism rates.

“I'm so proud of what Campbell and the state Prisons are doing and continue to do here,” Barker said. “I'd like to see other schools across the state pick up on this, and that it reduces recidivism throughout the prison system.”

CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY

Click Image To View Ceremony



Harnett Correctional Institution

Now Accepting Students

Barbering Program

Medium Custody
Offenders

MUST HAVE

Birth Certificate
Social Security Card
HS Diploma or GED

NC Department of
Adult Correction
PROTECTION • INNOVATION
REHABILITATION

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

NO INFRACTIONS | 36-72 MONTHS REMAINING | MEDICAL CLEARANCE
NC HOME PLAN | NO FELONY CHARGES /DETAINERS | BG CHECK REQ'D



EARN THE DEGREE YOU NEED TO SUCCEED!

CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 2023
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CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY

@ ANSON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

The Associate of Science in Behavioral Sciences Degree

The Associate of Science in Behavioral Sciences prepares individuals to work in the human services field. It sets the groundwork for graduates to work as a Peer Support Specialist, with a core of liberal arts education combined with courses on social work, sociology and psychology.

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- Earn and Learn/Receive Daily Pay
- Option To Begin Bachelor's Program Studies After AA Program Completion
- Use of State-of-the Art Educational Technology
- Transfer as an On-Campus Student Post-Release

BEGIN BUILDING YOUR FUTURE

GRADUATE CAREER OUTLOOK

- > PEER COUNSELOR
- > CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK AIDE
- > FAMILY SERVICE ASSISTANT
- > SOCIAL WORK ASSISTANT
- > ADDICTION COUNSELOR ASSISTANT
- > HUMAN SERVICE WORKER



INVEST IN YOURSELF

For More Information Contact Your Case Manager or Ms. Hammond, ACI Education Coordinator



CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 9, 2023 23

HARNETT CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION



VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS APPLY TODAY!



- Welding
- Electrical Wiring
- Masonry
- Carpentry
- Food Service Technology

For More Info Contact
Mrs. Barnwell -Education/Vocational Coordinator
Mr. Hayes-Vocational Programming



REQUIREMENTS

- Medium Custody
- Required Amount of Time
- High School Diploma/GED
- SS Card
- 90 Day Infraction-Free
- Physically Capable



Adult Correction Express

DAC Announces Two Deputy Secretaries

DAC Team,

Today I am pleased to announce two more members of the Department of Adult Correction leadership team, both serving in deputy secretary roles.

Deputy Secretary for Internal Affairs & Intelligence Operations Loris M. Sutton –

Loris is a 29-year veteran with the Department of Public Safety and Department of Correction. Since her start in 1993, she has served as a correctional officer, probation/parole officer, program director, chief of security, interim warden, Central Region director, director of operations and in several other roles. Most recently she served as interim assistant commissioner of prisons. In her new position, Sutton will manage internal affairs and investigations for the department including oversight of the Office of Special Investigations and the Special Operations & Intelligence Unit. She is a graduate of Shaw University.



Deputy Secretary for Professional Standards Cynthia Thornton –

Cynthia is a 31-year corrections veteran who served as Central Region director and warden at Harnett and Neuse Correctional Institutions after rising through the ranks in prison programs. Since 2020, she has served as the director of performance and standards for the Division of Prisons. In her new position, Thornton will oversee policy development and management, accreditation and compliance, quality assurance and the PREA office. She is a graduate of Appalachian State University.



We will continue to announce additional appointments as they are finalized. Thank you for all you do every day to keep North Carolina safe.

Todd Ishee
Secretary

Bertie Correctional Institution Hosts Ninth Commencement Exercises



WINDSOR ~ Commencement exercises were held at Bertie Correctional Institution on December 8, 2022, in the multipurpose space located in the facility. The event was standing room only with family guests, and friends that came to support their loved ones. Seventy-five graduates earned ABE certificates (High School Graduation Equivalency), Computer Application Certificates, HVAC Certificates, Career Readiness Certificates, and Keys to Freedom. Certifications were provided to offenders by Martin Community College. The Bertie CI choir provided music for the ceremony.

