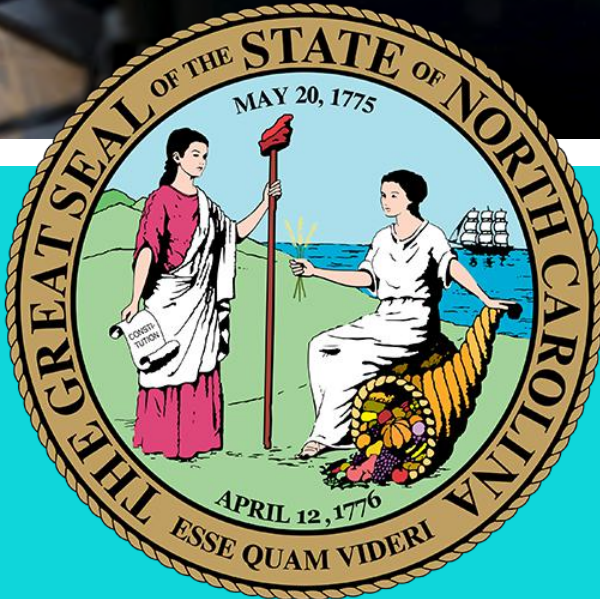


North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Education Digest

Division of Prisons



NCDPS Education Services
3070 Hammond Place, Suite 101
Raleigh, NC 27603

Volume 1 Issue 11



Education Digest Purpose
EDUCATE, INFORM,
MOTIVATE, INSPIRE

Correctional education improves inmates' chances of not returning to prison.

Offenders who participate in correctional education programs had a 43 percent lower odds of recidivating than those who did not. This translates to a reduction in the risk of recidivating of 13 percentage points. It may improve their chances of obtaining employment after release. The odds of obtaining employment post-release among inmates who participated in correctional education was 13 percent higher than the odds for those who did not participate in correctional education.

Inmates exposed to computer-assisted instruction learned slightly more in reading and substantially more in math in the same amount of instructional time. Providing correctional education can be cost-effective when it comes to reducing recidivism.

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DIRECTOR'S DIALOGUE



*Director Sarah Cobb
Rehabilitative Services, Division of Prisons*



Summer is nearly gone. School has started again (a good thing), along with the dreadful increase in traffic (not so good). Commuting back and forth to work gives me an even greater amount of time to reflect on the day, both coming and going.

I was so excited about the planning of the Summer Education Conference, "Investing in You in 2022", being held in Raleigh, July 25 – 27, 2022, planned by Education Services for the principals and teachers of our four schools (see video montage on page 13). It did not disappoint! It was action-packed with all kinds of activities: treasure hunts, Price is Right (COME ON DOWN!), dynamic speakers, award ceremonies, lots of food and snacks, book giveaways, valuable workshops and networking. That event had it all. Many thanks to Education Services for hosting the event, which took many, many hours of hard work for the team to pull it off.

Thanks to our principals and teachers for their enthusiastic participation at the event and their dedication throughout the year. We've experienced many changes in our agency over the past year with many more changes to come, but all of our educators are resilient, motivated and eager to affect change in their students on a daily basis – no matter what ages fill their classrooms!

Let's look forward to the fall and embrace each day. Let us not waste a single opportunity that comes our way to be kind to all. Remember that you are appreciated.

In Your Service,
Sarah R. Cobb

Superintendent's Message

*Dr. Julie Jailall
Superintendent, Education Services,
Division of Prisons*



I would like to extend a big “thank you” to the staff of the various facilities that Education Services staff has visited in the past few months. Thanks again for your warm welcome and hospitality. We are very much cognizant and understanding of the staffing challenges some of you are experiencing and how difficult it is to revert to education programming as it was pre-Covid. I encourage you all to do what you can and continue to be hopeful.

The Education Services section has several Program Consultants and other staff whose goals are to support you. Please free to reach out to them if you have a question or an issue in the following areas:

