

Correctional Education Association (CEA) Leadership Forum
“Transforming Lives”
Annapolis, MD
March 28-30, 2010

The CEA Leadership Forum is an annual event that focuses correctional educators on policy and legislation that impacts correctional education nationally. There were approximately 100 participants at the 2010 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 were presentations by Nicole Chestang the new Executive Director of GED Testing Service and Brenda Dann-Messier, Assistant Secretary of Vocational and Adult Education in the U.S. Department of Education. Other officials from the U.S. Department of Education provided updates regarding the status of various funding streams as well as pending legislation impacting education. There were two stands of workshop sessions throughout the Leadership Forum, one which focused on issues related to juvenile justice education and one focusing on adult correctional education. Specific workshops were offered concerning the following topics:

- The New GED Initiative: New Involvement
- Connecting the Teachers: Youth Detention, Residential Treatment, Youth Services and Adult Education
- From the Occupation Skills Training Center to Employment
- Creating a 40 Hour Work Week Program for Incarcerated Persons
- Overview of Federal Legislation for the Higher Education Act; Workforce Investment Act; No Child Left Behind; the Second Chance Act and Current Juvenile Justice Bills
- Alliance for Juvenile Justice Education Initiative Strategic Plan

In addition to serving on the Leadership Forum Planning Committee in 2009 and 2010, I was privileged to moderate a workshop panel regarding the Alliance for Juvenile Justice Education Strategic Plan. I also facilitated a full day of strategic planning with other juvenile justice education professionals involved in the development of the Alliance for Juvenile Justice Education. 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. Dr. Thomas G. Blomberg, Dean and Sheldon L. Messinger Professor of Criminology in the College of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Florida State University is the founder of the initiative. Dr. Blomberg presented a special Forum focused on specific Arizona issues and resolutions at the ACE Symposium, May 21, 2009 in Tucson, AZ.

Overall the experience proved to be very beneficial and once again provided an opportunity to spread the “good news” about the outstanding work of Arizona’s correctional educators to a wider national audience.

Respectfully submitted by:
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April 9, 2010