PBS Filming “Breaking the Cycle”

Documentary to be filmed in Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and Maryland

By Lisa Lamb
Director of Communications

The Kentucky Department of Corrections is participating in a documentary film project scheduled to air on “PBS: Frontline” in late 2013.

The documentary, “Breaking the Cycle,” will tell the stories of a few urban communities across America with very high rates of incarceration.

In Kentucky, they are focusing on West Louisville.

The PBS crew has begun collecting information and filming and plans to follow the life stories of several West Louisville inhabitants.

They are interviewing some of the offenders from that neighborhood who are currently serving prison or jail sentences.

During the filming, they focus on the offenders’ daily routine while incarcerated: this includes any programs or classes they are involved in that focus on re-entry, education or rehabilitation.

Supreme Court Justices visit EKCC, tour prison

Supreme Court Justices Bill Cunningham and Will T. Scott visited Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex in November. The Justices toured the prison along with Justice and Public Safety Cabinet Secretary J. Michael Brown and Commissioner LaDonna Thompson.

For the second consecutive time, the Kentucky Department of Corrections (DOC) Division of Probation and Parole has received a near perfect score in its re-accreditation audit.

The division received an overall score of 99 percent during its audit in October. Auditors scored the agency 100 percent on the mandatory standard requirements and 99 percent on the non-mandatory requirements of the American Correctional Association (ACA).

Auditors Jo Glazier, correctional consultant, retired New York State Division of Parole, and Linda Hadel, Johnson County, Kansas Community Corrections, conducted the audit.

Probation and parole offices across the Commonwealth were toured by the audit team. The team spoke with probation and parole officers regarding supervision procedures and operational practices, as well as offenders under probation and parole supervision. The auditors applauded the division’s re-entry efforts and work with community partnerships. Additionally, auditors commented on the professionalism of Probation and Parole staff, and acknowledged staff’s dedication, communication skills and teamwork.
The Department of Corrections was well represented in this year’s Governor’s Ambassador Awards.

Jessica Durrett, unit administrator at Roederer Correctional Complex, was honored for her work with a weekend backpack food program for children in Henry County.

Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex staff were honored for their efforts following the devastating tornado that struck West Liberty and Morgan County in March.

Durrett’s award, the “Community Service & Volunteerism Award” was presented in recognition of her efforts to launch the “Hands that Serve Hearts that Care” program.

Living in a community where more than 60% of the elementary school children participate in the free and reduced lunch program, Jessica succeeded in bringing seven local churches together to create a weekend backpack food program.

The program currently serves 95 students and is expanding to new schools within the district. The goal of the program is to insure that children in Henry County do not go hungry.

EKCC received the “Teamwork Award” as they went above and beyond to maintain 24-hour operations during the aftermath of the March tornadoes that struck Morgan County.

Most all staff suffered some level of damage to their personal property, yet they reported to work as normal, and volunteered

Please See AWARDS, Page 30
APEX Training Comes to Department of Corrections

Business model provides systems approach to change specifically for Corrections

By Ruth Edwards
Research & Planning

The Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Salato Education Center provided a serene location for intensive two-day work sessions attended by 58 staff from Central Office, Probation & Parole and institutions the week of December 10-13.

Commissioner Thompson and Deputy Commissioners Jim Erwin and Paula Holden warmly welcomed NIC-sponsored trainers Nancy Cebula and Theresa Lantz to guide two teams as they practiced the principals of the Achieving Performance Excellence (APEX) initiative.

APEX is a business model that offers a systems approach to change specifically for correctional organizations. It provides multiple tools and strategies to build sustainable capacity toward higher performance, evidence-based practices, and data-driven decision making. Safety and security is one of the foundational principles of APEX.

In addition, this model provides a pathway for agencies to create an organizational culture and a management environment that encourages innovative ideas to improve services, processes, and results.

One of the major APEX efforts is to incorporate culture, leadership, performance measurement, results, and a change management strategy to help corrections agencies use their resources wisely to improve their organizational performance.

Two real-life issues facing the Department of Corrections were chosen as topics for each APEX team. The first team tackled the newly adopted PREA standards. With help from PREA Coordinator, Bryan Henson, this team explored the mandate and developed recommendations that will become the foundation of DOC’s compliance effort.

Deputy Commissioner Paula Holden asked the second team to look at DOC’s current process for releasing inmates from institutions and jails - developing recommendations to eliminate any lag time so offenders are released as soon as they are eligible.

Above: APEX trainers and DOC facilitators: (L to R) Ruth Edwards, Cyndi Hedleston, Nancy Cebula, Tiffany Ratliff, Theresa Lantz and Danny Norris. Below: Those attending the APEX training were divided into break-out groups to work on projects. Projects included: Newly-adopted PREA standards - looking at the mandate and developing recommendations that will form the foundation of DOC’s compliance effort; and the current process for releasing inmates from institutions and jails - developing recommendations to eliminate any lag time so offenders are released as soon as they are eligible.

Please See APEX, Page 6
Bell County Forestry Camp Celebrates 50 years

On October 24, Bell County Forestry Camp (BCFC) celebrated the prison’s 50th anniversary. Among the attendees were current and former BCFC staff, Division of Forestry officials, local and state government representatives and several DOC Central Office staff.

The event was a huge success and began with a program during which guest speakers talked about the importance of BCFC to the community and included a tribute to deceased BCFC employees. Speakers included BCFC Warden Kathy Litteral, Deputy Commissioner Jim Erwin, Division of Forestry Director Leah MacSwords, Bell County Judge-Executive Alby Brock and Kentucky State Representative Rick Nelson.

The event also included tours of the prison and various exhibits featuring old photographs and newspaper clippings and a display of the tools used over the years by the inmate crews to combat forest fires. A commemorative coin was also designed and presented to attendees.