- 1. Higher Education or 4-Year Colleges:** We have partnerships with several universities and colleges to focus on curriculum courses, certifications, and degrees. Please feel free to reach out to Assistant Superintendent, Brooke Wheeler for support and questions. brookewheeler@ncdps.gov
- 2. PEP programs (Prison Education Program) and Barber Program:** We have partnerships with 41 Community Colleges delivering vocational programs in all of our facilities. If you have questions regarding funding, curriculum, supplies and resources, reach to Program Consultant, Duane Cogdell. Duane.cogdell@ncdps.gov
- 3. High School Equivalency (HSE) or HiSET and Adult Basic Education:** There are usually prerequisites for many of the Higher Education, certifications and curriculum classes. Please reach out to Education Specialist, Sherri Hill. Sherri.hill@ncdps.gov
- 4. Technology, iNET, Computers and Tablets:** Several of the facilities are installing Access Points (APs) for virtual or hybrid education. Please reach out to Education Technology Administrator, Travis Cooper. Travis.cooper@ncdps.gov
- 5. Library:** Many of you know Ms. Emma Brooks. Ms. Brooks will assist you with questions on libraries. Emma.brooks@ncdps.gov
- 6. Non-English Learner:** All identified Non-English Learners should be receiving instruction in English as Second language. Reach out to Mr. Polycarp Omollo. Polycarp.omollo@ncdps.gov
- 7. DC 704 and Education Budget:** Shilyn Sodagar, Administrative Assistant, is your first contact. If you need further help reach out Brooke Wheeler about questions on the Education Budget. Shilyn.sodagar@ncdps.gov
- 8. Prison Youth Schools** Dr. Shanon White, Mr. Polycarp Omollo and Sharon VanHoy will assist with any questions. Shanon.white@ncdps.gov; sharon.vanhoy@ncdps.gov

With INET capability, computers, laptops and tablets becoming more and more accessible, we would like to see prison education, not only return to what it was pre-Covid, but be delivered in multi-modal formats.

Dr. Julie Jailall,
Superintendent, Education Services



Foothills Correctional Institution

Submitted by Steve Williams, FCI Principal

The Foothills Correctional Institution Library is a multi-purpose media center that strives to create a positive learning environment. The library offers more than 5,000 books, magazines and reference materials. There is also an extensive video library and an access point that connects tablets, which offers a wide range of learning opportunities.

The library covers a wide range of genres: adventure, African-American, art, autobiography, biography, classics, education, employment, fantasy, fiction, health, history, horror & suspense, humor, mystery, Native American, nonfiction, reference, religion, romance, science fiction,

6 self-help and westerns.

Books purchases are placed twice a year. Books are ordered based on suggestions from teachers and offenders. Also, purchasing selections are made by popular authors, genre and subject. We consult with top book companies for new suggestions to build our circulation.

The library services include providing books to the Segregation Unit, TDU Unit, STG Unit, FMCU and various processing units within the facility. In 2021 we distributed 644 books to these units.

Realizing the need of library services for offenders during the COVID-19 pandemic, we purchased a book cart that could hold between 250 and 300 books. A schedule was developed to visit each unit and have them check out books.



This move was extremely popular. We kept a list of requested titles and brought the books to them the next week. We also provided News for You papers and various scholastic magazines.

Foothills Library provides space for classrooms and as the High School Equivalency testing center. The Test Center is an approved location for our HiSet testing administered by Western Piedmont Community College.

Our library also serves as a space for transition skills where we serve the JobStart classes. JobStart includes human resource development classes such as employability skills and social living skills. Students in these classes will be released back to society in less than 18 months.



Steve Williams, Principal



Emma Brooks, Library Administrator

Education Services Visit to Roanoke River Correctional Institution – A Unique Prison Environment

Submitted by Brooke Wheeler, Assistant Superintendent



Assistant Superintendent Brooke Wheeler and Vocational and Adult Education Extension Specialist Duan Cogdell visited Roanoke River Correctional Institution on Aug. 5, to learn about the unique educational programs offered and plans for future programming. As they arrived at the facility, they turned down a long dirt road through fields (not the official route), but it was a beautiful drive for the last two miles of the trip.

Warden Wendy Hardy and Program Director FIRST NAME?? Hill welcomed the education team and provided a wonderful experience at RRCI. Warden Hardy took her visitors on a tour of the medium and minimum facilities, as well as the farm. Though it was Mr. Hill's day off, he chose to attend the meeting and continue with the tour of the facility.



Though Warden Hardy has only been the warden at RRCI for a short period, she was extremely knowledgeable and happy to share information about her facility. She was clearly very proud of the people she works with, the operations she supervises and her facility in general.

The cannery and farm were working at the time, which proved to be very interesting and informative. Tour stops and sights included the chicken houses, egg processing plant, farm machinery stations, maintenance and farm operations, cow pasture, Correction Enterprises plants and much more. Offenders who were working in many of the areas were proud of their work and were eager to show the new visitors what they do.

The group next toured the vocational building at the minimum unit, where there are three potential classrooms. The group also toured the medium unit classroom area, including the small engine repair room, the high school equivalency classroom and another vacant room.