Sherri Hill, NCDPS Regional Education Consultant, delivered the commencement address which highlighted the ABCs of success and challenged offender graduates to take the next step towards success. Furthermore, she stressed that education is something that no one can ever take from you.



[Click Here to Listen to the Bertie CI Choir](#)





EDUCATION SERVICES HOSTS 2022 REGIONAL PRISON EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

NCDPS Education Services hosted its annual Prison Education Symposium across the four regions of NC. The Theme of the symposium was "Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges." This eventful and productive excursion took place throughout the month of October. A video montage highlighting NC Prison Education can be seen on page 30.

Each day-long session was designed to provide professional development for prison educators and Community Colleges which focused on procedures, protocols, expectations and future education initiatives.

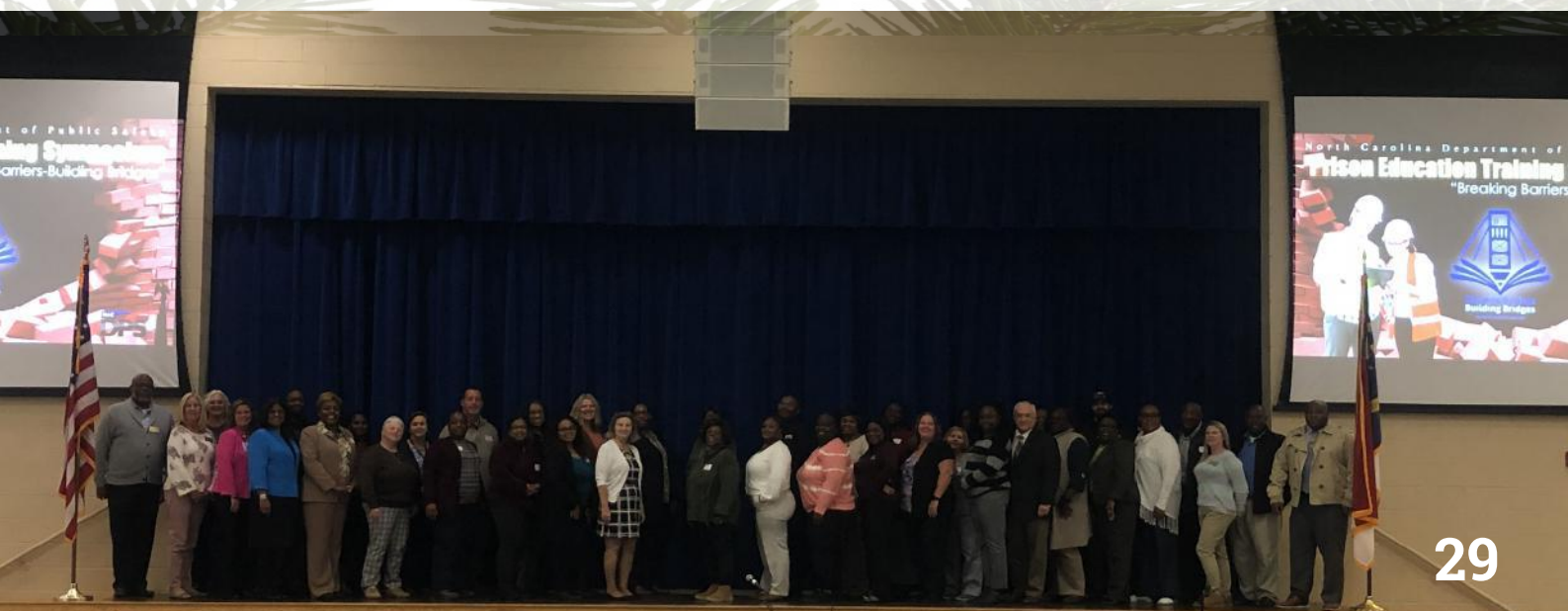




Nearly 300 NCDPS education staff and NC Community College employees participated in the 2022 PEP Symposium.