Established in 1962 as a satellite of the Kentucky State Reformatory, the minimum-security prison is situated approximately 14 miles southwest of Pineville. The facility began with only a handful of inmates. BCFC works in partnership with the Division of Forestry to provide inmate work crews to assist in the maintenance of Kentucky’s forests and to fight forest fires. The Division of Forestry provides training in forest fire suppression techniques for the inmates as well as the BCFC staff.

During the peak fire seasons of fall and spring, BCFC provides fire crews for a 10-county area in southeastern Kentucky. Each fire crew consists of one officer and eight inmates.

The current population of the prison is 288.
This issue of “Spotlight on a Vet” focuses on Brian Evans. Brian started his career with the Department of Corrections as a correctional officer at Luther Luckett Correctional Complex in January 1999 and is currently a classification and treatment officer at Blackburn Correctional Complex.

Brian Evans, who is currently deployed to Afghanistan, had a lot to leave behind this past April when he set out on his second deployment to the Middle East.

Besides his wife, Missy, he also had to say goodbye to a total of eight children and step-children: one-year old Mason, 10-year old Wyatt, 15-year old Travis, 15-year old Emily, 16-year old Brittany, 17-year old Tanner and 24-year old twins, Mathew and Beth.

Incidentally, Mathew is also serving with the Armed Forces as a specialist in the Army. He is currently stationed in Hawaii.

“Doesn’t that stink,” Evans said with a chuckle. “I’m old…I get Afghanistan; He’s young…he gets Hawaii.”

Evans’ first deployment was to Kuwait in 2005. At the time he had four children, but was no longer married. The two older twins had already moved out and the two younger children, Brittany and Emily, were only in the second and third grades.

“My mother watched the two kids while I was away in Kuwait. When I finally returned home, she took the kids to the airport under the ruse that she was buying a plane ticket,” Evans said. “Then I came down the escalator and gave them a big surprise.”

Evans’ second deployment sent him to Afghanistan. He said the military looks at your civilian occupation and your military experience to put you where you are best suited.

Due to his DOC background, Evans was sent to Bagram Air Base and assigned to work at the Detention Facility in Parwan, Afghanistan.

He works in the legal office as a personal representative in the Detainee Assistance Center.

Evans was able to return home on a two-week leave this past October. While here, he stopped by the DOC central office to present a U.S. flag to Commissioner LaDonna Thompson.

The flag was flown over the detention facility where Evans works in Parwan, Afghanistan. It was dedicated to “the
sacrifice and courage of those men and women fighting terrorist forces threatening the freedom of the United States of America and the world.”

As Evans was nearing the end of his two-week leave and preparing to return to Afghanistan, he said the most difficult part was being away from his wife and children.

“Especially the littlest one,” he said. “It is harder on him, which makes it harder on me. The other kids have somewhat of their own lives, with school, sports and friends, but with him I am the center of his world. His world consists of mom, dad and his brothers and sisters.”

Having said goodbye to his family once again in October to return to Afghanistan, Evans will complete his deployment and return home for good this coming February.

APEX

Inmates from institutions and jails. At this time there is an average delay of 27 days from the time an offender is eligible for release and actual release.

Team recommendations were geared toward ultimately eliminating any lag time so that all offenders are released as soon as they become eligible.

Key Points of APEX initiative:

• Leadership sets the agency agenda for achievable results through APEX
• APEX is an ongoing opportunity for the agency to assess and address its performance gaps
• The APEX Model offers strategies, pathways, resources, tools, and case studies to enhance competency in the general areas of higher performing correctional organizations
  • The APEX Change Agent Training offers corrections practitioners the opportunity to become agents for change and performance enhancement
  • APEX encourages workforce and stakeholder engagement
  • APEX promotes open and multi-directional channels of communication
  • APEX is a process of commitment, support, and change
  • APEX is a journey - not a destination
LLCC’s American Flag Retired in Scout Ceremony

By Nick Daily
Luther Luckett
Correctional Complex

Recently, my son and I participated in the 2012 Boy Scouts Patriot Games in Fort Knox. My son Gavin is a first year Tiger Cub.

On October 13th, the Luther Luckett Correctional Complex’s American Flag was taken to the Patriot Games and my son had the honor to assist in the retirement ceremony for the LLCC American flag.

The retirement of any American Flag is a bitter sweet event. It is hard to take a powerful icon and a symbol of freedom like the American Flag down for the last time.

Sometimes it has weathered over the years, or perhaps been damaged from hanging in proud display outdoors. In any case, when the day comes that you must lower it for the last time, there is always a bit of sorrow.

When it has been lowered, it should be folded in the traditional triangle and prepared for retirement. You can seek someone to assist in its retirement ceremony, including members of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, or the Boy Scouts of America.

The ceremony was conducted in the most professional and respectful manner I have ever witnessed - due to the diligent attention to details performed by the Scouts Honor Guard.

The flag was delivered to the Scoutmaster overseeing the ceremony by a first year Cub Scout (Gavin). Upon approaching the Scoutmaster, the Cub looked up while holding the folded flag with one hand under and one over and said without hesitation “Sir, I would like to present this flag from the Luther Luckett Correctional Complex for retirement.”

What happens next was more than an honor. He was asked if he would like to assist the Honor Guard with the service. It was amazing to watch a six-year-old Tiger Cub participate, and take it seriously. Everything from the perfect march, the holding and presentation of the flag, to standing at attention during the final long salute to the flag.

As I said the retirement of an American Flag is a bitter sweet event, but seeing a young child participate in this symbolic act was amazing.

Happy New Year!
Here's wishing you all the best in 2013!
Commissioners’ Roundtable Focuses on DOC History

Commissioner LaDonna Thompson invited previous commissioners of the Kentucky Department of Corrections to a roundtable discussion on Nov. 2.

Four previous commissioners attended: Doug Sapp, Tom Campbell, Vertner Taylor and John Rees.

Bringing the group together was something Thompson had wanted to do since being appointed in 2008. Her goal was to have the group collectively discuss issues faced during their terms as commissioner and to share their solutions.

