



LaDonna Thompson
Commissioner

Official Newsletter of the
Kentucky Department
of Corrections

INSIDE CORRECTIONS

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Awards Luncheon Another Record Breaker

By Lisa Lamb
Communications Director

Our annual Awards Luncheon drew a record crowd, 546 attendees, to Louisville on Sept. 3.

Greg Howard, the warden at Luther Lockett Correctional Complex, was named “Warden of the Year.”

Gary Compton was named “Probation & Parole Supervisor of the Year.” Compton, who currently supervises District 11 in Prestonsburg, has

Please See AWARDS, Page 3



Left: Commissioner LaDonna Thompson presented the “Warden of the Year” honor to Luther Lockett Correctional Complex Warden Greg Howard. Right: District 11 Supervisor Gary Compton was selected as the Probation and Parole “Supervisor of the Year.”

2014 Commissioner’s Executive Leadership Program Underway

The 2014 Commissioner’s Executive Leadership Program is well underway with three sessions already completed. Forty-five DOC employees from throughout the department were selected to participate in this year’s program.

The class has had sessions on project planning and implementation, personnel issues and team building. The next session set for Nov. 20 will focus on the Local Facilities Division of the department. *(See photos on page 25.)*

DOC Records Perfect PREA Audits

Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women made departmental history in September when it scored 100 percent on the first-ever Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) audit conducted in Kentucky.

Bell County Forestry Camp followed suit in October when it also received a perfect score. The department also received verbal confirmation from auditors that Western Kentucky Correctional Complex scored 100% in its PREA audit earlier this month.

Signed into law Sept. 4, 2003, PREA is intended to address the detection, prevention, reduction and prosecution of sexual harassment and abuse in all correctional facilities in the country.

Auditors from the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services, all certified as PREA auditors through the Department of Justice, conducted the KCIW and BCFC audits. At KCIW, Stephanie Huddle served as chairperson and Brad McDonnell and Trish Brockman served as support staff. Michele Dausat, Louisiana Department of Corrections PREA coordinator, also assisted.

Please See AUDITS, Page 8

On The Inside

Page 2 -NTC Holds Graduation for Future Leaders’ Program

Page 5 - Spotlight on a VET

Page 8 - BCC, NTC, Training Receive Perfect Audit Scores

Page 11 - Employee Recognition

Page 14 - Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Teams Formed

Page 19 - ‘Rugged Maniac’ no match for DOC employees

Page 20 - Halloween Fun

Page 23 - Education Branch Provides Training

Future Leaders' Program At NTC Holds Graduation

The second class of Northpoint Training Center's Future Leaders' Program graduated on September 11.

During the nine months leading up to graduation, participants attended classes focusing on developing leadership and public speaking skills.

They also gained a better understanding of the entire Department of Corrections and its mission which included a visit to central office.



Front row (L-R): Officer Johnny Holbert, Officer Rodney Floyd and Officer Donald McCusker; Middle row (L-R): Officer Kristi Wellsman, Property Officer Randall Thomas, CTO Jessica Payton, Administrative Specialist Ashley Kirk, Officer Nicholas Beasley and Officer Shawn Goode; Back row (L-R): Fiscal Manager Kim Huddleston, Officer Chris Young, Officer Derek Inman, Officer James Carraway, Warden Don Bottom and Officer Daniel Allen.

Kentucky DOC Presents ASCA College Scholarship

The Department of Corrections presented an initial scholarship check in the amount of \$1,000 to Joe Korby. He is the son of Kentucky Correctional Industry's Fiscal Manager, Roger Korby. Joe is currently a junior attending Eastern Kentucky University and is majoring in Fire/Arson/Explosion Investigation. The Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) awards the annual scholarships and the recipients must be the son or daughter of a corrections employee within an ASCA-member DOC. This year ASCA awarded 28 initial scholarship checks of \$1,000 each, as well as 23 continuing scholarship checks of \$500 each.



Pictured (L-R): Deputy Commissioner Jim Erwin, Joe's mother, Judy Korby, Roger Korby, Joe Korby and Commissioner LaDonna Thompson.

Luncheon Memorable Not Only For Attendance

Right: Members of the Luther Lockett Correctional Complex Honor Guard presented colors to start the 2014 DOC Awards Luncheon. This year's luncheon drew a record crowd to Louisville on Sept. 3. Below: KSR Unit Administrator Jennifer Hogue performed the National Anthem.



Awards

From Page 1

been with the Department since 2000. His leadership during a high profile incident was among the many reasons he was selected for the honor.

Howard's tenure as statewide CERT commander was listed as just one of the reasons he received the award.

The "Rookie of the Year" award was presented to Kentucky State Reformatory Chaplain Doug Harvey who joined the department in June 2013. He was praised for his support to staff and inmates, and for his desire to get involved in several prison functions outside of his chaplain duties such as the Hostage Negotiation Team.

Commissioner's Awards were presented to: Tim Moore, Farm Manager, Roederer Correctional Complex; Kristin Harrod, Assistant Supervisor, Probation and Parole District 18, Erica Hargis, Assistant Supervisor, Probation and Parole District 4 & Kerry Mears, Program Administrator, Re-Entry Branch; Kelly Crocker, Architect, Capital Construction Branch; Josh Hart, Accreditation Manager, Bell County Forestry Camp; Samantha Ratliff, Probation and Parole Officer, District 11; Jason Joseph, Sergeant, Little Sandy Correctional Complex; Fred Siegelman, Director, Kentucky Correc-



KSR Chaplain Doug Harvey was presented the "Rookie of the Year" award by Commissioner LaDonna Thompson.

tional Industries & C.A. Wilkerson, Assistant Director, Kentucky Correctional Industries

Department of Corrections Hero Awards were presented to: Brian Melvin, Donald Joseph Ratliff, Sloane Marcum, and Olivia Newsome, Probation and Parole Officers, District 11; Fendrick Spencer, Correctional Officer, Eastern

Please See LUNCHEON, Page 4

Commissioner's Award Winners



Tim Moore



Josh Hart



Jason Joseph



Samantha Ratliff



Kelly Crocker



Erica Hargis



Kristin Harrod



Kerry Mears

Luncheon

From Page 3

Kentucky Correctional Complex; Joe Thomas, Correctional Officer, Northpoint Training Center; Glendon Goodpaster and Carol Paholsky, Correctional Officers, Little Sandy Correctional Complex; Kevin Mann, Correctional Officer, Green River Correctional Complex; Richard Lewis, Probation and Parole Officer, District 16; Tatia Moore, Probation and Parole Officer, District 7; John Berger, Correctional Officer, Kentucky State Reformatory; Joel Mosier, Correctional Officer, Little Sandy Correctional Complex; Roger Riley, Probation and Parole Officer, District 17; Martha Fiedler, Meredith Miller and Alex Cardosi, Probation and Parole Officers, District 7.



Fred Siegelman



C.A. Wilkerson



Spotlight On A Veteran

Robert Belen

This issue of "Spotlight on a Vet" focuses on Robert (Bob) Belen. Bob started his career with the Department of Corrections in March 2005 in the Central Office Records Section and is currently an Offender Information Administrator.

