



FLORIDA CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Dear CEA-FL Members,

Thank you for your continued dedication to creating meaningful change through education. Your daily efforts to inspire, uplift, and empower our students are at the heart of our mission, and it's because of educators like you that we continue to make a lasting impact in correctional education across Florida.

I'm excited to share that **CEA-FL will be participating in the upcoming Florida Department of Corrections Leadership Summit**, taking place **July 7-11, 2025, in Orlando, FL**. As part of this important event, we're hosting a **Musical Bingo Night**—a fun, free evening of music, networking, and fellowship with fellow educators. Open to both members and non-members, this is a perfect opportunity to bring a friend and unwind with games, prizes, and giveaways. We hope to see you there for a memorable night of connection and celebration!

Looking ahead, don't forget to mark your calendars for the **CEA International Conference and Training Event**, happening **August 10-13, 2025, in Pittsburgh, PA**. This is a can't-miss opportunity to connect with educators nationwide, gain professional insights, and grow our collective impact.

I also want to thank those who continue to join our **Monthly Virtual Meet & Greets**, held on the **third Thursday of each month**. These informal gatherings offer a valuable space to share ideas, ask questions, and strengthen our community. If you haven't joined us yet, we'd love to see you there!

Wishing you all a safe, relaxing, and inspiring summer. Keep up the incredible work—you are changing lives every day.

Best regards,

Robert Melgaard

President, CEA-FL

Mark Your Calendars:

79th CEA International Conference Is Coming!

Get ready to cross new frontiers in correctional education.

CEA: Paving the Bridge to Success

79th CEA International Conference & Training Event

August 10-13, 2025

**Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.**

This year's theme sets the stage for powerful conversations, professional development, and meaningful collaboration among educators, administrators, and advocates across the field. Join us as we explore innovative practices, celebrate our shared impact, and build stronger pathways for the future of correctional education—together.

Don't miss this opportunity to network, share insights, and drive positive change in our field. Visit ceanational.org for more details and registration information. Let's sow the seeds of success together!



Empowering Transformation Through Education

A Message from the VP of the Correctional Education Association

Dear CEA Members and Supporters,

As the Vice President of the Correctional Education Association Florida Chapter, I am honored to connect with our dedicated community of educators, administrators, and advocates who share a passion for transforming lives through education. Your commitment to providing quality learning opportunities within correctional settings is the cornerstone of our mission, and I am inspired daily by the impact you make.

This year, we've seen remarkable strides in advancing correctional education. From expanding access to career and technical education training programs to integrating cutting-edge technology in classrooms, our collective efforts are equipping justice-involved individuals with the skills and knowledge they need to thrive upon reentry. Recent data highlights that educational programs in correctional facilities reduce recidivism by up to 43%—proof that education is a powerful catalyst for change.

As we move forward, the CEA is focused on fostering collaboration and innovation. We're excited about our upcoming participation in the 2025 FDC Leadership Summit, where we'll once again host a night of Musical Bingo.

Please keep in mind that your voice matters! We invite you to contribute to our newsletter by sharing success stories, research, or innovative teaching strategies. Reach out to any member of our leadership team to submit your ideas. Together, we can amplify the impact of correctional education and inspire others. Thank you for your unwavering dedication to this vital work. Let's continue to empower individuals, transform communities, and build a brighter future through education.

Warm regards,



Adam Ryalls, Vice President
Correctional Education Association, Florida Chapter



Mary West, Marion CI

CEA-FL proudly honors **Mary West** as the **2025 Region 8 Teacher of the Year**. A dedicated educator with the Florida Department of Corrections, Mary currently serves as a Career Development Specialist at Marion Correctional Institution and brings over a decade of experience in correctional education, marked by innovation, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to student success. Her forward-thinking approach includes introducing unique opportunities like the "Entrepreneurial Mindset" course—now in its fourth session—and forging direct connections between incarcerated learners and industry professionals to expand career readiness. Known for her firm yet empathetic teaching style, Mary excels at building trust, inspiring growth, and challenging students to see beyond their circumstances. Her work extends far beyond the classroom, through reentry support, volunteerism, and strong community partnerships. Mary's tireless efforts and impactful contributions truly exemplify the spirit of excellence in correctional education. We are proud to recognize her as this year's Region 8 honoree.