The previous commissioners graciously accepted her invitation and the group gathered at Spindletop in Lexington for a very productive and interesting meeting.

“I believe a great deal can be learned from the past,” said Thompson. “So many of the issues we face today are the same or very similar to ones faced by our former commissioners. It was informative for me and I believe the discussion will be valuable to our future leaders as well.”

A presentation based on the Roundtable discussion was presented at the Wardens’ and Supervisors’ meeting on Dec. 14.

Above: The four previous commissioners who attended the Roundtable are pictured (L-R) with Commissioner Thompson: Doug Sapp, John Rees, Commissioner LaDonna Thompson, Vertner Taylor and Tom Campbell. Below left: Commissioner Thompson listens as former Commissioner Rees spoke. Below center: Former Commissioners Campbell, Taylor and Sapp. Below right: A display table held DOC historical items and information.

EKCC

From Page 1

“We almost daily affirm sentences which sentence our fellow citizens to prisons in Kentucky,” said Justice Cunningham. “Justice Scott and I feel that we should periodically tour and learn about these places where they are imprisoned. As always, when we visit prisons in Kentucky, we come away impressed with the warden and staff and the professional manner in which they do their jobs.”

Justice Scott was elected in November 2004 to represent the 7th Supreme Court District, which consists of 22 counties in Eastern Kentucky. Justice Scott served as Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme Court from 2006 to 2010.

Justice Cunningham was elected to the Supreme Court of Kentucky in November 2006 to serve the 1st Supreme Court District in Western Kentucky. Cunningham is a noted Kentucky historian and an accomplished author. Among his works is a book about Kentucky State Penitentiary, “Castle: The Story of a Kentucky Prison.”
The Frankfort Probation & Parole Office and the District 12 Office participated in their annual canned food drive. The drive is done in coordination with the Commonwealth Credit Union, Lawrenceburg Branch. Each of the offices in District 12 collect cans throughout the year in order to have “casual” days in their offices. Each December, the cans collected are then taken to local food pantries in each area. This is the fourth year the P&P officers have participated in the very worthwhile project. Pictured with Supervisor Chris Copenhaver (far right) is Assistant Supervisor Tim Perkinson and OSA II Jason Coulter.

The WKCC Veterans club conducted a pie sale with all proceeds benefiting a designated charity. The Veterans club at WKCC has always donated money to well-deserved charities in the community. It was decided that all proceeds would go to the Lyon County Angel Tree Project to buy toys and clothing for children in the community. A check for $500 was presented to Teresa Young with the Lyon County Family Resource Center (center) by acting Warden Steve Woodward, left, and Correctional Officer Timothy Keel, Veterans Club Advisor.

The Saving Animals From Euthanasia program at Western Kentucky Correctional Complex donated $1,000 to the Lyon County Family Resource Center for its Christmas Angels program. Above: WKCC’s Gene Reaney presented the check to Nancye Daniel of the resource center.

Staff at Little Sandy Correctional Complex collected gifts to be donated to the “Angel Tree” at the Elliott County Youth Services Center. Pictured above (L-R): Kristi Howard, Youth Services Center; Edith Dickerson, LSCC Fiscal Office; Amber Barker, LSCC Fiscal Manager.

Staff from the Estill County Probation and Parole Office, District 8, helped sort and fold clothes for a local clothing bank located in Irvine. Janet Stepp is pictured above assisting a clothing bank employee.

Corrections Cares

Giving back to the community
District 7 Probation & Parole staff got in the holiday spirit of giving when they decided to purchase items for the Brighton Center in Northern Kentucky.

The items they purchased were placed in the center’s “Wish Tree Program.”

The Brighton Center helps over 600 local families during the Holiday Drive every year. Probation and parole officers were overwhelmed as they walked through the facility: there were over seven rooms of toys, clothes and personal care items.

KCCD Assists Families

KCCD’s Louisville Chapter assisted Corrections families that applied for assistance through the Red Cross. Each recipient received two boxes of food, a turkey, a $20 Walmart Gift Card, and a $15 Kroger Card. Institution and P&P staff donated over 1,000 food items along with cash donations. Dismas Charities donated 24 Turkeys and $250, and Community Transition Services donated $440.

Above: Members who worked on the project (L-R) Julie Barnes, Goldie Roller, Joy Kiefer-Waford, Vanessa Kennedy, Rebecca Barker, Sharon Veech, Jamie Strang, and Patti Ray.

Left: Barnes and Ray worked on putting the boxes together.

Hopkinsville P&P Office Sponsors Child; Reminded of Holiday’s True Meaning

The Hopkinsville Probation and Parole office sponsored a two-year-old girl for Christmas. The child was recommended to the officers from the Child Advocacy center because she was sexually abused and required surgery to heal. On December 20, the child was brought to the P&P office to open some of her presents. District Supervisor Kim Henegan said the little girl was “ecstatic” during her visit. “She tore into the wrapping, while smiling the entire time,” said Henegan. “She was especially fond of Randall the Reindeer and Big Bear. She carried Big Bear out of the office embraced in a big hug.” Henegan said the experience was very rewarding. “This little girl showed us that we should not waste our emotions on discontent; but choose to remain joyful. Even though this little girl had experienced all this adversity, she did not stop laughing or smiling. She still loves and is loved. She is truly an inspiration.”
For a good cause...

**EKCC Staff, Inmates Donate to Area ‘Santa Program’**

Staff from Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex participated in a very special program to assist local families this holiday season.

EKCC staff donated 60 gifts to the “Santa Program” (formerly Morgan County Christmas).

The Santa Program is available to families in need in Morgan County. All families that are interested in participating apply and are chosen based on income.

This year, 125 families qualified and 307 children. People in the community can purchase gifts for the children or donate money for the program. All children received two gifts each, stocking stuffers, and the family as a whole received a popcorn tin, a New Testament, and a story book “The Story of Christmas.”

