



# MAACCE MATTERS

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## Notes from the President

Another new year, and a world of change is at our doorstep.

The adult education world has been abuzz with the GED 2014, and Maryland will be settling in to a new routine very soon. No doubt challenges still abound, and we hope you that you call on MAACCE if you have questions – even if we don't have the answers we'll try to help sort it out.

If you've been to our website recently, you'll find the GED 2014 resources page is separated from the other material with some of the things we've been able to collect. If you have additions you'd like to suggest, please send them to us.

Our next biggest effort is preparing for the spring conference – more information can be found on our website:

[www.maaccemd.org/conference](http://www.maaccemd.org/conference)

We're seeking workshop proposals and registrations, as well as vendor sponsorships. And for the first time, we're investigating on-line registration. Look for more on that soon, hopefully!

And you'll find more information inside about our upcoming MAACCE Institute, hosted this year by Prince George's Community College. We hope you can make it.

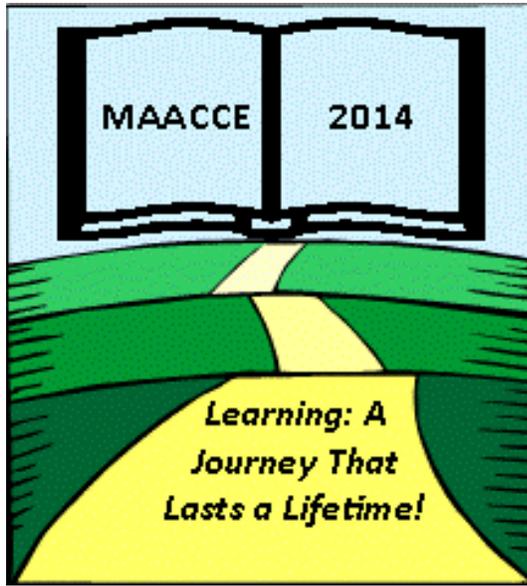
We look forward to keeping you informed and part of the conversation. Keep in touch.



Todd Elliott

MAACCE President

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**Please Save the Date!**

**May 8-9, 2014**

**Crowne Plaza, Timonium, MD**

MAACCE's annual conference is for Maryland professionals working in adult education programs including community colleges, public school sponsored programs, community programs, local agencies, and corrections!

As you can see, our conference theme is ***Learning: A Journey That Lasts A Lifetime.*** This principle holds true for our students but also for educators and administrators. We have many challenges, such as the new GED® Exam, the online National External Diploma Program (NEDP), and the other continuing changes in the field of Adult Literacy. Now, more than ever, it is important for us to keep learning, and the MAACCE 2014 conference will be a time for us to learn together from outside speakers *and* from each other.

Attachments to this newsletter include information concerning:

- Conference registration
- Submission of workshop proposals
- Nomination for the various MAACCE awards

So, if you have not already done so, please mark your calendars for **May 8 and 9, 2014.** We will be at the same location, but the hotel has a different name: *Baltimore North Plaza.* For the moment, they do not have online reservations, so please call them directly at **(410) 252-7373.** See you in May!

**\* All payments may be made through PayPal**

# News From Maryland Correctional Education

## **Western Correctional Institution Cumberland, Maryland Woodworking and Finish Carpentry Occupational Program**

### ***TOY PROJECT***

Over the years in Western Maryland an assortment of charitable organizations have been dedicated to making Christmas special and in providing a tangible sign of hope to economically disadvantaged children. These organizations include Toys for Happiness, Toys for Tots, the Garrett County Mentors Program and various Fire Departments. Some of the toys have even become international travelers with shipments going to Guatemala and Africa.

The Toy Project was previously housed in the Cumberland MCE shop where the disabled/wheelchair inmates worked on the assembly of various toys. With the opening of the Correctional Education Woodworking and Finish Carpentry shop at Western Correctional Institution this year, the wooden toys will now be constructed by students from the car class. These toys include racecars, small trucks, long trucks, pickup trucks, bulldozers, ducks, horses, swans, rabbits, and airplanes.