Images of regional participants and their respective symposium venues are posted as follows: Top Left-Central Region at The Joint Force Headquarters Situation Room located in Raleigh, Bottom Left-South Central Region at Roberson Community College located in Lumberton, Top Right-Western Region hosted by AB Technical Community College located in Asheville, and Bottom Right-Eastern Region hosted by President Jim Ross and Pamlico Community College located in Grantsboro.

Superintendent of Education Services, Dr. Julie Jailall and the Education Services staff is grateful for all attendees and for their desire to serve in excellence as prison educators and support staff.



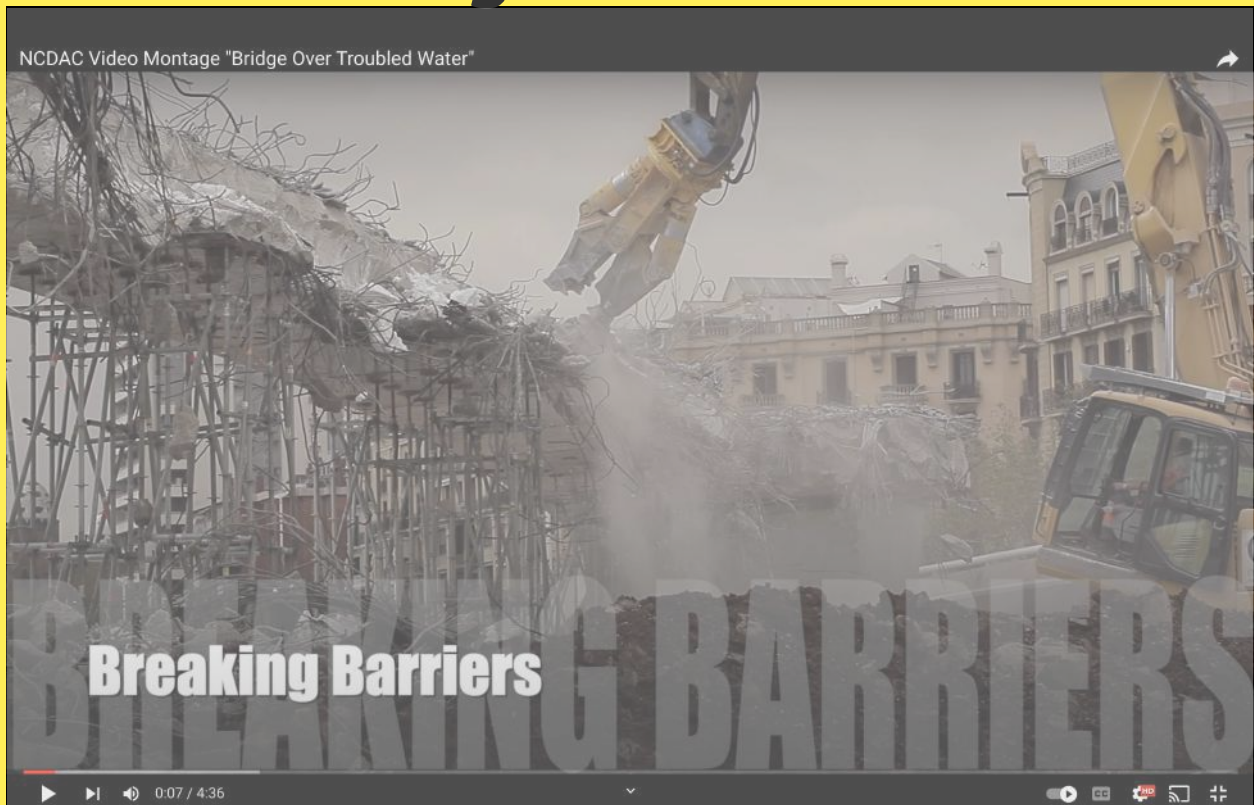
Prison Education Training Symposium

“Breaking Barriers-Building Bridges”



2022 Prison Education Symposium Thematic Video Montage

Click Image Below to View





Monthly Library Spotlight

WESTERN CORRECTIONAL CENTER FOR WOMEN "Over the Top"

Author: Mark L. Patneau

What sets the WCCW Library apart is the feeling of community. Everything from the care and attention spent on the bulletin boards to the systems that are in place for the library's daily operations has created an atmosphere of camaraderie among both the patrons and staff alike.