Below is an email received at EKCC from the program’s coordinator at Family Resource Center:

“EKCC staff you all have went above and beyond with the support you have given to this program this year and years past. I would also like to thank the inmates for their large donation this year. Their donation made it possible to buy the story book for each family. We greatly appreciate all you do each year for this program and our county.”

This year, for the first time, EKCC inmates were given the opportunity to donate money from their account to the Santa Program.

A check for $834.08 was presented to the program coordinators from EKCC inmates.

**District 7 Participates in Annual “Cops & Kids” Event**

District 7 Probation & Parole staff participated in the annual “Cops n Kids” event. They assisted children from the Kenton County School district buy presents for themselves and their families. Each child also enjoyed a lunch provided by Snappy Tomato Pizza. District 7 staff pictured at right (L-R): Taliyah Jefferson, Beth Frazier, Susan Stadtlander, Cassandra West, Justin Auton, Matt McClanahan, and Leslie Haun (front row).
**Employee Recognition, News**

**Promotions announced throughout Department**

**Bryan Henson Named PREA Coordinator**

Bryan Henson has been named as the state PREA Coordinator for the Department. The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed in September 2003.

The act also created the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission and charged it with developing draft standards for the elimination of prison rape. Those standards were published in June 2009, and were turned over to the Department of Justice for review and passage as a final rule. That final rule became effective August 20, 2012.

PREA is intended to address the detection, prevention, reduction and prosecution of sexual harassment and abuse in all correctional facilities in the country.

Henson assumed his new duties on Nov. 1.

Henson began his corrections career as a correctional officer at Western Kentucky Correctional Complex (WKCC) in July 1989. He was promoted to classification and treatment officer in 1990 and classification and treatment officer II in 1999.

In Oct. 2000 Henson assumed the duties of correctional unit administrator II. He was promoted to deputy warden at WKCC in November 2005 and was again promoted to warden in Sept. 2009. Henson was serving as warden at WKCC during that facility’s conversion to an all-female population in April 2010.

Henson is a 1989 graduate of Murray State University where he received a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice.

**Woodward Promoted to Warden at WKCC**

Steve Woodward has been promoted to warden at the Western Kentucky Correctional Complex (WKCC) in Fredonia. Woodward assumed his new duties Jan. 1.

Woodward began his career with the Department of Corrections in September 1990 as a correctional officer at WKCC.

In December 1997 he was promoted to sergeant and again promoted to lieutenant in May 2001. During this time he also served as the prison’s internal affairs officer. In October 2002 Woodward was promoted to training coordinator. In August 2003 he was promoted to corrections unit administrator II, and opened the first special management unit at WKCC.

From September 2007 through March 2008 Woodward was assigned to a special detail as the acting branch manager.

**Recruiting Veterans**

As an outreach to help unemployed veterans find employment and in observance of Veterans Day, The U.S. Department of Labor’s HireVetsFirst program held a month-long series of job fairs in 31 states. One of those fairs was held at Northeast Christian Church in Lexington and DOC Human Resource Branch Manager Teresa Harris attended. Harris spoke to several veterans about job opportunities within the Department and also explained the application process. Harris said it was not only a great opportunity to promote the jobs within DOC, but a chance to also thank these men and women for their service. Harris is shown at left shaking hands and talking to Navy veteran Justin Locke.
Cheri Kraus, Branch Manager for Kentucky Correctional Industries, is the recipient of the 2013 Southeast Region Staff Award from the National Correctional Industries Association, Inc.

The Staff Award recognizes the “superior performance and supervisory excellence” of a correctional industries staff member who has made “significant and sustained contributions” to a correctional industries program.

Kraus was nominated and ultimately selected for the award for numerous reasons, including: turning the print operation around at Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women, and grossing $1 M in sales in her second year managing the plant.

In addition, she took the KCI embroidery operation from grossing $30,000 per year, to over $800,000. Kraus has also been instrumental in KCI’s partnership with Xerox and the implementation of the Corrections to Career program that is currently being taught by Xerox to inmates at Luther Luckett Correctional Complex.

Kraus is a 22-year veteran of the Kentucky Department of Corrections. She has held numerous positions within KCI, including the first female Operations Manager, a position she was promoted to in 2004. She was promoted to her current position in 2012.

Teresa Harris, Human Resources Branch Manager, received her International Public Management Association – Certified Professional (IPMA-CP) certification October 8th. Harris sent in a detailed application and was approved to begin the testing process. After studying the materials for approximately three weeks, she successfully completed the exam and was awarded the certification. IPMA-HR strives to encourage excellence in public sector human resources, promote continuous learning and develop the next generation of human resources leaders. IPMA-HR offers an internationally recognized certification program.

Roederer Correctional Complex Employees Receive Patriot Awards

Jim Papovich from the National Committee for “Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve” (ESGR) visited Roederer Correctional Complex and presented Patriot Awards to Executive Nurse Brenda Beehler and Nurse Services Administrator Bridgette Banta. Beehler and Banta were recognized as employers who supported and accommodated military employee Beverly Raisor during her military training, military drills and deployment needs. Raisor, a licensed practical nurse at RCC, nominated Beehler and Banta saying: all of her needs for time off relating to military duties were always met and this employer was an outstanding military supporter and a real patriot.” ESGR was established to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve component members and their civilian employers.
The PBS crew will then track these prisoners as they re-enter their communities on parole after their sentences. They also plan on following the children of the offenders and will also speak to victims of crime living in the neighborhood.

The PBS crew has already filmed at several of our institutions and also two Kentucky jails.

Kentucky was recommended to PBS based on the efforts underway to curb recidivism and focus on the re-entry of offenders.

The show’s producer, Dan Edge, has been extremely complimentary of the cooperation he has received at all locations.