Bob Belen, who currently works in the Offender Information Services Branch at central office, previously served in both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army prior to coming to the Department of Corrections.

Belen joined the Navy fresh out of high school in 1982. He completed basic training in Orlando, Florida and was then assigned to the USS Roanoke in San Francisco, California. The USS Roanoke was a replenishment ship that traveled with an aircraft carrier to supply all the ships in the USS Carl Vinson carrier group. The USS Roanoke provided food and drink, fuel for both the ships and on-board aircraft, as well as missiles and other munitions.

Belen later rotated to travel with the USS Enterprise carrier group. These two assignments took Belen to such places as Hawaii, Japan, Hong Kong, Australia, Africa and the Philippines.

Being from a small rural town in Michigan, Bob said it was somewhat of a culture shock to even go to California, let alone around the world.

Belen was assigned to the Intelligence Division and worked in the Combat Information Center (CIC) identifying other ships in the area of the carrier group. He said when they would spot a ship on the radar that they could not identify, he would go up in a CH-46 helicopter while the pilots did a flyover in order to identify the unknown vessel. It was one of the more exciting aspects of his job, according to Bob.

Although it was exciting at times, his work schedule left a little to be desired. When out to sea, Belen would work six hours on, six hours off, for a total of 12 hours a day, seven days a week.

In contrast, their time in port made up for their hectic at-sea schedule. While the ship was docked, they would only have to work one duty day every fourth day. This allowed



Offender Information Services Administrator Bob Belen served his country in both the United States Navy and Army.

them plenty of time to go out and "see the world" as promised in the brochures.

Bob served out his tour in the Navy in 1986 and was honorably discharged. The following year in 1987, he joined the Army.

"I wanted to serve in a different way," said Belen. "I had served on sea. I wanted to serve on land."

Belen's transition from the Navy to the Army was slightly challenging. He was not required to go to Army basic training; however, as a Specialist in the Army, he was required to train new soldiers on things he himself had not been trained on. He had to conduct his own personal basic training to learn those "soldiering basics" in order to train new soldiers and be a solid member of the Army team.

In the Army, Belen was initially assigned to Fort Myer near the Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C.

Veteran

From Page 5

While stationed there, he was responsible for auditing personnel transactions. Bob said this work was somewhat boring and after a few years he was looking to go somewhere else for a change. He ended up doing a “stateside swap” and traded positions with someone at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Belen was happy with his new assignment. He said the work was similar, but the environment was better. Again, being from a small rural town, he said working in Kentucky suited him much better than the fast-paced Washington area.

While working at Fort Knox, Bob met his wife, Rita, and they were married in December 1990. In 1991 and 1992 the military began an initiative of downsizing. In an attempt to lower the number of enlisted personnel, the Army offered Belen a \$20,000 severance package to leave with an honorable discharge at the completion of his enlistment term.

With that incentive, Bob decided to leave the military. He completed his tour of duty and left the Army in May 1992.

After leaving the military, Bob and Rita moved to Frankfort, Rita’s hometown. They currently have two sons, 15-year old Nicholas and 11-year old Levi, who are both heavily involved in the



Bob Belen, then and now. Left: Belen is pictured in his army uniform; Above: Bob today as he serves the DOC as an Administrator in the Offender Information Services Branch.

“I wanted to serve in a different way. I had served on sea. I wanted to serve on land.”

Robert Belen

Offender Information Administrator

Boy Scouts of America.

Still today, Bob continues to support and give back to his community. He served as the the assistant archery coach at Bondurant Middle School in 2010 and 2011. He only left that position in order to start an archery program for

the students at Collins Lane Elementary School, where he has served as coach every year since.

Bob Belen is the epitome of a true public servant. He should be proud of all his accomplishments - his Department of Corrections family certainly is.



Left: Belen served from 1982 through 1986 on board the USS Roanoke. Above: Belen would go up in a CH-46 helicopter while the pilots did a flyover in order to identify unknown ships.

NTC Warden Don Bottom Receives Patriot Award

Northpoint Training Center Warden Don Bottom was honored Oct. 10 with the “Patriot Award” by the Office of the Secretary of Defense Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

This award acknowledges Warden Bottom for contributing to national security and protecting liberty and freedom by supporting employee participation in America’s National Guard and Reserve Force.

It was presented by Area 6 Chairman for the Kentucky Committee for Employer Support Guard and Reserve Denny Comer.

“I am honored to receive this award and proud of our employees who serve their country and defend our freedom.” said Bottom.

Lieutenant Richard Walls, an employee at NTC who served nine years in the United States Army and since 2009 has been a member of the Kentucky National Guard, nominated Warden Bottom for the award.



Area 6 Chairman for the Kentucky Committee for Employer Support Guard and Reserve Denny Comer presented Northpoint Training Center Warden Don Bottom with the “Patriot Award” for his support of employees serving in the National Guard and Reserve Force.

KSR Donates Military-Themed Rocking Chairs to Ft. Knox



KSR Training Coordinator Dale Hazelwood, Captain Scott Stewart and Correctional Officer Jason Mengedoht presented Master Sergeant Devoda S. Owens with a rocking chair for his dedication in helping soldiers find employment after military service, and for his support of employers during job fairs at Ft. Knox. Left: Owens is pictured (L-R) with Stewart and Hazelwood. Right: A Fallen Soldier rocking chair was donated to the Ft. Knox chapel. Pictured with Hazelwood (far right) is Michael Carroll, Director of Human Resources (center) and Col Byron Simmon, Post Chaplin.

Kentucky State Reformatory representatives traveled to Ft. Knox earlier this month and presented Master Sergeant Devoda S. Owens with a token of appreciation for his dedication in assisting soldiers with finding employment before discharging from the military.

Master Sergeant Owens has displayed professionalism and gratitude towards employers during scheduled job fairs at Ft. Knox, including the Kentucky DOC.

Master Sergeant Owens was presented with a rocking chair built at KSR by Paul Smith and his crew.

KSR also donated a Fallen Soldier rocking chair to the Fort Knox Chapel for display. The rocking chair symbolizes the dedication and sacrifice that soldiers endure for our freedoms, ensuring all that they are not forgotten.

BCC, NTC, Training Division Receive Perfect Audit Scores

The Kentucky Department of Corrections received three perfect audit scores from the American Correctional Association (ACA) in September and October.

Blackburn Correctional Complex (BCC) received a score of 100 percent during its re-accreditation audit, the prison's 10th accreditation audit.

Northpoint Training Center (NTC) scored perfectly during its re-accreditation audit, the prison's 9th accreditation audit.

The Division of Corrections Training also received a 100 percent during its re-accreditation audit.

At BCC, ACA auditor Lawrence Hicks, from Lawrence, Kansas, was impressed with the facility's security and control, recognizing the difficulties of maintaining security at a minimum security institution. Auditor Mary Wor-

rell, from Amelia Courthouse, Virginia, was complimentary of the institutional grounds and auditor Lester Young, from Moore, Oklahoma, was appreciative of BCC's hospitality and commitment to the audit process and encouraged the staff to continue their efforts.

BCC Warden Steve Haney thanked all his staff for their contributions to the audit process as well as the audit team for their hard work.