Currently, education programming at RRCI includes plumbing, commercial cleaning and food service technology at the medium and minimum units. Masonry is offered at the medium unit only, although they were currently on a hiatus due to a COVID outbreak at the facility.

Ms. Wheeler and Mr. Cogdell were extremely impressed with the incredible farm operations on over 7,500 acres of beautiful green pastures and farmland. Warden Hardy and Mr. Hill were excellent tour guides and provided a plethora of historical information and knowledge. This was a wonderful visit to Roanoke River CI, with beautiful views, engaged leadership and staff and offender engagement

Lincoln Correctional Center Provides National Certifications for Vocational Programs through Cleveland Community College

Submitted by Brooke Wheeler, Assistant Superintendent

Education Services visited Lincoln Correctional Center to discuss current education planning and programming, as well as future education planning and programming.

Superintendent Dr. Julie Jailall, Assistant Superintendent Brooke Wheeler, Vocational and Adult Education Extension Specialist Duane Cogdell, and Sherri Hill met with Warden Jeffrey McGhee, Sgt. Buford, B. Williams, and Region Program Coordinator L. Williamson.

Lincoln's team gave Education Services a warm greeting and shared that they are very proud of their education programming. Lincoln Correctional partners with Gaston Community College to provide high school equivalency, adult basic education and human resource development programs.

They partner with Cleveland Community College for vocational programs provided at an alternative site called the Comprehensive Education Program (CEP), which was formerly Cleveland Correctional Institution. Program offerings at the CEP include courses that conclude with NCCER certification in the areas of carpentry, welding, plumbing and electrical. NCCER is the National Center for Construction Education and Research, which provides a national certification in many areas related to construction.

Lincoln Correctional and Cleveland CC held a graduation on July 29, with 30 graduates completing at least one of the four programs. Each program takes approximately one year to complete, and students may complete more than one program if they have time and interest. The next class is scheduled to begin on Aug. 15.

The Education Services team was impressed with the professionalism and knowledge of the leadership from Lincoln Correctional and Cleveland CC. Leadership of the prison leadership and the Western Region expressed dedication to educating the offenders in their care.



***Images are of a grill and a model house built by offenders in the Lincoln/Cleveland carpentry and welding programs.**





WELCOME TO THE TEAM

Sherri Hill

Educational Specialist

Sherri E. Hill has joined Education Services as an Education Specialist.

Ms. Hill handles Adult Basic Education and High School Equivalency (HiSET) programs in all prisons across the state, in addition to other duties.

She received a BA from Fordham University and an MBA from Penn State University. She started her career working on Wall Street for firms like Shearson Lehman Brothers, American Express and Bear Stearns. During her 20+ years of working on Wall Street, she worked in operations, became the Operations Manager, Vice President of Trade Settlements and a Compliance Officer.

After 9/11, the blackout and anthrax scare, Ms. Hill decided to leave Wall Street behind. She started a personal concierge service. While getting the business off the ground, she became a substitute teacher at her daughter's middle school, which pulled her into the world of education.

Stepping back from the concierge business, she took a long-term substitute teacher position at Waskisha Charter School in Philadelphia. An educator was born. The next year she accepted a full-time position teaching middle school math to urban students at the same school. She relocated to North Carolina and earned a lateral teaching certification from North Carolina Central University. She worked in Duplin County, Durham County and at Granville Correctional Institution. While at Granville, she earned a Master's of Education in School Administration.

Ms. Hill is thrilled to join the Central Education Services team to assist with educational programming throughout the state.

A-B Tech Receives Funds for Year Two of Second Chance Pell Program

Asheville.com News



Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College was notified by the U.S. Department of Education of continued funding for the Second Chance Pell Experimental Sites program. A-B Tech was awarded up to \$175,896 to support students in these programs.

A-B Tech is the first institution in North Carolina selected for participation in the program. The Second Chance Pell program allows the college to disburse Pell grants for enrollment in higher education to eligible individuals in Craggy Correctional Center for Men and Western Correctional Center for Women.

“We were honored to be selected for participation,” said Dr. Gene Loflin, Associate Vice President for Instructional Services. “We were able to roll out the Human Services program at Western and the Electrical Systems program at Craggy where we held the first Second Chance graduation this past May. Research has shown that incarcerated individuals who participate in education while incarcerated are 48 percent less likely to recidivate.

We are proud to serve this population to meet My Future NC 2030 higher education goal attainment vision.”