In a note sent after the first round of filming Edge wrote: “... we’re investigating why certain neighborhoods across the United States have extremely high rates of incarceration; and looking at efforts to tackle that cycle both within corrections facilities and also out in the community,” he said. “Our approach has been very data-driven, and KDOC has assisted our efforts to identify which neighborhoods have the highest rates of imprisonment; in addition, we’ve been warmly welcomed and assisted by corrections staff at the institutions we’ve visited so far. Our aim is to revisit these institutions over the coming year in order to track the progress of individual inmates as they continue to serve their sentences or transition back into the community. Corrections officers we’ve met at the facilities we’ve already worked in have all been extremely interested and engaged with what we are doing - and have had plenty to say about the issues our project is aiming to tackle.”

Thank you to all our staff involved so far in this project!

You have demonstrated the professionalism we knew you would, and we appreciate your efforts in working with the PBS crew.

We know that cooperation will continue as the film crews continue their work and we appreciate the extra effort in making the project successful.

The Division of Probation and Parole launched an initiative on December 7th in the Fayette County area to apprehend probation and parole absconders, and escapees.

The Capturing Absconders Proactively (CAP) program was a collaborative effort within the department.

Four teams from the Division of Probation and Parole participated in this operation.

As a result of their efforts, there were a total of 10 apprehensions. Seven parole absconders and two escapees from the Home Incarceration Program (HIP) were apprehended and one parole violator was arrested for failing to report to his parole officer.

Although this phase of the CAP program is complete, team members will continue to follow up on leads as to the whereabouts of the absconders and escapees that were not apprehended in the operation.
The Corrections Education Branch motto emphasizes that “education is the entry to re-entry.”

Learning how to read, earning a General Education Development (GED) diploma, achieving a vocational/technical skill, and/or expanding one’s mind through post-secondary education all better prepare offenders for reentry into society. The Department of Corrections remains committed to the reentry philosophy and education remains an essential part of the equation.

On July 1, 2010, House Bill 164 transitioned corrections education from the Kentucky Community & Technical College System (KCTCS) to the Department of Corrections. The Bill permitted DOC to emphasize and award “industry-recognized certifications/credentials” throughout the vocational and technical trades.

The Corrections Education Branch complies with state and federal education requirements and partners with several outside agencies to bring offenders diverse programming. There are two divisions of programming that exist within the corrections education branch. The first division, adult education, consists of three levels: literacy, adult basic education and adult secondary education or GED. The second division of programming includes vocational and technical education. Specific programs and trade areas within this division include the following: automotive body/collision repair; automotive technology; cabling (copper-based & fiber optic); carpentry/cabinet-making; core/career readiness; construction management; electrical technology; horticulture; heating & air conditioning (HVAC); masonry; MOS (Microsoft Office Specialist); small engine/ marine repair; and welding.

Since the passage of House Bill 164 the branch has maintained all teaching positions and also added two adult basic education instructors and six learning center aides. In addition, student achievements have soared. Approximately 25% of the offender population is involved in educational programs and 508 offenders have earned their GED certificates.

During the 2012 school year, DOC education centers awarded 370 National Career Readiness Certifications (NCRC). The NCRC is an industry-recognized credential that certifies essential skills needed for workplace success. It is aligned with ACT and is emphasized as a career readiness tool that students participating in corrections education programs are required to pass.

In addition to the above educational opportunities offered
KCIW Named Aramark Elite Facility

KCIW recently received an award for operational excellence from Aramark. The Op-X Elite award is based on three key components; meaningful acknowledgement of success, simple and effective record of continuous improvement and unbroken, constant quality development of food service programs. Aramark conducts quarterly inspections of their operational facilities. In order to qualify for the Op-X Elite award, a facility must achieve a score in excess of 93% for two consecutive quarters. Pictured above, Aramark’s David Lauria presents the award to KCIW’s food services director, Marci Tabor.

KCCD Launches New Website

The Kentucky Council on Crime and Delinquency (KCCD) now has a new website, which can be visited at: www.kccdonline.com. It has been updated with conference and vendor information, event information as well as updated chapter pages. Pictured above is a screenshot of the new webpage.
Above (L-R): Tammy Howard, Amanda Scott, Jennifer Tracy and Kieryn Fannin posed for a great photo. Below: Yummy desserts!

Above: Pat Sudduth took a moment to smile for the camera. Top Center: Kymber Arvin held Carlton Gulledge, the son of Bo Gulledge (KOMS Project Management Team). Center: Deputy Commissioner Jim Erwin (left) and Director James Sweatt enjoyed a light-hearted moment - always welcomed in Corrections! Below: Deputy Commissioner Kim Potter-Blair (right) is pictured with Sonja Cox, Justice Cabinet.

Above: Always making sure we have great photos of our events is our own Commissioner LaDonna Thompson.

Above: Hungry DOC employees filled their plates while the organizers made sure everything was perfect. Below (L-R): Janet Wheatley, Cortney Shewmaker, Leah Beasley and Kelly Woods enjoyed the lunch.

Above: Tanya Raisor and MaryAnn Sullivan worked hard to ensure a great luncheon for everyone! At right: Jeri Hines (left) helped organize this year’s event. She is pictured with Sarah Osborne, Justice Cabinet.
Holiday Celebrations Across the State

At WKCC

H & R Ministries held its annual Christmas party for the staff of Western Kentucky Correctional Complex on December 7th. H & R Ministries provided a delicious dinner with a ministry and the opportunity for holiday fellowship for the staff and families. They also provided family activities and Christmas gifts for the children. This has become an exciting event the staff of WKCC always looks forward to and appreciates. Above: Sgt. Jennifer Matthews enjoyed the party with Kaylean Hughes (granddaughter of Officer Kris Knicklebein). Left: Social Service Clinician Jayme French with her son Tristan.

EKCC’s Christmas Dinner

On December 19th, staff at Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex celebrated the holidays with a delicious dinner. Staff provided the side dishes (photo at right) while Warden Gary Beckstrom provided the ham and turkey. At left (L-R) Daryl Thompson, Jeff Havens, Doug Nickell, Christy Lane and Amelia Conway were all smiles as they prepared to enter the food line.
to the offender population, the Corrections Education Branch also provides offenders with the opportunity to participate in postsecondary education (PSE).