In announcing the scores at NTC, ACA audit Chairperson Michael Cody from Edmond, Oklahoma stated, "You make me proud to be a corrections professional."

Auditor William Peck from Memphis, Tennessee said NTC was an outstanding prison. "I was very impressed with the maintenance, especially considering a facility this old," said Peck. "The facility was very clean, one of the

cleanest I've been in."

Auditor Barbara Skeen from Lugoff, South Carolina, said, "Of all the inmates I talked to, I did not hear one negative comment. The inmates felt safe, they felt they are treated fairly and with respect."

Skeen also noted that NTC's documentation files were some of the best she had seen.

During the exit interview, NTC Warden Don Bottom said, "I set a high bar for my staff when I became warden two years ago and they have exceeded my expectations."

For Training, ACA audit Chair Lester Young of Moore, Oklahoma noted the "fantastic" work taking place in the Division of Corrections Training and said he was particularly impressed by the creativity of the training staff.

Please See SCORES, Page 13

Audits

From Page 1

"I am so proud of everyone's hard work toward achieving 100% compliance," said KCIW Warden Janet Conover. "The staff has done an outstanding job in getting all PREA standards implemented."

The auditors said they were impressed at the work being done at KCIW, at both the agency and facility level. They commented that staff interviewed were very knowledgeable, particularly of reporting requirements and the immediate action needed in order to ensure inmate safety. They added that it was clear PREA is a priority and that staff are dedicated to the safety of inmates, staff, visitors and the public.

At BCFC, the audit was led by Levi Bennett (chairperson), Matt Heckman and Sarah Nelson.

The audit team was extremely pleased with responses of the correctional officers and other staff interviewed. The impression given was one of understanding of the training they had received regarding PREA and the importance of their interactions with the inmate population. The auditors also noted that the electronic files received prior to the audit were well organized which made the review go in a very efficient manner.

"My staff did a tremendous job not only in preparing for

"This is certainly a historic event. Achieving a perfect score on the department's first PREA audit, and then following suit a few weeks later with our second and third, is a huge accomplishment. Many states were not successful in implementing the stringent standards set by this federal legislation. These scores are a proud reflection of the hard work and dedication of the KCIW, BCFC and WKCC staffs."

LaDonna Thompson
Commissioner

this audit, but in displaying that their attitude of inmate protection is a constant," said BCFC Warden Kathy Litteral. "I could not be more proud of their hard work and professionalism."

PREA audits consist of 43 national standards that ensure compliance with all facets of the federal legislation. Each of Kentucky's 12 prisons will receive initial PREA audits within the first three-year audit period that concludes in August 2016, with follow-up audits conducted once every three years on a continuous cycle.

DOC Staffers Receive Acknowledgement for Great Work

From: Saunier, Luke (EEC)
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 3:38 PM
To: Litteral, Kathy; Mason, Quentin E; Brock, Josh; Sloan, Adam
Subject: WV training

I just wanted to say thanks again for allowing Adam and Josh to train with the West Virginia Division of Forestry folks. I felt like it went very well and they said your officers will be able to do the job we need them to do this fire season. They emphasized setting aside time to train a couple of times a week as a key to their success.

I have many employees in that area ready to lay down scent trails to assist. I will send some pictures of the training your all's way in a few more emails, they are large files.

I was very proud of Adam and Josh and I look forward to working with them.

From: Moore, Beth (DOC)
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 10:00 AM
Subject: Congrats Capitol Chapter!



I know many of you were not able to attend the KCCD Awards Banquet and I wanted to let the Chapter know that the Capitol Chapter was awarded the "Key Chapter Award" (Chapter of the Year)!

Thank you all so much for all the service to KCCD and DOC this past year!

WAYSIDE CHRISTIAN MISSION



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Hotel Louisville campus
 120 West Broadway Warden Aaron Smith
 Kentucky State Reformatory
Jefferson Street campus
 432 East Jefferson Street 3001 West Highway 146
 LaGrange, KY 40032

Dear Warden Smith:

Yesterday, at the invitation of Teresa Turner, I was a guest speaker at the reformatory; during my visit, I was given a tour of the facility prior to speaking to a group of men representing a local chapter of the NAACP.

I was amazed at the cleanliness of the buildings and grounds and impressed by the courtesy of the staff and, particularly, Ms. Turner, who has the heart of a servant.

From my observations, the prison was surprisingly orderly, well-kept, and even cheerful. Inmates appear to be treated humanely and I noted no small measure of mutual respect between staff and prisoners.

For years, I had hoped God would open a door allowing me to speak to a group of inmates; yesterday's opportunity ranks among the most meaningful experiences of my life.

Running an institution that houses two thousand inmates must be a monumental job, but for whatever it is worth, you have certainly earned my respect.

By God's grace, maybe I can speak to another group of inmates. I hope so!

Sincerely,

Chaplain Michael Blunk, Th.D.

From: Bottom, Don (DOC)
Sent: Thursday, August 14, 2014
To: Wright, Tammy Lou (DOC)
Cc: Lamb, Lisa (DOC)
Subject:

Tammy, thank you for taking the time to attend NTC leadership program and presenting on victims program. The information was and is very beneficial for my staff and allows them insight to victim processes and resources for staff. Thanks again for what you do and all your help.

Thanks so much for the lovely plant and especially all the visits. He would have loved to chat with each of you. Thanks again Love you Barbara Hurley for Captain Hurley

Left: The note is from Barbara Hurley and sent to WKCC. Her husband, James Hurley, passed away on June 25, 2014. He and Barbara both worked for the Department of Corrections and retired from WKCC. James Hurley retired as a Captain at WKCC with 27 years of service. Barbara Hurley was a Lieutenant at WKCC and retired.

...for your listening ear,
 your understanding heart,
 and your unwavering support.

You're appreciated so much!

The WKCC honor guard was a real blessing at Summer Slam. Thanks so much.

God Bless His ministers

Thanks

From Page 9

From: Wright, Tammy Lou (DOC)
Sent: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 8:57 AM
To: Lynn, Michael F (DOC)
Cc: Lamb, Lisa (DOC); Hall, Johnathan (DOC)
Subject: Kind words from a victim

Mike,

I've been working with a victim who has not been treated fairly during the entire criminal justice process. She has had to overcome many barriers to obtain legal rights for her child who was sexually assaulted by her own father.

When the offender was released she was concerned about the offender's placement. She navigated her way to your office when she was notified by VINE of his release. During our conversation, she mentioned many times how kind you are and how she appreciated the time you gave her to answer her questions and listen to her concerns. You explained to her what would happen while the offender was on supervision.

I wanted to extend a special thank you. Often the victim population is an overlooked, underserved group. I little bit of time and kindness goes along way for these individuals.

Keep up the great work



Probation & Parole's Hester Honored

District 3 Probation & Parole Officer Michael Hester (left) received the Summit Volunteer of the Year award from Western Kentucky University's Department of Sociology. Hester was honored for her efforts in placing interns and volunteers in District 3. Hester is pictured with Dr. Douglas Smith (center), head of the sociology department at WKU and Dr. James Faine, a WKU professor.

Team Oakley Appreciative of Support!