Jamie Newberry is the Product Manager for Education, Re-Entry, and Law Library for Securus Technologies. She resides in Tallahassee, Florida.

Being a member of the Correctional Education Association (CEA), both nationally and within the Florida Chapter, has been an essential part of my journey as an educator. With over 30 years in the field of education, 17 dedicated specifically to correctional education, CEA has provided me with a sense of community, shared mission, and ongoing inspiration.

Two years ago, I transitioned from the Florida Department of Corrections to Securus Technologies. I now manage Securus' education platform which provides the technology solution to colleges, universities, and third-party education content providers, allowing unprecedented scale of safe and secure program delivery to learners in the corrections space. CEA's relevance to my professional growth and development is evidenced in this transition, because it has allowed me to stay aware of, connected to, and well-informed about the correctional ecosystem which drives the daily qualitative and quantitative decisions for which I'm responsible, decisions that are impacting a nationwide student base.

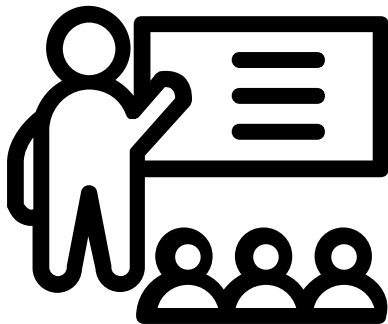
What I value most about being a member of CEA is that it connects and supports like-minded advocates, thereby driving the correctional education field forward, challenging all of us to constantly innovate and reimagine what's possible. My affiliation with CEA, across the years, continues to fuel my passion for equity, innovation, second chances, and expanding access to education for justice-impacted individuals. I'm proud to be part of a network and professional collegial community that not only supports educators but also champions transformative and generational change.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**Join Us at the 2025 FDC Leadership Summit –
Music Bingo Night Hosted by CEA-FL!**

CEA-FL is excited to support the Florida Department of Corrections at the upcoming **FDC Leadership Summit** and invites all attendees to join us for a night of fun and networking at our Music Bingo event on **Tuesday, July 9!** This high-energy social is the perfect opportunity to relax, connect with colleagues from across the state, and enjoy a lively evening of music, prizes, and friendly competition. Whether you're attending your first Summit or have participated in past events, we look forward to seeing you there as we celebrate leadership, collaboration, and the power of correctional education.



**NEW TEACHER
ONBOARDING
STATEMENT**

CEA-FL is excited to support new educators in correctional education through our onboarding connections initiative! Designed to help you navigate this unique teaching environment, this program provides valuable resources, mentorship opportunities, and a network of peers to ensure your success.

Whether you're seeking advice, classroom strategies, or a sense of community, we're here to guide you every step of the way. Together, we can transform lives through education.

For more information or to get connected, contact us at Conner@FloridaCEA.org.



**Reminder:
We Value Your Feedback!**

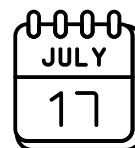
Don't forget to share your input by completing the survey! Your feedback is essential in helping us improve and shape future initiatives.

Click to participate:

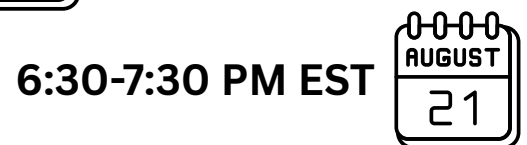


Thank you for your time and valuable insights!

**Florida CEA
Virtual Meet & Greet
3rd Thursday of the Month**



12:00-1:00 PM EST



6:30-7:30 PM EST



12:00-1:00 PM EST



Meeting ID: 241 446 741 677
Passcode: X4y3k