Most DOC correctional facilities provide PSE courses; however, the physical location of a few institutions prohibits face-to-face delivery methods. These facilities support offenders taking correspondence courses, following CPP 20.1, in lieu of the face-to-face PSE courses.

Again, education plays a vital role in success of our re-entry initiatives. The instructors and staff of the Corrections

Please See EDUCATION BRANCH, Page 20


Education Branch

From Page 19

Education Branch are a critical link in this chain. Their hard work and dedication are what make these programs not only possible, but successful.

We thank them for their hard work and commitment to the Department of Corrections!


Leadership Kentucky

Leadership Kentucky, a non-profit educational organization that prepares participants to take an active role in advancing the state for the common good, made their annual stop at Kentucky State Penitentiary on October 11th. Top left: KSP Warden Randy White welcomed the group to the Penitentiary and introduced the staff panel. Top right: Supreme Court Justice Bill Cunningham spoke to the class. Left: Hopkins County Jailer Joe Blue talked to the group about the vital role county jails play in the state corrections system. Below: Parole Board Chair Larry Chandler explained the parole process in Kentucky.
Notes of Thanks, Praise Appreciated

We Never Get Tired of Receiving Them

November 12, 2012

Warden Dino Granada
Roederer Correctional Complex
P.O. Box 69
LaGrange, Ky 40031

Dear Warden Granada:

Thank you for sending Criettia Foree and Tim Moore to conduct our training on November 8th.

Some of my staff are comfortable with horses, but some are new to this work, so it was especially useful to them. And working hands on with a live horse was so beneficial.

Thanks again for being so supportive of our work here at Animal Control. It is definitely a hard job and having community support not only helps us, but the people and animals we serve.

Roederer has helped Animal Control several times with horses and we really appreciate having such a good neighbor in you.

Sincerely,

Barbara Rosenman

Henderson County Detention Center
Ron Harrington, Jailer
500 Borax Drive • Henderson KY 42420
270.827.5586 • 270.827.0890 (fax)

5 Nov 2012

Alan,

I want to thank you and your staff for allowing Officers Duncan and Johnson to tour your facility on 18 October, 2012 and review your Working Dog Program supervised by your staff utilizing inmate labor. It was evident of the commitment, competence, candor and courage of your staff as well as the inmates were second to none.

I want to thank your staff for sharing their knowledge and experience in an excellent program. According to Officer Duncan your staff was mission focused, performance oriented in the accomplishment of an outstanding program. Again many thanks to you and your staff for sharing your knowledge, expertise and professionalism to my staff.

CF:

LaDonna Thompson, Commissioner
Paula Holden, Deputy Commissioner
Hugh McCormick, County Judge/Executive

Dear Warden White

My name is [blank]

I am writing just to say, even though I know I haven’t been one of the more responsible prisoners here with my time—one day spent a good deal of time in step.

I have found with some help from your staff, not too much to life then people. They have certainly educated my attitude and made me never want to come back. Thank you Ron and Warden White. It doesn’t really take much to help a person. I feel God and don’t think a stupid about you.

Sincerely,

[Blank]

Please See NOTES, Page 23
Notes

From Page 22

October 23, 2012
Randy White
Warden
Kentucky State Penitentiary
P.O. Box 6728
Eddyville, KY 42038

Dear Warden White:

It was a pleasure to meet you and have you spend the day with the members of the 2012 Class of Leadership Kentucky! It is always a very emotional day for our participants and the range of emotions continues to surprise me on some level.

We appreciate your willingness to continue having us spend a day at Kentucky’s maximum security prison and to help us understand the challenges that you and your staff face each day. Several of our class members really took to heart your comments about your entry-level personnel needing a higher wage and I am pretty confident that few of them will not try to assist you in letting people be aware of this need. I actually had lunch with one of them today who said he was taking some action.

I am always so impressed with the humane way that the facility is run and I know that the leadership sets the tone. Commissioner Thompson is, too, always so gracious with her time and is so very helpful setting up a great day of speakers, and your staff does an amazing job with the tours and their panel.

I look forward to visiting again next year, and our date will be Thursday, October 17, 2013. Glenn Blind will work with your staff to secure the date.

On behalf of our 2012 class members, our staff and board of directors, thank you so much for the major role you played in providing us with another amazing learning experience! I look forward to seeing you next year.

All my best,

Diana B. Ratliff

Rachel Smith Childress
CEO
(859) 252-2224 ext. 114
rachelle@lexhabitat.org

Randy, Thank you for hosting Leadership Kentucky at Kentucky State Penitentiary. I was quite impressed with the professional and capable demeanor displayed by you and your staff. I wish more Kentuckians had an opportunity to see the reality of our prison system. Thank you for your service. Sincerely, Nick Comey.
Thank You Notes

From Page 23

Division of Probation & Parole
Attn: Evan Roach
Lykes Mall
2600 W. Broadway, Suite #300
Louisville, KY 40211

Dear Mr. Roach and staff,

On behalf of Kentucky Harvest, I'd like to offer thanks to you, for the generous monetary donation of $155.00 collected from Wear Your Jeans to Work Day. Our motto is “People Helping People,” and with your aid, we can certainly live that statement. Thank you for your continued support. Best wishes, and thanks once again for your kindness.

Sincere Regards,

Marc F. Curtis
Director of Operations

Dear Wardene Meko,

Thank you very much for your continued support. The food donations you and your staff have given to our food pantry have been life changers to many within our community.
Thank you for your sacrifice, your faithfulness to the Lord.

Thank you & God Bless,

Note at left is from an inmate at Little Sandy Correctional Complex

We would like to thank everyone that responded to the emergency in the gym when one of our own was suffering a major Heart Attack. Principle Jon, Lt. Finch, Sgt. Mahry, C/O Boggs, C/O Mayse and Rec. Aide M. Spencer. These men were at the emergency fast, it was evident they all had only one concern, that was to save his life.