Oakley Jackson Haddock, son of District 2 Assistant Supervisor Trent Haddock, was born on Friday, July 11, 2014. Just five days later, Oakley underwent his first of three heart surgeries for Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome. KCCD presented a donation of \$500 to the Haddock family. The Probation and Parole office in District 2 has also been raising money through sales of t-shirts, window decals and wristbands. If you would like to support "Team Oakley" by purchasing one of these items, please contact the P&P District 2 office. Trent Haddock would like to thank his DOC family and the Kentucky Council on Crime and Delinquency for their continued prayers and generous contributions throughout Oakley's illness.



KCCD Pistol Match A Success

The KCCD Pistol Match this year was a big success with over 100 people participating. The event is held yearly in conjunction with the annual conference. First-time participant Briney King said the hard work and planning of the event was evident. Participant safety was the top priority, according to King. She also noted she was impressed with the generosity of the range officers, participants and organizers during the match for providing instruction and support. "It was a great learning experience and a wonderful opportunity to meet new faces – I encourage all staff to get involved and participate in the next event," said King. She is pictured far right with team members (L-R) Cole Morrell, Chris Kley Meyer and Brady Smith.



Employee Recognition, News

Key Promotions Announced Throughout DOC

Bobbie Underwood Promoted to Assistant Personnel Director

Bobbie Underwood has been promoted to assistant director of Personnel Services for the department. She assumed her new duties Oct. 16.

Underwood began her career with the Department of Corrections in 2005 at Blackburn Correctional Complex as a personnel management specialist II. Ten months later she joined the department's Division of Personnel Services as a personnel management specialist III. She was promoted to personnel administrator in 2007 and again promoted to human resources branch manager in 2011. In 2012 Underwood obtained the IPMA-CP designation, declaring her a "certified professional" in human resources and public management.

Underwood is a 2002 graduate of the University of Kentucky where she earned a bachelor of science degree in family studies. She also attended the Commissioner's Executive Leadership Program in 2009 and received the department's Commissioner's Award in 2011.



Bobbie Underwood

Anna Valentine Promoted to Deputy Warden at KSR

Anna Valentine has been promoted to deputy warden of the Kentucky State Reformatory. She assumed her new duties on Sept. 15.

Valentine began her career in 2003 as a correctional officer at the Kentucky State Reformatory. She promoted through security to the rank of captain in 2008 serving as the dayshift supervisor with a compliment of 176 staff members. In 2010, she promoted to unit administrator where she worked in re-entry, the Correctional Psychiatric Treatment Unit (CPTU) and unit B. She also serves as the institutional public information officer, equal opportunity coordinator and the veteran's certifying official.



Anna Valentine

Valentine is a 2009 graduate of the Commissioner's Executive Leadership Program and is a certified correctional program checklist auditor. Valentine is also a United States Army veteran who served in several stateside and overseas posts.

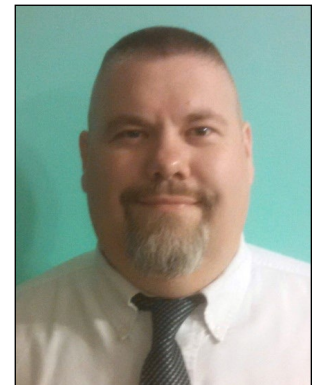
Juan Gill Promoted to Assistant Supervisor of District 8

Juan Gill was promoted to assistant supervisor in Probation and Parole's District 8 which covers Bath, Breathitt, Clark, Estill, Lee, Madison, Menifee, Montgomery, Owsley, Powell, Rowan, and Wolfe counties. Gill assumed his new duties on Sept. 16.

Gill is a 17-year veteran of the Department of Corrections. He began his career as a correctional officer at Blackburn Correctional Complex in Lexington. During his 16 years as probation and parole officer, he has supervised offenders on parole as well as felony and misdemeanor probation and diversion. He has had a caseload of home incarceration offenders, mandatory re-entry supervision offenders, and sex offenders.

In addition, Gill worked as the Class D officer in Clark County, and assisted with the "Capturing Absconders Proactively" (CAP) roundup for District 8. He has served as the district's firearms instructor since 2003 and was recently selected to participate in the division's Field Training Officer (FTO) program. He has also been instrumental in coordinating the installation of radio equipment in the District 8 vehicle fleet.

Gill is a 1996 graduate of Marshall University where he received his bachelor's degree in criminal justice.



Juan Gill

C.A. Wilkerson Named Acting PREA Coordinator

C.A. Wilkerson has been named acting PREA coordinator for the department. Wilkerson will assume his new duties Nov. 16.

Wilkerson began his career in state government in October 2006 when he was named the executive director of the Kentucky Parole Board. In December 2010, he was named as the

Greg Howard Named President-Elect of WCWSA

Luther Luckett Correctional Complex Warden Greg Howard has been named president elect for the West Central Wardens and Superintendents Association (WCWSA).

Howard will take over as president and host the training symposium to be held in Kentucky in 2016. The WCWSA is a professional group of wardens, superintendents, deputy wardens and deputy superintendents of correctional facilities in North America dedicated to the advancement of correctional practices and principles.

The annual training conferences fo-

cus on a variety of correctional issues in the fields of justice enforcement, technology, legal decisions and other topics of interest. Significant emphasis is placed on attendee interaction and sharing of leadership challenges and experiences.

Other states participating in WCWSA include Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

For more information on WCWSA, visit: <http://www.westcentralwardensandsuperintendentsassociation.com/links.shtml>.



Greg Howard

Promotions

From Page 11

assistant director of Kentucky Correctional Industries (KCI) for the Department of Corrections.

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was signed into law Sept. 4, 2003. PREA is intended to address the detection, prevention, reduction and prosecution of sexual harassment and abuse in all correctional facilities in the country.

Wilkerson is a 1991 graduate of Hanover College where he received a bachelor's degree in business administration. He is also a 2011 graduate of the Commissioner's Executive Leadership Program and the recipient of a 2014 Commissioner's Award.

Coleman Morrell Named Acting KCI Assistant Director

Coleman Morrell, a six-year veteran of the department, has been named acting assistant director of Kentucky Correctional Industries. He will assume his new duties effective Nov. 16.

Morrell began his career with the Department of Corrections in July 2008 as a correctional officer



Coleman Morrell

at the Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women. He was promoted to sergeant in January 2010 and later that same year was again promoted to institutional training coordinator. In November 2013 he was promoted to program administrator for the Division of Adult Institutions.

Morrell is a 2002 graduate of the University of Dayton where he earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and criminal justice. He is also a 2014 graduate of the Commissioner's Executive Leadership Program and the recipient of a 2012 Commissioner's Award.

Mike Sparks Promoted to Deputy Warden at EKCC

Michael Sparks has been promoted to deputy warden at Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex (EKCC) in West Liberty. He assumed his new duties Nov. 1.

Sparks began his career with the Department of Corrections in July 1989 as a correctional officer at the Western Kentucky Farm Center in Eddyville.

He transferred to EKCC in May 1990. He was promoted to classification and treatment officer in October 1990, again promoted to corrections unit administrator I in July 1996 and finally promoted to corrections unit administrator II in June 2003.