The WCCW Library has something for everyone among its inventory consisting of 24 genres. The library has become a central place for knowledge, fun facts, and current events. Our Re-Entry sections offers a wide range of helpful resources to those who will soon be released. Additionally, the library offers a complete Transitional Resources section that helps with housing and recovery upon release.

The systems that are in place ensure that the library operates smoothly. Each patron is "checked in" on a log book that later serves as a census. The library uses the Concourse Software Program that helps the library operate seamlessly. It is used to catalog over 8000 books by genre and author. Concourse allows us to keep track of each book's circulation history and patron history.

The bulletin boards that are created by the librarians are what truly make the WCCW library unique and engaging experience. The boards provide information for patrons and staff of events that are taking place within the facility, such as dates & times of classes and meetings. The bulletin boards always have relevant information to current events and tons of fun facts. The information on the boards gives them a sense of connection to the communities they will soon be re-entering. The librarians really take pride in making each holiday special. This builds morale amongst the patrons.

The WCCW library has been described as a haven, a place where some come to seek refuge from the dorm. Many of the ladies have said that the library has "saved them." The patrons constantly remind us that the books give them a sense of freedom from the day to day reality of incarceration.

The dedication of the librarians is displayed in the knowledge they have of authors and subject matters that prove helpful in assisting patrons. The librarians take pride in making each patron's library experience a positive one. It truly is the commitment of the librarians that makes the WCCW library what it is.

INVEST IN YOURSELF



HIGH SCHOOL Equivalency Classes



BENEFITS

- Earn a High School Diploma Equivalency
- Receive 9 Days of Earned Time Every Month
- Receive 30 days of Merit Time Upon Graduation
- A Free Opportunity to Prepare for the Future

Contact Your Case Manager for More Information

Please Contact Sherri Hill to Advertise and Promote High School Equivalency Classes In Facilities

A.C.E.

Adult Correction Express

Department of Adult Correction Names General Counsel

DAC Team,

Today I am pleased to announce that **Jodi Harrison** has accepted the position of General Counsel for the new Department of Adult Correction and will head our legal team.

Jodi has specialized in corrections law for more than 25 years, including working as legal risk manager for a corrections health care company, serving as a staff attorney at the UNC School of Government, and defending correctional agencies as trial counsel in state, federal, and administrative courts.

Jodi began her legal career as a law clerk to the Supreme Court in her home state of Montana, and during her career has worked for state and local corrections agencies and public and private stakeholders in the field of adult corrections.

She has served in the NCDPS General Counsel's Office since 2015, and prior to that spent several years as an Assistant Attorney General in the Public Safety Section of the North Carolina Department of Justice.

We are excited to have Jodi join the leadership team, and we will continue to announce additional appointments as they are finalized. Thank you for all you do every day to keep North Carolina safe.

Todd Ishee
Secretary





Sullivan to join DJJDP as the Division's First Director of Reentry Services

Nicole Sullivan will be joining the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention team on Jan. 1, 2023, to help oversee and coordinate reentry efforts, as the Division's first director of Reentry Services. This position reports directly to the deputy secretary and will be responsible for helping DJJDP develop a comprehensive strategy for juvenile reentry. She will coordinate with Facilities, Clinical Services, Community Programs and Court Services to ensure that effective reentry remains a top priority for the Division.



Sullivan is a veteran criminal justice professional with 30 years of experience working in reentry and transition. She most recently served as deputy secretary for analysis, programming and policy in the Division of Adult Correction. In that role, she provided oversight of evidence-based programs, reentry services, community programs, quality assurance and research, planning and administrative analysis.

Sullivan began her career in 1992 as a social research assistant and has worked in various roles in corrections. She is a nationally recognized expert and trainer on evidence-based practices, the principles of effective interventions, risk-needs assessments, cognitive behavioral interventions, and reentry and transition programs. Sullivan has led multiple best practice research initiatives with the Council of State Governments Justice Center, Research Triangle Institute, Vera Institute of Justice, Pew Foundation and other criminal justice organizations. She passionately works to champion policies and practices that encourage positive behavioral change, engage community stakeholders, maximize the efficient use of supportive services, and enhance public safety.