A heart attack as we all know is life threatening, and time is of the essence! The brain will stop functioning in minutes without oxygen, and that is all it took these concerned people to get there so they could give this man a chance at something that is precious to every human being, life.

All I can say to is every man and women that helped is, your actions spoke louder than any words ever could.

As you know it is hard for us to show these officers the debt of gratitude we owe them. We would appreciate if you would extend this thanks to each of these men individually for us. This action is not to be handled lightly, this was an awesome thing these men did for one of our own.

I personally talked to all of the men and that I know that were evolved in helping. Everyone of them all told me the same thing “that is my job”. I agree, it maybe their job, but the way they treated this situation was beyond just doing their job, this was the very definition of humanity.
Events Held Across State to Raise Money for KECC

**District 19 Holds Multiple Fundraisers**

Probation and Parole District 19 staff held a chili cookoff, a yard sale, ‘casual days’ and a “Pie Your Boss” event to raise money for KECC. The events netted nearly $600 for the campaign. Above left: Chili cookoff winners posed with their ribbons. (L-R) 3rd Place – Christopher Flaherty; 1st Place – Brooke Ferguson; and 2nd Place - Robert Taylor. Above right: Allison Robinson and Tara Lehr enjoyed making the pies. Right: How did this happen? Assistant Supervisor Lise VanNostrand ‘escaped’ the pie when the pie meant for her was thrown on the ground!

**Central Office Fundraisers**

DOC central office staff participated in a Halloween costume contest in conjunction with a chili cook-off, all sponsored by KCCD to raise money for KECC. Amanda Sayle won the chili cook-off with her “White Lightening” chili and Jeff Smith (above right) dressed as the wolfman, won the costume contest. Above left: All the costume participants posed for a photo. Front row (L-R): Tim Carman, Mary White, Melissa Clark, Amanda Sayle, Beth Moore, Kristin Smith, Ashley Short, Julie Bowles and Amanda Scott. Back row (L-R): Mary Ann Sullivan, Pat Sudduth, Miles Young, Zach Schadler, Judy Hall, Jeff Smith and Jeri Hines.
A chili cookoff raised almost $400 for the Kentucky State Reformatory staff canteen. The winners were (L-R): First Place - CPT Jamie Wooldridge; Second Place - Deputy Warden Paige McGuire; and Third Place - CUA1 John Hall. Special thanks to the following staff for entering their chili and letting everyone enjoy their culinary skills: Lynn Hillebrandt, Nicole Lowry, Erin Hibbard, Victoria Ligon, Melissa Perkinson, Lesa Robinson, Amy Ganschow, Cornell Woosley, Alicia Bloyd, Jodi Johnson, David Hutchinson, Scott Jordan, Josh Smith, Steve Tonnemacher and Steve Schulte.

Former DOC Employee Works to Replenish Libraries

Former DOC employee Susie Hammond and her husband, Arnold, have long been supporters of the DOC institutional libraries.

Hammond is a former Information & Technology branch manager who retired Dec. 31, 2008.

For the past seven years they have been able to obtain book donations from Connie Crowe who is the manager of the Kentucky Book Fair. Following the book fair, which takes place in November, the leftover books called “remainders” are donated to DOC.

The Hammonds volunteer their time to coordinate, box up and transport these donated books.

In an effort to “ramp up” book donations, Crowe introduced the Hammonds to Barbara Penegor, the branch manager of Kentucky Talking Books. This organization uses volunteers to record audio versions of selected books.

After the books are recorded to audio, Penegor agreed to donate their books to the DOC institutional libraries.

This past August, Crowe spoke with Jane Minder of the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives. She learned they were going through a process where they go through and eliminate books that are no longer needed or wanted.

These books would ordinarily be shredded; however Crowe and Minder asked if the DOC would be interested in receiving these books. Commissioner LaDonna Thompson graciously accepted their offer.

The process at Libraries and Archives started in October and should take several months to complete.

Minder estimates that there should be around 5,000 books donated to the DOC by the time they complete this process.

The books will include reference books such as dictionaries and encyclopedias, as well as a general collection containing literature, music, history, sports and biographies.
2012 Marks Year of Change for Adult Institutions

By Aaron Smith
Branch Manager
Adult Institutions

2012 was most certainly a year of change for the Department of Corrections as well as Adult Institutions in particular.

Many new and exciting things have taken place in our institutions over the past year with more changes on the horizon for 2013.

Ten of the 12 state institutions have seen the appointment of a new Warden.

Bryan Henson, who previously served as Warden at WKCC, was recently named as the Statewide PREA Coordinator, a position created to address the many changes affecting the Department related to the Prison Rape Elimination Act.

Henson will be overseeing efforts to ensure departmental compliance with new standards created under this Act.

Cookie Crews left her post as Warden of the Kentucky State Reformatory to take on the newly created role of Health Services Administrator.

In this position Crews works with the Department’s Clinical Director in overseeing the delivery of the Department’s medical services.

Construction on the rebuilding of the Northpoint Training Center was completed during 2012 and the institution was filled to capacity with staff and inmates for the first time since 2009.

A large percentage of the inmates who were transferred to NTC in the repopulation phase came from the Otter Creek Correctional Center.

OCCC was owned and operated by Corrections Corporation of America and was closed during the past year as the Department elected not to renew its contract with CCA.

The Department does, however continue to maintain a contract with the CCA operated Marion Adjustment Center.

2012 saw the continued expansion of the Substance Abuse Program within our adult institutions with new programs of 100+ inmates starting up.

Please See INSTITUTIONS, Page 29
Shakespeare Behind Bars Launches New Program

Now in its 18th year, Shakespeare Behind Bars (SBB) is the oldest program of its kind in North America serving incarcerated adults and youth using the works of William Shakespeare.