Sparks has previously served as litigation coordinator, acting nurse service administrator and a hostage negotiation team member. He was recognized as employee of the month in April 1996, supervisor of the month in both December 1997 and October 2001 and also supervisor of the second quarter in 2006.



Mike Sparks

'Prison Break' 5K Held to Benefit KCCD and EKCC Staff Canteen



Above: A large crowd participated in the first-ever 'Prison Break 5K' held Sept. 20 at EKCC. Far left: The two EKCC employees who helped plan and organize event: Missey Howard and Hope Phipps. At left: Jessie Ferguson, Johnathan Hall and Commissioner LaDonna Thompson crossed the finish line!

Scores

From Page 8

Auditor Lawrence Hicks said he was impressed by the dedicated, experienced trainers stating that "many states would love to have something close to what Kentucky has."

Director Mary Godfrey thanked the ACA audit team for their hard work as well as the staff for their efforts in preparing for re-accreditation.

"Achieving a perfect score on an ACA audit is no small matter," said Thompson. "This truly shows the hard work

and dedication that is put forth by the employees of Blackburn, Northpoint, and our Division of Corrections Training."

ACA prison audits consist of approximately 530 national standards that cover security, operational and programming aspects of a prison, and require constant monitoring and quality control checks.

ACA audits for correctional training academies consist of 105 national standards that include administration, management, physical plant and academy operations requiring constant monitoring and quality control checks.

All accredited parts of the department are audited by ACA every three years, with inter-departmental audits (Program Security Reviews) every year.



Agency Spotlight

Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team Formed

By Dr. Russell Williams

The Kentucky Department of Corrections recognizes the harmful effects of stress which may be caused to our employees by critical incidents.

These incidents can occur both within and outside of institutional walls (Prisons, Jails, Probation & Parole Offices), and may include such events as riots, escapes, deaths, suicides, life-threatening medical emergencies, severe acts of physical violence, and natural disasters.

DOC personnel are involved in these types of incidents and are therefore subject to develop symptoms associated with critical incident stress.

To minimize the adverse effects of critical incident stress the DOC has established a Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team. The purpose of the CISD Team is to provide immediate services to Kentucky Department of Corrections personnel in the face of adverse work experiences.

On April 1st through April 3rd, 20 DOC employees participated in the inaugural training to become certified as facilitators in Individual Crisis Intervention and Peer Support and Group Crisis Intervention.

The training was conducted at the Central Regional Training Center in LaGrange, and was led by lead instructor Rev. C.J. Wright, CTR, CTSS. Rev. Wright is the Team and Training Coordinator for the Kentucky Community Crisis Response Board in Frankfort.

Members of the DOC team were selected by Wardens and/or Probation and Parole Supervisors, and included a variety of personnel, including a captain, two lieutenants, two sergeants, two correctional officers, three chaplains, a classification and training officer, two psychologists, an administrative secretary, three probation and parole supervisors, a fiscal manager, and two unit administrators.

The diversity of the team exemplifies the commitment of the DOC to meet the needs of all its employees, across disciplines and job responsibilities. Critical incidents can occur in any location of the DOC, and the team's diversity allows them to outreach at all levels of service.

The department recognizes the ability to function under increased periods of stress or during "Critical Incidents" is imperative. Correctional Officers and other professional personnel (Wardens, Probation and Parole Officers/supervisors, Deputy Wardens, Unit Administrators, Classification and



Dr. Deborah Coleman, DOC's Director of Mental Health Services, and Dr. Russell Williams (KSR) are acting administrators for the Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team.

Treatment Officers, Medical, Nursing, and Mental Health) responding to emergency events and or disasters may see and experience events that will strain their ability to function suitably on the job.

Often times staff exposed to traumatic situations are left with no formal avenue for debriefing. Identification of "Qualifying Events," the creation of a "Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team," and actualization of a centralized "Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Policy & Procedure," assures that those in the direct line of responding (First Responders) are not left unaided in the aftermath of an emergency event.

The CISD Team can be activated by the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner of Adult Institutions, or Director of Mental Health at the request of any Warden or Regional P & P Supervisor.

The CISD Team is divided into three regional groups, covering Western, Central, and Eastern locations. The Western Team includes Troy Johnson and David Kennedy (WKCC), as well as James Utley (P&P). Two additional members from KSP will be forthcoming.

Please See DEBRIEFING, Page 16

GRCC Canine Team Participates in SERE Specialized Training



Pictured (L-R): “Clutch,” Robert Norton, Eric Lengeman, Emann Al-Azzah, Casey Foster, Nathan Tucker and “Lady.”

Members of the Green River Correctional Complex K-9 team went to Fort Campbell recently to participate in “Survival, Evasions, Resistance and Escape (SERE) training.

GRCC Warden Alan Brown said the training went very well with the prison’s top dog, “Lady,” finding the five members of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR), without any trouble even though they were using advanced military tactics to evade/escape capture. The SOAR team did not know they were being tracked by the GRCC K-9 team and were very surprised when they were found!

“I believe this type of training was very useful for all involved,” said Warden Brown. “It gave our team some excellent tracking experience using our dogs without any type of scent aide. It was beneficial for the military, as it demonstrated the full potential of trained tracking dogs.”

DOC’s Willard Presents at NIC Jail Inspector’s Training

Kentucky Department of Corrections Program Administrator Kirstie Willard attended NIC’s Chief Jail Inspector’s Network Meeting September 3rd and 4th in Aurora, CO.

One entire day of the two-day meeting was devoted to addressing mental illness in jails and Willard was one of four speakers to present on the subject.

Willard’s presentation was titled “Kentucky Mental Health Crisis Network: Overview and Update.” The goal was to showcase the program in hopes that it may provide a model for other states to consider as they struggle with

meeting the needs of their mentally ill offender populations in their respective jail systems.

The presentation discussed the Jail Mental Health Crisis Network, which was launched in 2004, as a result of The Courier Journal’s 2002 special report on mentally ill offenders housed in Kentucky’s county jails and the high rate of in-custody deaths associated with those offenders.

This program was created by Ray Sabbatine (former Director of the Fayette County Detention Center) and Connie Milligan (Regional Director of Intake and Emergency Ser-

vices at Bluegrass.org), who helped Willard with the NIC presentation.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the jail mental health crisis network, so in addition to providing her with information for her presentation, Sabbatine and Milligan allowed her the opportunity to observe the brand new pilot program for video follow-up assessments that was launched in August 2014.

This enabled Willard to not only discuss the history of the Jail Mental Health Crisis Network and the impact it’s had on Kentucky’s jails over the last 10 years, but



Kirstie Willard

also highlight how this program continues to evolve with the changing needs of the jail population and advances in technology.

Debriefing

From Page 14

The Central Team includes Webb Strang (KSR), Patricia Gunter and Sherri Grissingner (LLCC), and Rebecca Barker and Larry Blankenship (RCC). Two additional members from KCIW will be forthcoming.

The Eastern Team includes Timothy Dibble and Nathan Aseltine (BCC), Kristi Wellsman and Aaron Mobley (NTC), Michael Smith and Eric Barker (EKCC), Olivia Newsome and Charles Hundley, Jr. (P&P), and Dan Hittepole (LSCC).