The Woodworking and Finish Carpentry shop in collaboration with the Case Management staff will fill the requests and have the toys ready for pickup in late November at the WCI warehouse. Each year about 1,200 toys are produced and distributed. This year the trainees in this occupational training class will be able to produce a larger quantity of toys as well as a larger variety of toys for the children. This event is traditionally well covered by the local newspaper.



## **Long Term Success Stories: Focus on the Printing and Graphics Program at Occupational Skills Training Center, Baltimore, Maryland**

**Kevin T.**, a 2007 graduate of the Printing and Graphics Program at the Occupational Skills Training Center (OSTC), has been employed for the past three years at Time Printers, where he has worked his way to become a Pressman. His education and training in the printing trade gave him the foundation and confidence to learn more advanced printing and finishing techniques on the job. Mr. Townsend's accomplishments have been highlighted in an article about successful second chances in the May 10, 2013 Baltimore Business Journal. In that article, Mr. James "Al" Maddox, president of Time Printers, states that Mr. Townsend has been one of his most reliable press operators. Mr. Townsend's willingness to work hard as he continues to build on the skills he learned at OSTC is reflected in his statement, "Once you get in the door, you want to give 110 percent or 120 percent."

**Mike W.** was a success story on the day he graduated from the Printing and Graphics Program in April 2005 at the Occupational Skills Training Center. Mr. Charlie Benjamin, Mike's instructor, arranged for an owner of a local printing company, to attend the graduation and interview Mike after the ceremony. Mike impressed this potential employer with his knowledge of the field and he was hired on the spot. He was able to immediately begin working as part of his work release program, starting as a press helper. After his release he continued to work there, learning new skills and eventually working his way up to become a Pressman. Mike has been successfully employed at this company for more than eight (8) years and he continues to learn new skills with the company. He is currently being groomed for sales where his customer service skills and knowledge of the printing business will take him to the next run on his ladder of success.

**Sam M.** graduated from the Printing and Graphics program at the Occupational Skills Training Center in 2005. After his release, and with assistance from his printing and graphics instructors, Sam was employed at a local graphics company where he started as a "catcher". But this was more than a job for Sam. He knew he wanted a career as a pressman and that this was the first step on his career ladder. Sam's eagerness to learn and his good work ethics gained him the admiration of his supervisor who quickly promoted him through the various jobs and tasks he needed to master working with sophisticated printing presses. In September 2012, Sam accepted a position at Uptown Press where he continues to grow in his field learning new presses and printing techniques. Sam states that his training at the Occupational Skills Training Center gave him the foundation for understanding the principles of printing, making it possible for him to learn new presses and finishing techniques.

## **Transition Services in Correctional Education**

Correctional Education Transition Program courses are offered at 18 facilities by 25 skilled instructors. During FY 2013, 2,998 participants successfully completing courses in this department. Courses of instruction in the Transition Program include:

- Personal Assessment and Career Exploration
- Employment Readiness Workshop
- Financial Literacy
- Health and Nutrition
- Parenting
- Introduction to Computers
- Basic Keyboarding
- Success at Work
- Life skills for Reentry

Some special program highlights are listed below:

### **SUCCESS AT WORK—NEW COURSE**

During the winter of 2013, the Transition Program staff designed and developed a new class offering for the Transition Program. Success at Work focuses on the development and review of skills necessary to retain a job once hired. The applied skills that are taught in this course include basic work habits and behaviors, work attitudes and values, communication and interpersonal skills, problem solving, teamwork, employer expectations, and professionalism on the job. The course is very interactive in nature and uses scenarios derived from institutional work assignments and from private sector employment as well. The development of these basic work skills will assist both men and women to be successful in the world of work. This class is now offered at four facilities.

### **INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS**

Introduction to Computers is a course that began at one facility several years ago. Over the past four years we have added this course offering at four additional facilities. This course is key to assisting inmates in preparing for 21st century job and life skills. Now computer skills will be required for GED testing as the GED test will become a computer based activity. In this course, students learn the foundations of basic keyboarding, Word, and Excel. Students learn to create different documents such as letters, spreadsheets and presentation slides.