Sullivan holds a bachelor's degree from Emory University and a master's degree from Duke University. She currently serves on the National Steering Committee for the Justice Counts Initiative.

"We must not waste the investment we make in a young person while in our youth development centers by not ensuring an effective reentry to our communities," said Deputy Secretary Lassiter. "Sullivan brings years of experience coordinating reentry efforts for adults to our system and a passion to ensure all our youth are given a chance to be successful. I look forward to Sullivan's leadership providing vast improvements to the reentry services offered to juveniles in our state."



Adult Correction Express

DAC Announces More Key Positions

DAC Team,

Today I am pleased to announce three more new members of the Department of Adult Correction leadership team.

Chief of Staff Michael Daniska – Daniska most recently led the Office of Policy and Strategic Planning at the Department of Public Safety and prior to that served at the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management for 12 years, including as assistant director for planning and homeland security.



As chief of staff, Daniska will oversee areas of communications, legislative affairs, victim support services, strategy and innovation, organizational excellence, and internal affairs & intelligence operations.

Deputy Secretary for Workforce Management Stephanie Freeman – Freeman will serve as “chief people person” at the Department of Adult Correction, overseeing areas of human resources, training, safety and wellness. Since 2017, Freeman has led the DPS Office of Staff Development and Training.



She has a long history in public safety training and education, including as organizational development manager for the North Carolina Judicial Branch and with the NC Department of Justice at both the Sheriffs’ Education & Training Standards Commission and the Criminal Justice Education & Training Standards Commission.

Communications Director Keith Acree – For the past five years, Acree has served as a public information officer for the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management.



Previously he served 17 years in communications for the Department of Correction and the Department of Public Safety. He will oversee public and media relations, publications, records requests, social media and websites.

We will continue to announce additional appointments as they are finalized. Thank you for all you do every day to keep North Carolina safe.

Todd Ishee
Secretary



Second Class of Field Ministers Graduates

NASHVILLE— In black robes and mortarboards over tan prison uniforms, 13 offenders graduated from the Field Ministers program Wednesday at Nash Correctional Institution.

With newly earned bachelor's degrees, the field ministers will soon disperse to other prisons to serve as spiritual guides, counselors and "an instrument of positive change," said Todd Ishee, secretary of the N.C. Department of Adult Correction.

"You guys have an opportunity to touch a lot of people's lives—at the highs of their lives and the lows," Ishee said. "Ask yourselves, 'How do I lift up someone at a low point in their lives?'"

The Class of 2022 is the second to graduate from the Field Ministers program. It is a combined effort of the state prison system, the College at Southeastern Baptist Seminary of Wake Forest and Game Plan for Life, a nonprofit organization founded by Joe Gibbs, three-time Super Bowl-winning football coach and NASCAR team owner.

"It takes courage to go through these four years as you've done," Gibbs told the graduates. "You have an army of people to support you, to pray for you. We're convinced you're going to change people's lives. We're thrilled to be a part of your mission."

The class presented Gibbs with a portrait of his son, Coy, who died in November. His other son, J.D., died in 2019.

Gibbs's voice broke as he spoke about his loss. "It really captures Coy, always wearing a baseball cap," he said of the painting. "I appreciate these guys so much and their talent. They've sent me cards. I could feel the love and the way they cared for my family."

The portrait's painter, Robert Odom, also a graduating field minister, said Gibbs "has meant a lot to us, to this program. We wanted to give something back, to let him know how much we love him and appreciate him."

Odom, like nine of his 12 classmates, earned his degree with honors. Seth Bible, a professor at the college and director of its Prison Programs, said the group was “a resilient class with truly remarkable individuals. They have overcome incredible odds and achieved something very few people in their context have achieved.”

Their success, Bible said, plus the fact that two-thirds of offenders accepted into the program stick with it through graduation, “is proof that a private and public partnership supporting educational efforts is, in fact, possible.”

After the formal ceremony, graduates and their families enjoyed a catered lunch. The three children of Francisco Marquez Martinez took turns examining his honors diploma.