Dr. Russell Williams (KSR) and Dr. Deborah Coleman (HSD; DOC Dir of Mental Health) are acting administrators for the group.

While there are many methods for dealing with stress resulting from exposure to critical incidents, among them being strenuous physical exercise, proper diet, and relaxation techniques; the most effective method for first responders is critical incident stress debriefing.

The CISD Team utilizes a multi-dimensional approach. This proactive approach, as well as supportive services and referrals, are used to assist individuals in coping more effectively with extreme stress.

The program educates members of the department about critical incident stress and stress management tech-

niques, thereby reducing the development of psychological stress disorders.

The program has CISD team members available during a critical incident in order to provide emotional support and professional referrals for those impacted by events.

Case studies of major incidents, where severe injuries or fatalities occurred, have revealed that a significant number of first responders experience some form of stress, however, most personnel have no long-term detrimental effects.

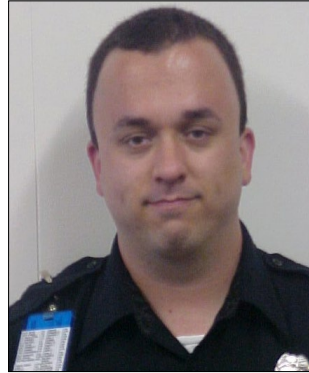
These studies have also revealed that a small percentage of personnel do experience continuing, long-term detrimental effects resulting from exposure to such incidents. Some of these effects have been delayed, surfacing later after a period of no apparent symptoms.

Numerous studies have identified the emotional, physiological, and financial impact that untreated stressors can have on employees, the department, and members of the employee's immediate family.

Without intervention, personnel experiencing these long term effects show declining work performance, deterioration in family relationships, and increased health problems. The objective of this program is to provide intervention after major incidents to minimize

Please See TEAMS, Page 17

Team members



Troy Johnson



Patricia Gunter



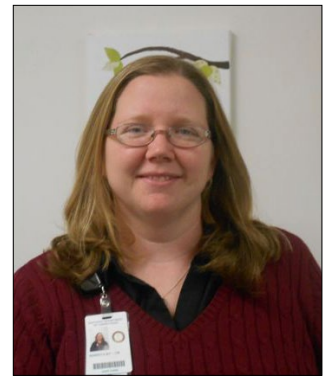
David Kennedy



Sherri Grissingner



James Utley



Becky Barker



Webb Strang



Larry Blankenship

Teams

From Page 16

stress-related injuries to DOC personnel.

Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) is a specific, small group, supportive crisis intervention process. It is voluntary and highly confidential. It aims at reduction of distress and a restoration of group cohesion and unit performance. CISD can best be described as a psycho-educational process that combines story-telling, practical information and member reaction to a critical incident.

The goals are simple and straightforward; to facilitate recovery, to maintain fitness, and to assess for the emergence of post-traumatic stress.

During the CISD, participants learn about their response to the incident, how others in the group are responding, and how reactions to stress are a normal part of the reactive process following a traumatic response. It is not therapy or a substitute for therapy. It is a peer led restoration process that aims to help individuals involved in extraordinary circumstances better understand the emotional, physical, and psychological

“Numerous studies have identified the emotional, physiological, and financial impact that untreated stressors can have on employees, the department, and members of the employee’s immediate family.”

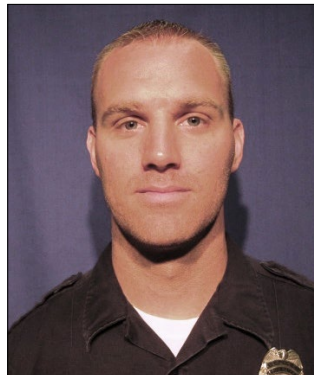
**Dr. Russell Williams
Kentucky State Reformatory**

reactions they might be experiencing. It is a tool of compassion and understanding, in the midst of chaos and uncertainty, with the goal being assessment, normalization, and education following an overwhelming circumstance. Creation of the CISD Team is one more resource available to the women and men within the DOC who face adversity, encounter crisis, and experience trauma, but continue to serve those in society others care to forget.

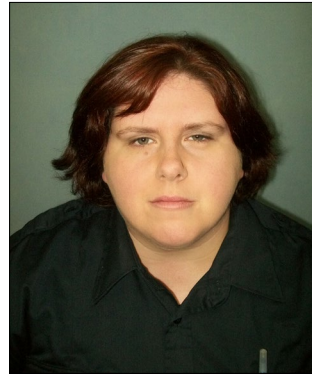
Team members



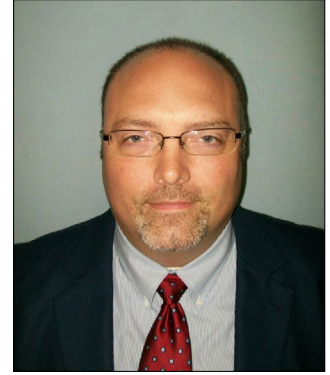
Timothy Dibble



Nathan Aseltine



Kristi Wellsman



Aaron Mobley



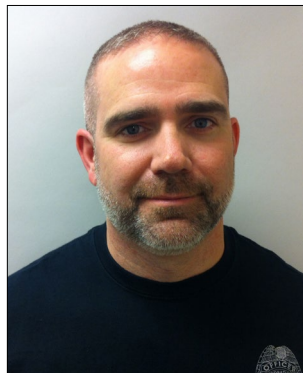
Michael Smith



Eric Barker



Olivia Newsome



Chip Hundley



Dan Hittepole

Four Education Programs Receive ‘Banner of Excellence’

For 2nd Straight Year

Four DOC Adult Institution’s Academic Programs were honored by KY Adult Education (KYAE) with a 2014 Banner of Excellence.

EKCC, GRCC LSCC and NTC were recognized for achieving academic excellence and for exceeding their 2014 enrollment goals according to KYAE’s performance standards.

DOC’s Academic Programs are held to the same standards that Community Adult Education Centers throughout the Commonwealth strive to attain.

Terry Tackett, KYAE Senior Associate for Administrative Leadership noted, “This is a very high honor” to achieve.

These four Adult Institutions will display their 2014 Banner of Excellence prominently alongside their 2013 Banners as this is the second consecutive year that KYAE has recognized their Academic Programs with this distinguished honor.



Top left: LSCC Academic Instructors Shirley Carroll, Jim Elam, Christy Smith and Taunya Carpenter; **Bottom left:** EKCC Academic Instructors: Holli Litteral, Katlin Haney, Carla Cole and Amanda Hope Phipps (not pictured); **Top right:** GRCC Academic Instructors Cathy Edelen, Robert Bennett, Karen Lovell, and Marlena Anderson; **Bottom right:** NTC Academic Instructor Brittany Burton.

Education Branch Facilitates Training for Administrative Specialists



Pictured above: (back row L-R) Earleen Hayes (BCC), Rae Smith (KY HSE Admin., GED® Services), Sally King (KSP, WKCC) and Michelle Heightchew (KSR); (front row L-R): Martha Slep (DOC Education Branch Manager), Karen Million (NTC), Patricia Horton (LSCC), Julie King (Central Office, RCC), Melanie Dragoo (KCIW), Marty Clute (LLCC), Pam Campbell (EKU, BCFC) and Daphne Atkinson (GED Testing Services).