## **LIMITED INTERNET ACCESS PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP**

DPSCS and DLLR have been working to provide limited internet access to inmates who are planning for release and post release employment. In total, inmates at 21 facilities will have access to at least one computer with secure internet access that allows them to search three websites including the Maryland Workforce Exchange, the Maryland Community Services Locator, and America's Job Exchange. Correctional Education coordinates and assists thirteen (13) facilities to operate this program on a regular basis. Between January 2013 and December 2013, CE staff has assisted over 3,900 inmates to learn to navigate and utilize these internet-based resources as they prepare for release.

### **JOB SEARCH SUCCESS: LIMITED INTERNET ACCESS PROJECT**

#### ***Joe H.***

Having access to several job search websites at the Baltimore PreRelease Unit, Joe was able to complete an account registration on the Maryland Workforce Exchange (MWE) and post his resume and skills on his account. Joe was skilled in the area of silk screening. An employer contacted him for an interview and after calling and scheduling an interview at this company with the assistance of his caseworker, Joe was able to successfully complete the interview and was hired in a work-release position prior to his release.

#### ***Karl C.***

Karl C. was a skilled butcher and used the Maryland Workforce Exchange to search for the contact information of grocery stores seeking applicants with his specialized skills. Karl made a list of all the potential employers and called them with the assistance of his case manager at the Baltimore PreRelease Unit. He was able to secure an interview and was hired by a local grocery store while he was on work-release. This allowed him to save money and gain work experience prior to release to the community and planting the seeds for a successful community re-entry process.

## **Correctional Education/Reentry Center Partnership**

In its 6th year of operation, Correctional Education, DLLR and the City of Baltimore's Northwest One Stop Career Center and Reentry Center provide outreach services to inmates in the Maryland prison system. During FY2013, two Career Development Facilitators (CDF) completed 119 prison visits where they met with 2,080 inmates. Presentation of the One Stop Career Center services is offered in the Employment Readiness Workshops as well as at the DPSCS Exit Orientation sessions. The CDFs provide post-release case management services to 327 ex-offenders with whom they completed 240 assessments, 190 job readiness services, and 144 barrier removal services. These intensive services support the efforts of ex-offenders to get prepared for successful employment when they return to the community.

## **Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board Mobile One Stop**

The Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board in partnership with DPSCS, DLLR, and EPRU staff provides a monthly visit by the Upper Shore Mobile One Stop, "Mobile 1", to the Eastern PreRelease Unit in Churchill, Maryland. The staff assists inmates who are 30 days from release to get registered on the Maryland Work-force Exchange, to upload a resume onto MWE, and to begin making plans for job search and employment preparedness. On average 10-15 inmates visit the mobile van each month and receive career planning services by these expert staff.

If you would like more information about our transition programs, please call Andree Duval, Transition Coordinator at 410-767-9764 or email her at: [andree.duval@maryland.gov](mailto:andree.duval@maryland.gov)



# MAACCE Mini-Workshop

**Save The Date!**

The 2014 Winter MAACCE Workshops are scheduled for **Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**, from 8:30 am to noon. This year the workshops are being held at Prince George's Community College in Largo. Topics are expected to include GED® 2014, Working with Literacy Level Learners, Methods and Strategies for ESL, and others. The workshops are open to members and potential members; registration information will be sent out via email and posted on our website soon.



# MAACCE MATH MATTERS



## ALGEBRAIC REASONING – Part III

by Mr. J

I will continue to discuss math activities that can be used to prepare students for the increased algebra presence on the new GED test just released in January 2014. One of the type of questions showing up in the practice tests and included in the textbooks from the various publishers deals with quadratic equations and the quadratic formula.

