

Correctional Education Association (CEA) Leadership Forum
Annapolis, MD
March 29-31, 2009

The CEA Leadership Forum is an annual event that focuses correctional educators on policy and legislation that impacts correctional education nationally. There were approximately 120 participants at the 2009 Leadership Forum which included workshops on current research in the field, both adult and juvenile, that would serve to inform and prepare the participants for providing input regarding current legislative initiatives and broaden awareness efforts for the field. In addition, there was substantial discussion about the impact that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) would have on correctional education. Officials from the U.S. Department of Education provided updates regarding the status of stimulus funding, although not much guidance had been issued to date regarding allocations and application processes. Specific workshops were offered concerning the following topics:

- Community Corrections and Transitions to the Community
- Quality Assurance & Characteristics of Effective Interventions for Juvenile Programs
- Update on Federal Legislation for the Higher Education Act; Workforce Investment Act; No Child Left Behind; the Second Chance Act and Current Juvenile Justice Bills
- Transforming Lives Network (TLN)
- Alliance for the Advancement of Education in Juvenile Justice and Adult Corrections Initiative Strategic Plan

Dr. Thomas G. Blomberg, Dean and Sheldon L. Messinger Professor of Criminology in the College of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Florida State University gave the keynote address. Dr. Blomberg will also be presenting a special Forum focused on specific Arizona issues and resolutions at the ACE Symposium, May 21, 2009 in Tucson, AZ.

I was privileged to present a workshop regarding the Alliance for the Advancement of Education in Juvenile Justice and Adult Corrections Initiative Strategic Plan. I have been actively involved in establishing and developing the Alliance for the past four years in conjunction with the Juvenile Justice No Child Left Behind Collaboration Project (JJ/NCLB) at Florida State University.

There were two strands of workshop sessions throughout the Leadership Forum, one which focused on issues related to juvenile justice education and one focusing on adult correctional education. In addition, new contacts were made with other juvenile justice education professionals interested in advocating for a juvenile justice education emphasis within the CEA community. Overall the experience proved to be very beneficial and provided an opportunity to spread the “good news” about the outstanding work of Arizona correctional educators to a wider national audience.

Respectfully submitted by:
Dorothy (Dottie) Wodraska, April 28, 2009