

September 13, 2013

# Weekly Views

The 2013 Statewide Trainer's Conference was conducted at the Correctional Training Institute (CTI). Congratulations to all the Training Award winners at this year's conference! Miami Correctional Facility for Facility of the Year, Stella Hoover (Logansport Juvenile) and Curtis Gillespie (Indiana State Prison) for Co-Adjunct Trainer of the Year, Dee McCorkle (CTI) Training Support Staff of the Year, Adam Daum (Branchville) and Ron Turner (Plainfield) Co-Correctional Trainer of the Year, Matt Andrlick (CTI) and Teresa Turner (Central Office) Co-Focus Group Facilitator of the Year, and Jim Boldman (Pendleton) Training Supervisor of the Year.

Injured Iraq War Veteran Marine Sergeant Nick Bennett (pictured below)

visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility to meet with offenders in the Indiana Canine Assistant Network Program (ICAN) along with members of the facility's offender American Legion Organization. Nick was seriously injured in combat in Iraq in 2004, and in June of this year he received a service dog from ICAN that was trained at the Indiana Women's Prison. Nick presented a powerful presentation relative to how his service dog Festus has dramatically changed his life by providing him balance and mobility assistance in addition to helping him cope with issues associated with Post Traumatic Stress.



Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) Superintendent Laurie Johnson updated staff about the direction of the facility under a new administration and forthcoming events during a quarterly staff assembly. Superintendent also recognized staff milestones and awarded certificates and pins for dedicated service. Special commendations were presented to Reentry Specialist Keisha Keedy, Corizon staff Robin Pagley, Reentry Coordinator Alonzo Eans, and Correctional Sergeant Robert Flaherty for Employee of the Year, Enabling Others to Act, Correctional Officer and Supervisor of the Quarter awards.

Misty Wallace and Keith Blackburn, two restorative justice guest speakers, visited Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility and spoke to students and staff. Ms. Wallace is a woman who was shot and left for dead in a parking lot. Keith Blackburn, ex-offender and current Chaplain at IREF, was the shooter. Through determination, Ms. Wallace was able to find and confront her assailant and now they are paying it forward by telling others of their miraculous story.

PLUS coordinator Karumathil Kumaran, Oakland City University Culinary Arts instructor Penny Clevenger and program offenders combined talents to host a sandwich sale for the offender population at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. Culinary Arts students prepared 468 ham and turkey sandwiches and over 1001 cookies. Proceeds from the fundraiser will be used to purchase program supplies and for community donations.

The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) PLUS program held a Hardees food sale with proceeds going to help with the startup cost of the newly established facility band. The \$1,815 from the sale, along with instruments donated by Taylor University, will allow CIF to furnish instruments for the band that include woodwind, brass, guitar and percussion. A big thank-you goes to Hardees in Pendleton, IN who worked to fill orders that included 1,400 double thick burgers, 180 baskets of chicken tenders and 200 batter fried fish baskets.

Indiana State Prison Executive Staff hosted a meeting with legislators and staff from the State Budget Agency. The group was given a tour of the facility and was able to see some of recently completed and on-going projects, such as new lighting, paving in recreation, and the recreation runs created by PEN Products.

Madison Correctional Facility passed its reaccreditation audit by the American Correctional Association, scoring 100% on mandatory standards and 99.2% on non-mandatory standards. A big thank you goes out to all staff who helped make this possible!

Congratulations to staff from Westville Correctional Facility's Grace College and Therapeutic Community (TC). In a cooperative effort, 23 offenders graduated from the facility's first Grace College Life Skills certificate program. Offenders from the TC worked a 15 week college schedule along with their daily TC requirements. The second round of this successful program is now in session. This time, Grace and TC are doubling their efforts, with 46 participating offenders.

In observance of Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance, eight IREF Indiana Veteran Education and Transition (INVET) Unit residents, along with Reentry Specialist Babacar Diouf, spent the day working on a Habitat for Humanity of Greater Indianapolis house which will soon become home to a Hoosier family in need. The work crew is composed of graduates of the Building and Trades Vocation, which is facilitated by Oakland City University at IREF.

Education personnel at the Pendleton Correctional Facility announced that a project to reorganize and store offender educational records that began in 2010 has now come to fruition. According to Evelyn Pierce Hicks, Program Director for Grace Community Education Inc. at Pendleton and the Correctional Industrial Facility, offender education records were previously stored and organized in accordance with several numbering systems that have been used by the Department over the years. The records (which date back to the 1950's) have now been organized in alphabetical order to greatly enhance and facilitate identification and retrieval of records in a more efficient and cost effective manner.