

THE COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Secretary of Public Safety



Department of Correctional Education (DCE)
"Fighting Crime Through Education"

Senate Finance: Public Safety Committee

June 8, 2011

Re-Entry Initiatives at DCE

- ❖ Academic and Vocational Classes are being tailored to meet the needs of adult and juvenile offenders upon re-entry into society;
- ❖ DCE is coordinating with the DSS, DJJ, DOC regarding Second Chance Act which funds re-entry initiatives;
- ❖ DCE 2nd Chance Act Grant – Lunenburg Correctional Center, in conjunction with SVCC and Goodwill Industries;



Re-Entry Initiatives at DCE

- ❖ DCE actively participates in the Governor's VPJOR Council;
- ❖ Partnering with DOC for the seamless implementation of the VARI initiative;
- ❖ DCE has formed a workgroup to implement the DCE section of the VARI initiative;
- ❖ DCE will work with DJJ regarding DJJ's 4-year strategic plan;
- ❖ Movement of 25 Offender Workforce Development Specialists to the Department of Corrections.



DCE Mission Statement

“To provide quality educational programs that enable incarcerated youth and adults to become responsible, productive, tax-paying members of their communities.”



History of the Agency

- ❖ In 1974, the General Assembly formed the Rehabilitation School Authority.
- ❖ In 1986, the name was changed to the *Department of Correctional Education*.
- ❖ The DCE is charged with providing Academic and Career & Technical Educational services to juveniles and adults incarcerated in Virginia.



DCE Composition

- ❖ The DCE School Board, Superintendent and Chief Deputy Superintendent are appointed by the Governor.
- ❖ 46 Adult Facilities / Community Correction Centers
- ❖ 8 Youth Schools
- ❖ Central Office



DCE Composition Continued

- ❖ The majority of DCE employees, more than 86%, are assigned to DJJ and DOC facilities in educational roles.
- ❖ Teachers and Instructors are certified and/or endorsed by the Virginia Department of Education.
- ❖ DCE Youth Schools are accredited by the Virginia Department of Education



DCE Budget Issues

- ❖ In the past two fiscal years, (FY09 & FY10) DCE has lost a total of 71 positions due the closings of DOC and DJJ facilities. This reduction in positions brought with it a reduction of more than \$6 million dollars in funding.
- ❖ However, as long as the facilities were closed, the reduction had little impact on operations as we transferred as many employees as possible to fill vacant positions at other schools.



DCE Budget Issues, cont.

- ❖ The closing of facilities has had an impact on our waiting lists in other facilities as the offenders are transferred from the closed facilities.
- ❖ Additionally, the aforementioned closings necessitate the closing of several CTE programs with no viable location to move them. An example is two auto body and three auto technology programs, both of which require substantial space.



DCE Budget Issues, cont.

- ❖ While these reductions have had little impact on the services we offer, the resulting changes require DCE to be more creative with its programs in other facilities.
- ❖ When DCE is asked to make budget reductions, we try to hold harmless our student population, but the transfer of offenders to differing facilities means some may be unable to complete a program in which they were enrolled.



DCE Budget Issues, cont.

- ❖ As re-entry takes hold and is fully implemented, DCE has been working with our sister agencies, DOC and DJJ to revamp our programs to fit their re-entry initiatives and yet maintain the quality and high level of completions.
- ❖ We are working to eliminate those agency programs which are not a part of our core mission of education. This is the reason for transferring transition positions to DOC and DJJ so they will be more effective.



DCE Budget Issues, cont.

- ❖ As the population in the youth facilities declines, it will be necessary for DCE to reduce staff and align resources where they can be most effective.
- ❖ As the population in the adult facilities is transferred for the re-entry initiative, again it will be necessary for DCE to align resources where they are needed and can be most effective.
- ❖ Fortunately, with the assistance of the Secretary and the new Directors of DOC and DJJ, DCE enjoys a closer relationship and planning occurs with all parties involved.



Examples of DCE Programs

❖ Juvenile/Adult Academic Programs:

- High School Diploma (Youth Schools)
- Career Readiness Certificate (CRC)
- General Educational Development Certificate (GED)

❖ Juvenile/Adult CTE Programs:

- Industry Based Certifications
- Apprenticeships



2010 DCE Accomplishments

“By The Numbers”

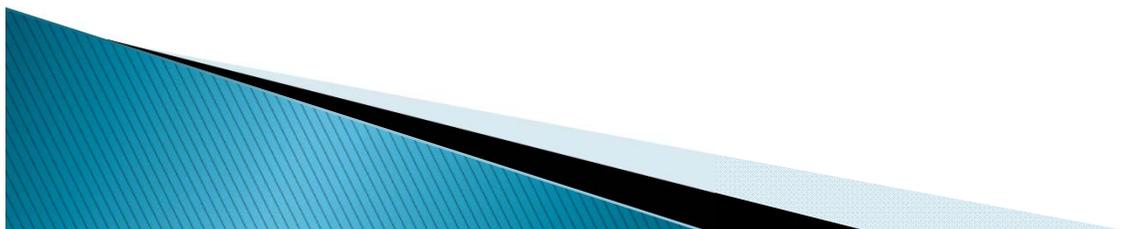
In the 2010 demographic report, DCE served 596 youth students and 10,327 adult students in our system.

95% Percent of offenders tested on WorkKeys receive a Career Readiness Certificate

88% Passing rate for the SOLS for grades 9–12

92% Passing rate for youth GED students

72% Passing rate for adult GED students



Program Accomplishments

- ❖ 2nd Consecutive Year of Accreditation for Youth Schools through VA DOE
- ❖ Number of Career Readiness Certificates Issued
 - 1839 (1771 adults, 68 youth)
- ❖ Number of GED Certificates Awarded
 - 1080 (925 adults, 155 youth)
- ❖ “Campus Within the Walls” Program
- ❖ 2nd Chance Technology Grant Program



Program Accomplishments

- ❖ Number of Industry Based Certifications
 - 2034 (1126 are OSHA)
- ❖ Number of CTE Program Completers
 - 1903 (1558 adults, 345 youth)
- ❖ Number of Apprenticeship Completers
 - 76



DCE Challenges

- ❖ Employee retention, specifically teachers and instructors
- ❖ Adjusting DCE academic and CTE programs to meet the needs of the re-entry initiatives in the juvenile and adult facilities
- ❖ Employee movement based on needs which may fall outside the permissible DHRM limits
- ❖ Budget Reduction Strategies



Questions

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