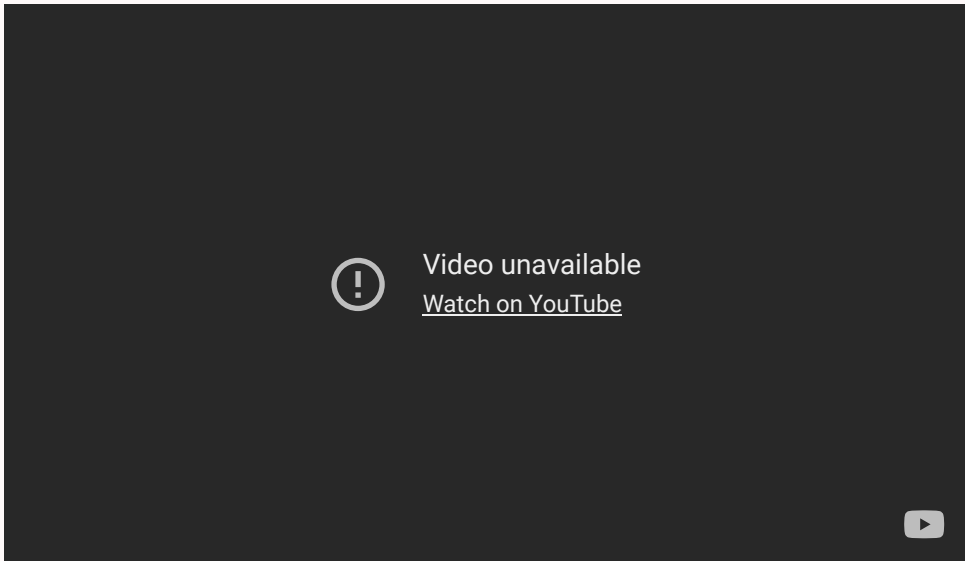
NC DPS Reentry Programs Employees

CRAB FEST

Crab Eating Contest

CLICK TO WATCH

Video Length: 1 Minute



On August 10, 2022, Deputy Secretary Nicole Sullivan hosted a Crabfest luncheon for employees from the Reentry and Programs section. This employee fellowship was fun, exciting and provided fellowship among colleagues in an outdoor setting.

NCDPS Education Services

SUMMER EDUCATION CONERENCE

VIDEO MONTAGE

CLICK ICON BELOW TO VIEW



Welcome Duane Cogdell

*Post-Secondary
Programs
Consultant*



Duane Cogdell has joined Education Services as the Vocational and Adult Education Extension Specialist.

From 2009 to 2022, Mr. Cogdell has served in positions such as unit administrator, career specialist, transition coordinator, special populations coordinator, curriculum and instructional management coordinator, career development coordinator, and vocational educator for North Carolina Division of Juvenile Justice Education Services.

He began his career in Juvenile Justice in 1994 as a counselor technician at Dobbs School in Kinston. During his 13-year tenure at Dobbs School, Cogdell earned his teaching credential in specialized vocational education. He held several positions within the school system as an industrial maintenance teacher, lead teacher and interim JROTC director.

He was born in Washington, D.C., and raised in eastern North Carolina. Before entering the education field, he served in the U.S. Army, where he has held positions as a driver instructor, wheeled vehicle repairman, heavy-duty forklift operator and mechanical maintenance supervisor.

He received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Mount Olive, a master's degree in special education from the University of Arizona and an education specialist degree in educational leadership from Liberty University.

He is a current member of Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society, North Carolina Association of Career and Technical Education, Council for Exceptional Children, Cumberland County Workforce Development Board Youth Council and the Golden Key International Honor Society.

Mr. Cogdell resides in Dunn. He enjoys photography, fishing, hunting and flying his drone. Most importantly, he cherishes quality time with his wife and their two adult sons.

He looks forward to meeting the needs of the adult offender population.

Meet

POLYCARP OMOLLO

Polycarp Omollo has joined Education Services as Federal Programs Coordinator.

Mr. Omollo comes to Education Services from Granville Correctional Institution, where he served for over three years as a licensed Educator in the Title I and Exceptional Students Programs at the Prison Youth School. As the Federal Programs Coordinator, he will supervise three Federal programs—Title 1 Part D, IDEA—Special Education, and Title III—Non-English Speakers (or ESL). As the Coordinator of the three Federal programs, he will be responsible for writing two annual Federal grants for Title 1 and IDEA for the four Prison Youth Schools located at:

- Foothills CI
- Richmond CI
- Granville CI
- and N.C. Correctional Institution for Women.

