### Corrections Education:





Presented to DOC April 2013

## Corrections Education Administration

#### Wilhelmina Picard

**Director of Corrections Education** 

**Troy McAllister**Assistant Director

Dana Lesperance

**Assistant Director** 

Jerry Schartner
Assistant Director

### Corrections Education

- The Community High School of Vermont
- Vermont Correctional Industries
- Vermont Offender Work Programs

## Vision

Offenders will live, learn and work in their communities as self-supporting and productive members.

## Mission:

Corrections Education will provide learning environments for offenders based upon individual need to increase their skills in living, learning and working in order to reduce recidivism. Learning environments will utilize industry, education and corrections best practices to support offenders as students in educational and work settings through VCI, CHSVT and offender work programs.

# Strategic Action Plan

- The plan's purpose will be to clearly articulate what we do and how we do it.
- The foundation of this plan has been developed in our Vision and Mission statements.
- This will be a process that involves Staff, Students, Board, Department members in the overall development of the Plan.

## Strategic Action Plan

- •Will serve as our overall Strategic Action Plan for Corrections Education.
- •Will define the goals and objectives that are necessary to carry out the specific activities for the day-to-day operation and the long-term success of our students/workers.
- •It will **not** take the place of the NEASC Action Plan or the VCI Business plan

## Strategic Action Plan

These components will guide the development of the plan:

- CHSVT/NEASC Accreditation Standards
- VCI Operations & Business Plan FY 12 14
- Governing Statutes
- SOV/AHS/DOC Policy
- CHSVT Supervision Manual (licensed teacher supervision)
- CHSVT Policy Manual

# What are we going to do?

- Provide educational services to incarcerated individuals and those who are transitioning back into their communities
- Respond to individual risk factors with evidence based best practices.
- Continue to improve what CHSVT does exceptionally well – provide researched based educational approaches.
- Collaborate and share resources to enhance the student experience

## Transitional Education Services

- Corrections Education will be the bridge between the facility and inmates' reentry into the community for educational and work purposes.
- Designed to work with offenders in the facilities on identifying core educational and workplace skills prior to being released and then working with the offender in the community to make the appropriate connections with academic or workplace settings to complete their goals.

# Defined Evidence-Based Employment Readiness Program

• This will be evidence-based and in concert with Case Management and Programing. This will 'marry' the academic, social and workplace skills that need to be attained.

# Interventions that must be provided to increase employability of participants

- Identify patterns of behavior behind participant's inability to obtain and/or sustain employment.
- Learn and practice positive workplace skills.
- Learn and practice positive communication skills with co-workers and employer.
- Increase education, technical skills, and aptitude to support obtaining and sustaining employment.

## Student/worker benefits

- Reintegration and intentional support in their local communities
- Support in transition, and time to get acclimated to new learning/work situation
- Expanded opportunities to apply newly developed skills

## Resource Efficiencies:

- Integrating student learning plans to serve the students more completely in their learning and transition goals.
- Expansion of CHVST/VCI integrated learning models.
   Currently being modeled in the Furniture Industry.
- Sharing of professional knowledge and teaching staff/foremen
- Sharing of organizational expertise management becomes one team (CHSVT/VCI) and actively involved in supervision
- Expanded learning opportunities for students
- Sharing of technology resources/supports
- Integration and ownership by all staff of each individual

 Concentrated and intentional efforts in collaborating with community partners eliminating the duplications of services for which the other agencies are being compensated.

# The Mission of the Community High School of Vermont is

to provide an accredited, coordinated and personalized education that assists students in their academic, social and vocational successes.

# CHSVT is unique

- Built from needs and done the "Vermont" way
  - Accessed the community
  - Gained credibility/legitimate status
- New England Association of Schools & Colleges
  - Accreditation requires continued growth
  - Consistency, Continuity & Collaboration

### **Past**

- Local school sites with strong autonomy
- Educational practices vary from campus to campus
- Faculty Classification
  - Correctional Instructor, General
  - Correctional Instructor, Special Education
  - Correctional Instructor,
     Vocational
  - Vocational Coordinator

### Present

- Local school sites with limited autonomy & centralized decision-making
- Educational consistency across campuses
- Faculty Classification
  - Corrections Educator

# **CHSVT Organization**

### **Past**

- CHSVT Central Office provides general oversight of teaching staff
- Administrative
   Classification
  - Corrections Education
     Director/Superintendent
  - Corrections Education Chief
  - Corrections Special Education
     Chief
  - Corrections Career & Technical Education Chief

### Present

- CHSVT Central Office provides specific oversight regarding curriculum, instruction and program development
- Administrative classification
  - Corrections Education
     Director/Superintendent
  - Corrections Education
     Assistant Directors

# **CHSVT Organization**

### **Past**

- CHSVT Central Office maintains business office functions with some shared local budget responsibility
- Central Office education and business functions intertwined

### Present

- CHSVT business office manages school budget, local purchasing with approval
- Education & business functions separate and supportive of each other

# **CHSVT Organization**

# Changes within CHSVT

Guiding principles of the changes:

- Governor Shumlin's priorities
- Legislative mandates
- Agency of Human Services 4 Key Practices
- Department of Corrections Mission, Values & Principles
- Corrections Education Mission & Vision
- CHSVT Mission

## 2013 Timeline

January – Legislature, media, staff, Department

February – Legislature, staff - operations

March – Legislature, staff, -operations

April – Planning, staff, -operations

May – Planning and preparation for end of Fiscal year and beginning of next. Staff movement, - operations

June – End of year. Finalize staff assignments

### Changes 2013:

- Student Information System: FOCUS
- Registrar change in process
- 3. Staff Reassignments
- 4. Fiscal monitoring
- 5. Professional development with FOCUS
- 6. Supervision system defined
- 7. Administrative retreat Strategic Planning
- 8. Hiring of new staff for identified positions
- 9. Professional development in Writing/Reading Strategies, Math to begin in December