DOC’s Education Branch facilitated a customized training event in Louisville on September 12th for our Administrative Specialists who, in addition to their day-to-day duties, also provide proctoring expertise and other specialized administrative functions during GED test preparation and exams.

Daphne Atkinson, Senior Director for State Relationships GED Testing Services, was the primary guest speaker. Atkinson provided professional insight and procedural guidance for registering and proctoring students for GED exams.

In addition, Kevin Robertson, Director of Operations GED Testing Services, facilitated a Webinar depicting the detailed process for providing student information necessary to register for computer-based GED exams. The webinar was broadcast to Pearson VUE certified testing centers located in Kentucky county jails.

Rae Smith, Senior Associate for Strategic Initiatives, GED Services with KY Adult Education, contributed additional training materials and information targeted toward unique KY DOC challenges.

DOC Employees ‘Rock’ Rugged Maniac Course

How rugged are you? Several employees from the Department of Corrections recently found an exciting team building activity located at Paoli Peaks in southern Indiana ... and it wasn't skiing.

On September 13th the team participated in the “Rugged Maniac” obstacle course race which combines the most rugged terrain and burly obstacles to challenge those with a sense of adventure.

The team faced an obstacle course where they climbed towers of shipping containers, slid down a 50-foot water slide, crawled through underground tunnels, leaped over fire and experienced mud baths.

“Imagine climbing walls and running through a combination of forests, fields, motocross tracks and ski slopes all while having pounds of mud stuck to your body,” said DOC participant Mike Caudill. “Well that’s what our team did and we rocked it out.”

After the race, the team listened to live music and watched other “maniacs” while they rode mechanical bulls, played muddy tug-o-war and pretended to be kids in the adult bounce house.

A percentage of the proceeds went to the “Fisher House” which provides housing to the families of wounded military personnel so that they can stay close to their loved ones while they receive treatment. For more information on this worthwhile organization, please visit their website at <https://www.fisherhouse.org>.



Above: DOC employees found out just how tough they were by competing in the “Rugged Maniac” 5K and Obstacle Course. The team included (L-R) Mike Caudill (Victim Services Branch), Pamela Clayton, Deanna Monroe, Jessica Johnson, Mary Hargis, Randy Hargis, and Shannon Butrum (all from KCIW), and Johnathan Hall (Offender Information Services/Information Technology). Middle right: KCIW’s Mary Hargis and Deanna Monroe found something to smile about while climbing through the mud. Bottom right: Mike Caudill and Johnathan Hall leapt over the fire. Below: The KCIW team members (L-R) posed before the race: Randy Hargis, Pamela Clayton, Shannon Butrum, Deanna Monroe, Mary Hargis and Jessica Johnson.



Chili Cook-Off At Central Office Raises Money For KCCD



Chili Extraordinaire!

On Thursday, October 30, DOC central office hosted a Chili / Soup Cook-off contest as part of their Halloween festivities. All the entries were made available for lunch purchase with the money raised going to benefit KCCD. There were 13 entries that raised a total of \$311. Pictured above are the winners of the Cook-off. First place went to Rachel McCall (above left) with her entry of Terrifying Tomato Soup; second place went to Stephanie Hockensmith (above center) and third place went to Amanda Sayle (above right).

Halloween Fun!



Getting in the Spirit!

District 4 showed their creativity by dressing up as the files they use every day! Pictured (L-R): Officer Belinda Tooley (Pre-Trial Diversion PSI), Assistant Supervisor Erica Hargis (Probated Without PSI), Supervisor Bill Herald (Felony PSI), Officer Debbie Dawson (Sex Offender PSI) and Officer Mike Dillard (ICOTS).



Who Says Corrections Can't Be Fun?

This group of DOC employees certainly got into the Halloween spirit of fun & games. They participated in the Central Office Costume Contest, a fundraiser for KCCD. There were 19 entries that raised a total of \$403. Below left: The 1st Place award went to 'Snap, Crackle & Pop' aka Jennifer Tracy, Amanda Scott and Annyette Fleming. Below center: 2nd Place honors went to Forrest Gump and Lt Dan, aka Todd Henson and Mike Caudill. Below right: 3rd Place went to Ronald McDonald, aka Myles Young.



Division of Substance Abuse Conducts Statewide Training



The Division of Substance Abuse conducted its third annual statewide training conference in Carrollton, Kentucky on August 26th and 27th.

The training was provided for individuals involved with providing substance abuse treatment in prisons, jails, halfway houses and Recovery Kentucky Centers as well as community social service clinicians who provide services in the Probation and Parole district offices.

Nearly 150 treatment providers representing 48 locations across the state met at General Butler State Park for the two-day training event designed to provide evidence-based information and education. Some of the training topics included PTSD, ‘The Anatomy of Addiction’ and ‘How the Pieces Fit in DOC and Substance Abuse.’

‘Family Day’ Celebrated at Northpoint Training Center



Northpoint Training Center hosted its 3rd annual Family Day for staff and their families in October. The fall-themed event was filled with great food and activities like games, balloon animals, door prizes, a hay maze, a bouncy house and bungee run. The Boyle County Fire Department offered tours of their “fire house” and the National Guard brought a Humvee and a jousting ring. Above right: Live music was provided by Second Sight, a band comprised of NTC staff members. Above left: (L to R) Officer Johnny Holbert, Sergeant John Rector, Officer Cory Thurman, Officer Ryan Gregor and Officer Janie Hines enjoyed Family Day. Left: Unit Administrator II Mendalyn Cochran (left) and Administrative Specialist III Ashley Kirk take part in the Bungee Run.

Education Branch Holds Academic Diversity/Curriculum Training

Academic Diversity/Curriculum Training was the title of an extensive training event required for all Academic Instructors in DOC Corrections Education, September 9-12, 2014 in Louisville.

Daphne Atkinson, Senior Director for State Relationships GED Testing Services from Washington, D.C., shared recommended teaching strategies for the classroom, and also provided an analysis of the type of questions most often missed on the new GED Exam.

The 2014 GED Exam is a measure of High School Equivalency and College/Career Readiness. Test-takers must be “computer literate” as the entire exam is computer-based.

Due to lower than anticipated test scores nationwide, GED Testing Service has made several concessions recently, i.e. the time limit for the Mathematics section was increased by 40 minutes and test-takers are now permitted the use of hand-held calculators as opposed to the “virtual” calculator mandated when the test was implemented earlier in the year.

Atkinson’s insight was extremely valuable and she was impressed with the interest and participation level of the Kentucky Corrections Educators — so much so that she volunteered to return in order to conduct a follow up seminar that would build upon the foundational “brick and mortar” session she had just facilitated.

Atkinson’s presentation was further enhanced by the additional information provided by Rae Smith, Senior Associate and GED Administrator with Kentucky Adult Education. Smith shared insight from a Kentucky perspective and explained how Kentucky’s GED testing process and requirements differ from other state.