“He’s the first of us to get a degree,” said daughter Karime, who lives in Holly Springs. “It’s an incredible feeling to see his dedication and hard work pay off.”

A few tables over, Isaac Timmons sat with two sisters and a family friend. He’s looking forward to helping offenders “who are going through the same things I’ve been through,” he said.

“A lot of the men in here, they come from broken homes, poverty. They see the guys in the neighborhood with the girls, the money, the cars, and they think that’s the life,” Timmons said. “If we can get through to them the first time they’re in here, with a short sentence, they won’t get that longer sentence. That’s what we’re going to do.”

“Come to the pulpit!” interjected his sister, Lola Timmons of Raleigh. “Everybody line up!”

As the table’s laughter faded, she said her brother “isn’t the same person he was when he first came here. He could have been on the street, could have been killed. One bad choice could have taken him away forever.”

The new field ministers will transfer next month to Craven, Scotland, Alexander and Columbus correctional facilities. The 2021 program class serves at Foothills, Granville, Piedmont, Warren and Nash prisons.





*Merry
Christmas!
& a Happy new year!*

From:
Dr. Julie Jailall





NC Department of
Adult Correction

PROTECTION • INNOVATION
REHABILITATION

Education Services



Happy Holidays



Wishing you all the best this holiday season and throughout the year!



From Secretary Todd Ishee & Team DAC

Click E-Card Above for Audio and Video Message



2022 Holiday Letter From Secretary Ishee



DAC Friends and Colleagues,

Happy Holidays! As 2022 draws to a close, I am thankful for many things. I'm glad we have emerged from the worst of the global pandemic. I am grateful we could get many of you well-deserved raises and a step-pay plan approved by Governor Cooper and the General Assembly this year. I am deeply appreciative of everyone's hard work, adaptability, and inspiring dedication to our important mission.

Most of all, I am thankful to be working alongside all of you as we launch North Carolina's new Department of Adult Correction on Jan. 1. I know we are putting the right people in the right positions to do this job well, to improve, to protect, to innovate, to rehabilitate – to succeed!

Standing up an efficient and effective Department of Adult Correction will be challenging but we're well underway to launch on Jan. 1, and I enter the New Year with renewed hope that we, working together, can create the best corrections system in the country.

We all know there will be many challenges ahead, but I'm convinced that we can meet those challenges and overcome them working as a team. I am All In!!

In the year ahead, we will continue to invest in our priorities and do what we can to improve the quality of life for you and your families.

We will carry on with our efforts to recruit more staff. This remains one of our greatest challenges. Fortunately, an improving economy and a waning pandemic seem to be helping. Our mid-December job fair in Raleigh brought in nearly 100 interested applicants, the biggest turnout of any recruiting event since pre-COVID days.

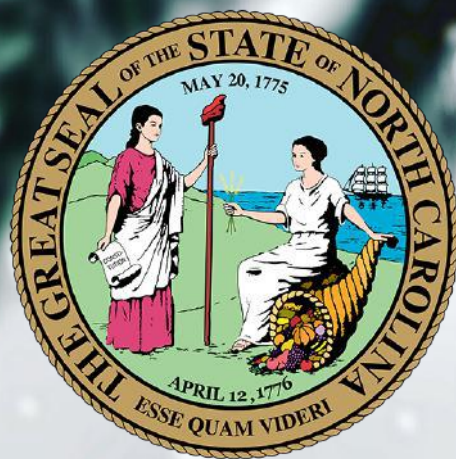
There is a long way to go to solve our vacancy issues, but there is hope the tide may be turning in our favor a bit, finally.

I know these staffing challenges have made this a tough year for a lot of us. Words truly cannot express my gratitude for those of you who have pulled the extra shifts, gone the extra mile, supported each other through the hardest days and performed your jobs with care, compassion and commitment. Thank you.

As the holidays approach us, I want to wish you and your families a season of health, happiness, and joy.

And for those who are working over the holidays, I want you to know I deeply appreciate the sacrifice you make for us all. You are making a difference.

*Have A Safe Holiday
& Happy New Year!*



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

For questions, comments or inquiries please contact
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