For the 2012-2013 season Shakespeare Behind Bars is partnering with VSA Kentucky, the state organization on arts and disability and the Kentucky Department of Education to create a new SBB program specifically for 18-21 year-old inmates incarcerated in the Kentucky Department of Corrections.

This new program called “The Journeymen” was created by and is facilitated by SBB Artistic Director Matt Wallace assisted by veteran SBB ensemble members.

In this new introductory SBB program, 18-21 year-old inmates explore the goals and values of the program as a member of a positive, supportive community.

The new programs will take place at Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex and at Luther Luckett Correctional Complex.

The EKCC program will begin with a weeklong intensive session from January 11-18, 2013. The LLCC program began December 12, 2012 and will meet throughout the year in addition to the flagship LLCC SBB program.

Shakespeare Behind Bars was founded on the beliefs that all human beings are inherently good, and that although convicted criminals have committed crimes against other human beings, this inherent goodness still lives deep within them.

The mission of SBB is to offer theatrical encounters with personal and social issues to the incarcerated, allowing them to develop life skills that will ensure their successful reintegration into society.

SBB is also now in year-round residency with a Multidisciplinary Juvenile Arts Program at the Audubon Youth Development Center in Louisville and with Shakespeare BEYOND Bars at the Louisville Day Treatment Center – both programs are in the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Promotions

From Page 12

for the Western Regional Training Center. He was again promoted in January 2010 to deputy warden at WKCC and was serving in that position during the facility’s conversion to an all-female population in April 2010. He was involved in WKCC’s Corrections Emergency Response Team (CERT) for 15 years and served as the team commander for three years. He was awarded two distinguished service awards in 1995 and 1997 and also participated in the department’s first Leadership Education and Development Program in 2001.

Woodward is a 2008 graduate of Mid-Continent University where he earned a bachelor’s degree in business management.

Smith Promoted to Branch Manager in Adult Institutions

Aaron Smith has been promoted to branch manager of programs and security for Adult Institutions in the Department of Corrections.

In this role Smith will report directly to the deputy commissioner for adult institutions, and have general oversight of security operations and programming within all of the DOC institutions.

Smith began his career in 1988 with the Cabinet for Human Resources, in the Child Protective Services Department. In 1993 he transferred to the Department of Corrections to work as a probation and parole officer in Jefferson County. Three years later, he transferred to the Kentucky State Reformatory (KSR) as a classification and treatment officer. In 1998, he was promoted and served as the institutional parole officer for KSR and the Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women. In 2002 he was promoted again, this time to a unit administrator’s position at KSR. Two years later Smith was promoted to deputy warden of security for Roederer Correctional Complex. He most recently worked in the department’s contract management branch overseeing the agency’s private prison contracts.

Smith is a graduate of the University of Louisville where he attended on an athletic scholarship.
at both NTC and the Little Sandy Correctional Complex. In addition, the SAP program at WKCC added a 55 bed living in balance program which offers the curriculum in a condensed 90 day cycle.

The implementation of many new evidence based inmate programs in the institutions, a large number of which are closely tied to the re-entry programming guidelines set forth under House Bill 463.

House Bill 463 has become one of the top priorities of this Department over the past year with continued expansion in this area projected in the coming months and years.

The Deputy Commissioner of Adult Institutions has also spearheaded an effort to update many of the existing security related policies and procedures currently in use by institutional and other departmental staff.

During 2012 several teams of DOC staff members were formed and tasked with reviewing and revising existing policies and creating new policies. These revisions and additions will enhance security operations throughout the Department.

These teams are also working to make training recommendations which are geared toward upgrading the level of practical exposure and classroom time that staff receive related to these policies.

As we move forward into 2013 and beyond, Kentucky’s Adult Institutions, as has been the case throughout the years, will continue to hold fast to their mission of public protection while also continuing to adjust to the ever changing world around us.

(Note: Reports from Support Services and Community Services will be featured in the March edition of “Inside Corrections.”)

Kentucky DOC Information & Technology staff worked hard to help us achieve the ‘blue’ status in the Performance-Based Measures System (PBMS). PBMS is a nationwide automated information system to translate the missions and goals of correctional agencies into a set of uniform measurable outcomes. Kentucky was the sixth state out of 55 jurisdictions to achieve the ‘blue’ status - meaning we are entering all the required counting standards. Blue is the highest level of achievement. IT staff involved in the project included: Front row (L-R): Ruth Edwards, Beth Moore and Amanda Sayle. Back row (L-R): Del Combs, Cedric Coleman and Terry Terrell.
Heroes at LSCC

The K-9 team at Little Sandy Correctional Complex assisted in the search for a missing 14-year-old boy with autism. The child was reported missing from his home in the Summit area of Boyd County. Rescue crews and volunteers spent an entire day combing a one-mile radius around his home. After an intense search that lasted almost 12 hours, the missing teen was found by a volunteer standing in a ditch along Hatchery Road. The youth was taken to the search team’s command post and was then transported to the hospital to be checked out. His family was extremely relieved and thankful to all the volunteers. At left (L-R): LSCC Lieutenant Mike Finch with “Shenoa” and Correctional Officer Tony Pennington with “Sandy Jo.”

Awards

From Page 2

to help other co-workers who experienced major damage or completely lost their homes.

Although the institution lost electricity for an extended period of time, the inmates’ needs were met without incident, and circumstances were well-managed. Employees assisted in the area’s emergency operations, participated in search and rescue teams, assisted with the Emergency Management Team, volunteered at donation centers, and assisted with cleanup and rebuilding efforts throughout Morgan County.

Their dedication to the institution and the community was priceless.

Several other DOC employees were nominated for a Governor’s Ambassador Award. They include: Desi Brooks; Cindy Hall and Judy Perkinson; Daniel Fountain and Jim Wagner; Deana Hunt; Chris Kleymeyer; Steve Herring; Charlene Hoke; and Mary Morgan.

The Department of Corrections is proud of all the award recipients and nominees!