



Quality Assurance and Compliance Monitoring

Adult Education
and
Career and Technical Education

Polk Correctional Institution

Final Report
May 5, 2010

**Polk Correctional Institution
Quality Assurance Monitoring Report**

Florida Department of Education Division of Career and Adult Education Quality Assurance team Ms. Eileen L. Amy, Director of Quality Assurance and Compliance and Program Specialists, Ms. Sheryl Walden, Mr. Tashi Williams, and Ms. Ila Waite-Burns, adult education team representative conducted a on-site visit of Polk Correctional Institution (CI) and Demilly CI on February 1, 2010, accompanied by Florida Department of Corrections central office staff Steve Beyer. FLDOE staff reviewed both Adult Education (AE) and Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs at the institutions. The visit included interviews of the Warden, the director of Adult Education, two Adult Educational supervisors, four administrators, two state staff, four Adult Education teachers, six Adult Education students, three tutors, four certified inmate teaching assistants (ITA's) and observations of four classes.

Programs

Polk CI and Demilly CI Adult Education and CTE programs are staffed by well qualified individuals who demonstrate a passion and drive for education. The goals set by students are ambitious and reflect their desire to overcome the barriers they face daily.

The Adult Basic Education (ABE) Program has an enrollment of 60 to 80 students. There are a total of seven classes offered (four classes in the AM and three classes in the PM) and taught by certified teachers. The classes offer a voluntary full-time inmate teaching assistant program that affords inmates the opportunity to share their expertise on a given subject to those in need; there is one ITA present during each class. The students are permitted to take class work/material to their respective dorms where tutors are also located. The students stated that they enjoy the opportunity to use the computer lab which is supplied with TABE-PC, a personal computer based GED practice test and *Reading Naturally* software.

The CTE Programs offer students the opportunity for self-growth. The classes are structured to prepare students for the work force in that they incorporate real-life hands-on experiences. The Carl D. Perkins funds were used to purchase software, textbooks and a computer server during the first year of program. The cross-training rotation function was observed and was being used as a means to expose students to work life operations. There is a 99 percent success rate for students who complete the program. Students stated that teachers go beyond their normal call of duty by helping in any way that they can to assure their success.

Findings

There were no findings.

Concerns/ Recommendations

1. An interviewed ITA expressed the need to offer refresher training for ITA's.
 - *Recommendation: Assure that ITA's receive refresher training on a regular and scheduled basis.*
2. General observation: As expressed by a student, job placement continues to be tenuous for felons.
 - *Recommendation: Research into and implementation of career programs that may lead to easier and/or successful job opportunities might be considered.*

Remarks

Special thanks to Anthony Grant who shared that the eagerness of students to succeed is what drives him to be an educator. The determination displayed by the students is evident that there is indeed "life at the end of the tunnel." The DOC staff, especially Steve Byer, the coordinator of the visit, is commended for their help in organizing the visit.