Mr. Omollo will also manage the budgets, develop appropriate education programs, recruit and train staff for the programs and submit annual reports to N.C. Department of Public Instruction for continued funding for the Federal programs. He will also work closely with the respective NC Community Colleges responsible for delivering instruction to the Non-English Learners in the various prisons across the State. Mr. Omollo, a Kenyan-American, moved to the USA in June 2006, and he proudly stated, "I've always only lived in the Tar Heel State of NC." He earned a B.Ed in 2003 in English (9-12) and Music Education (K-12) from Kenyatta University, an M.Ed. in 2007 with concentrations in ESL, Reading and Special Education from Meredith College in Raleigh and a Juris Doctor of Law from N.C. Central University in 2020. In addition to diverse education backgrounds, Mr. Omollo also brings to Education Services a rich array of experiences in several other fields of work. He served as a licensed ESL teacher in Harnett County Schools, prior to which he worked as a firefighter, paramedic and in mental health. Mr. Omollo has taught at all levels of schooling—kindergarteners to adults—in a variety of settings, ranging from brick-and-mortar buildings and prison settings to hybrid and online settings. He is certified in a wide range of subjects—English, math, and music—and even coached and mentored field hockey.

"I enjoy what I do and am very grateful for the opportunities I have had," he said. Mr. Omollo is married with 5 children. He lives with his family in Fuquay-Varina.

He is a die-hard agriculturalist, cultivating food crops and rearing a few domesticated animals on a small scale. "My wife and I are currently building our dream home in Durham," he said. "Eventually, we want to live debt-free and produce at least 80 percent of our food."



Federal Programs Coordinator

DPS Employees:

Prisons Education Services Annual Conference



Prisons Education Services held its annual conference last month in Raleigh. The theme was “Investing in you in 2022.” The three-day professional development event brought together teachers and principals from prisons with youth centers, including N.C. Correctional Institution for Women, Granville Correctional Institution, Foothills CI and Richmond CI. The prisons’ educators shared experiences and collaborated on learning new research-based classroom practices and methods. Guest speakers encouraged education team members to continue their valuable work, not only as instructors, but also as role models and potential rehabilitators. Other conference activities were a dinner/awards event, a book giveaway, school updates and morale-building exercises.

NCDPS Education Services Staff



NCDPS
Education
Services

"INVESTING IN YOU IN 2022"

Sarah Cobb, Director, Rehabilitative Services, Prisons

Dr. Julie Jailall, Superintendent

Brooke Wheeler, Assistant Superintendent

Travis D. Cooper, Education Technology Administrator

Emma Brooks, Library Administrator

Dr. Sharon White, Curriculum & Student Data Coordinator

Duane Cogdell, Post-Secondary Programs Consultant

Sherri Hill, Education Specialist

Polycarp Omollo, Federal Programs Coordinator

Sharon VanHoy, Education Consultant

Shilyn Sodagar, Administrative Specialist





HR-Payroll Update

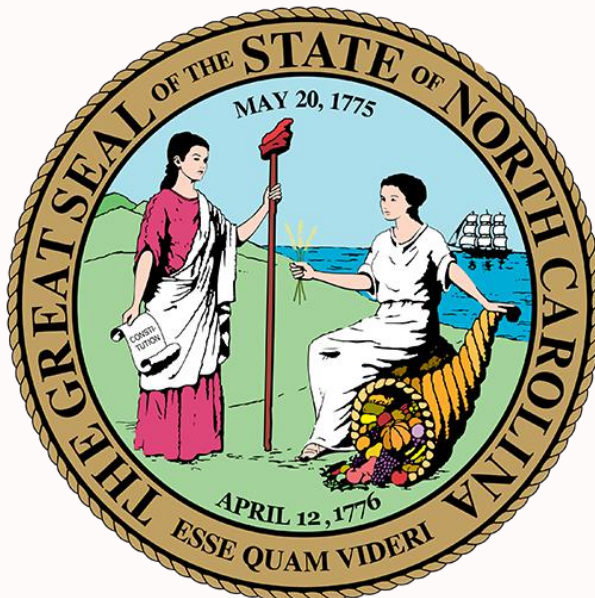
New FIORI Interface to replace the
"BEACON Portal"

**PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION BROADLY
WITHIN YOUR AGENCY**

In the near future, OSC will transition from the current ESS/MSS "Portal" interface to the Integrated HR-Payroll System to the new, upgraded FIORI interface as illustrated below.

Since April 2021, this new interface has been available as an option and has undergone much development and vigorous testing. Now that FIORI is almost ready for rollout to you, OSC will soon discontinue use of the old interface. (The exact date will be announced in a later communication.)

It is crucial that you start preparing now so that you are not caught off guard when we make the permanent switch.



For inquires, questions, comments or submissions, please contact
Travis D. Cooper, Education Technology Administrator
travis.cooper@ncdps.gov