Definition: A quadratic equation is a polynomial equation of degree two; it has the general form  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$

Some quadratic equations can be solved by direct factoring:

$$\begin{aligned}x^2 + x - 6 &= 0 \\(x + 3)(x - 2) &= 0 \\x + 3 = 0 \quad x - 2 = 0 \\x = -3 \quad x = +2\end{aligned}$$

Try these: (1)  $x^2 - x - 30 = 0$

$$(2) a^2 - 4a - 32 = 0$$

More difficult examples:  $2b^2 - 7b - 15 = 0$        $(2b + 3)(b - 5) = 0$

$$2b + 3 = 0 \quad b = -1 \frac{1}{2} \quad b - 5 = 0 \quad b = +5$$

Try these: (3)  $3m^2 + 10m - 8 = 0$

$$(4) 6c^2 + 13c - 5 = 0$$

Alternative question: the product of two binomials.       $(x + 5)(x - 3)$        $x^2 + 2x - 15$

$$\text{Solution: } x \cdot x = x^2 \quad (-3)(x) = -3x \quad (5)(x) = 5x \quad (+5)(-3) = -15$$

$$\text{Combine terms: } x^2 - 3x + 5x - 15 = x^2 + 2x - 15 \quad (\text{FOIL: first, outer, inner, last})$$

Try these: (5)  $(a + 4)(a - 8)$

$$(6) (2m - 5)(m - 4)$$

A general method for solving the quadratic is completing the square; applied to the general quadratic equation  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ . It produces the quadratic formula and is particularly useful when the quadratic equation cannot be solve by factoring:

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

This gives the roots of any quadratic equation by substituting values for the coefficients a, b, c.

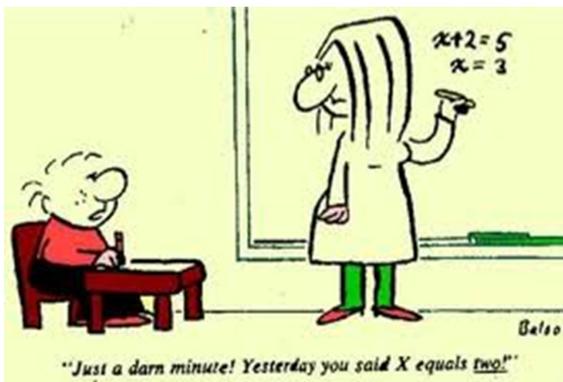
For example, to solve  $x^2 + 5x + 6 = 0$ , substitute:  $a = 1$      $b = +5$      $c = +6$

$$x = \frac{-5 \pm \sqrt{5^2 - 4(1)(6)}}{2(1)} \qquad x = \frac{-5 \pm \sqrt{25 - 24}}{2} \qquad x = \frac{-5 \pm \sqrt{1}}{2}$$

$$x = \frac{-5-1}{2} = \frac{-6}{2} = -3 \qquad x = \frac{-5+1}{2} = \frac{-4}{2} = -2$$

Try this one: (7)  $x^2 + 2x - 15 = 0$

**Answers:** (1) -5, +6    (2) -4, +8    (3) + 2/3, -4    (4) -2 1/2, + 1/3    (5)  $a^2 - 4a - 32$   
 (6)  $2m^2 - 13m + 20$     (7) +5, -3



This mathematics article was written by Jay Willetts and is a regular feature in the MAACCE newsletter. Jay is often called upon to present informative math workshops for instructors and students on all levels of GED math. He has presented at the local, state and national levels, and authored numerous math worksheets and a GED Math Workbook.

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**We're on the web!**

***Find us at:***

**www.maaccemd.org**

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**MAACCE**

**About Our Organization...**

*The Maryland Association for Adult, Community and Continuing Education is a non-profit organization providing leadership in Maryland for those interested in advancing education as a lifelong process. MAACCE provides a central forum for a wide variety of adult, community and continuing education groups and encourages organizations and agencies in Maryland to cooperate in a broad spectrum of educational programs and activities in support of the lifelong learning concept.*

***MAACCE Matters* is published quarterly coordinating with the seasons. If you would like to furnish an article or supply information for MAACCE members, contact Jay Willetts:**

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