For example, Kentucky requires that all students must first pass the GED Ready Test prior to taking the GED Examination. The scores earned on the GED Ready Test serve as an excellent indication of a student’s potential for passing the GED Exam, which is what we are witnessing in Corrections as well. In the past, when administering the 2002 Edition of the GED, all students were required to pass the Official Practice Test (OPT) in the state of Kentucky prior to taking the GED Exam. Kentucky has traditionally set a very high standard for students.

While the make-up of the GED Exam has changed, the desire for all students to be adequately prepared and to perform at their personal best level is the goal of Corrections Education.

Agency presentations included in the Training Event were provided by Terry Tackett, Senior Associate for Program Administration and Gayle Box, Senior Associate for Strategic Initiatives, both with Kentucky Adult Education. Tackett presented on KAERS (KY Adult Education Reporting System),



The following attending the training: Charles Brian Bowling, Sean Mestan, Craig Hicks, Carla Cole, Mike Massey, Holli Litteral, Jack Barton, Russell Grainger, Katlin Haney, Linda Beam, Bob Renn, Marlena Anderson, Harold Blandford, Cody Dean, Brittney Burton, Jim Elam, Christy Smith, Taunya Carpenter, Kathy Ginn, Paul McDonald, Robert Bennett, Karen Lovell, Cathy Edelen, Valetta Bledsoe, Jayne Walker, Gatha Phelps, and Shirley Carroll. In attendance, not pictured: Amanda Hope Phipps and Melissa Thompson.

which all Adult Corrections Educators must utilize, and Box presented on incorporating Common Core Standards into the Adult Education curriculum. In addition, Amanda Waldroup, Differentiated Learning Consultant with Kentucky’s Department of Education Office of Next Generation Learners presented a workshop session on Culturally Responsive Instruction and Methods for Closing the Achievement Gap.

Corrections Education professionals also presented during the training session: Jamie Patrick presented on the GED Administrator Process; Christina Smith and Taunya Carpenter presented on TABE (Test for Adult Basic Education) Instruction; Carla Cole, Holli Litteral, and Katlin Haney presented on Aided Video Instruction GED Review; Craig Hicks assisted with a presentation by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; and Jim Elam assisted with a presentation by Aztec Software.

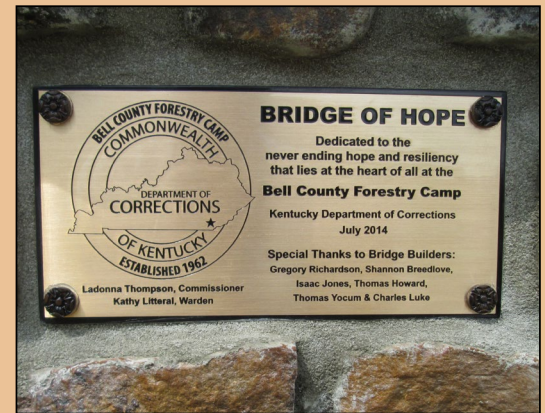
Numerous educational vendors were invited to provide first hand illustrations and explanations of stand-alone products. Identifying quality stand-alone educational products that enhance the 2014 GED curriculum are becoming easier to locate and others are on the horizon; however, the majority of the newer products are accessible via online technology.

Academic training event committee members included the following: Steve Ratliff, Chair; Linda Bean, KSR; Robert Bennett, GRCC; Bryan Bowling, BCFC; Brittney Burton, NTC; Carla Cole, EKCC; Jim Elam, LSCC; Craig Hicks, BCC; Willis Little, LLCC; Gaytha Phelps, KCIW; Bob Renn, KSP; and Jayne Walker, WKCC.



A dedication ceremony was held at Bell County Forestry Camp to unveil the stone bridge crafted by inmates at the minimum-security prison. Warden Kathy Litteral allowed the inmate builders to invite family members to the unveiling and they were very impressed with the work. The 'Bridge of Hope' plaque reads: "Dedicated to the never ending resiliency that lies at the heart of all at the Bell County Forestry Camp."

Bridge of Hope Dedicated



NTC Honors Staff Vets

On Thursday, November 6, Northpoint Training Center staff members who are Veterans were honored with a banner in the Staff Canteen. The banner featured their names and recognized the branches of military service.

Staff Veterans were also served a pancake breakfast for the 7-3 and 11-7 shift and a hotdog meal for the 3-11 shift.

Veterans honored at Northpoint Training Center included: Douglas Hooks, Martin Brogli, David Tyler, Rick Rowlette, Donald McCusker, Chris Satterly, James Arnett, Kenny Burkhead, Clyde Hammons, David Mudd, Lynn Crain, Travis Carroll, Austin Odomparamy, Kevin Bugg, Ricky Martin, Richanne Cole, Richard Walls, John Mattingly, Larry Lyons, Ralph Maness, Billy Lucas, Steven Dean, Michael Murphy, James Mason, Earl Westerfield, Joseph Thomas, Ronald Brand, Marcus Faulkner, Harold Guminski, Richard Gallant, Merle Back, Dorman Hendry, Jonathon Carnes, Pete Kendrick, Richard Vanhoose, Dr. Richard Jeter, James Carraway, Steven Wood, Ricardo Aranda, Steve Taylor, Gary Howard, Lauren Short, Paul Burkhardt, Bridget Gilliland, Dustin Gonyer, William Wall, Marvin Smith, Zach Dixon, David Hacker, Christina Beauregard, Clinton Carter, Andrew Obrien, Michael Christian, Davis Brown, John Raney, Brett Streutker and Frankie Smith.

Executive Leadership Class Participates in Team Building



Tour of Bell County Forestry Camp was Part of the Event

The 2014 Commissioner's Executive Leadership Program had a day of team building activities at Pine Mountain State Park recently. The class was also given a tour of Bell County Forestry Camp and provided lunch by the prison. The event included several outside team-oriented competitions designed to help the members work together and a day of classroom activities with the same theme. The 45-member class is divided into nine teams. Each team selected a separate project and are tasked with working on that project throughout the nine-month long program. The teams present their projects to Commissioner LaDonna Thompson and the department's deputy commissioners in May when they graduate. Below left: The 'energetic' class members - well over half the class - were led on a guided tour to Chain Rock. Bottom right: Commissioner LaDonna Thompson and all three of the department's deputy commissioners attended. (L-R) Deputy Commissioner Kim Potter-Blair, Deputy Commissioner Paula Holden, Commissioner Thompson and Deputy Commissioner Jim Erwin.





C E R T

Joint and Basic Training Held

Joint CERT annual training was recently held. The joint training allows all current CERT team members from across the state to complete a two-day training course. Above: Nearly 100 DOC staff participated in the training.



The week of October 13th – October 17th CERT Basic Training Academy was held at Central Region Training Center and the Roy Tomlinson Firing Range. The CERT Cadets completed a packed 40-hour basic academy that included OC Spray, Chemical Agents and Taser, just to name a few. Graduation was held on the final day. Above: Statewide CERT Commander Greg Howard, sprayed Luther Luckett Correctional Officer Lovell Lewis with OC spray. Left: Classroom instruction is also part of the basic academy.