

2010 CEAO Teacher of the Year Finalist



Tom Brandon began his career at DR&C as a psychiatric attendant in 1995 after having taught junior high math for three years in a public school. At the time, Tom had decided that the emotional and physical toll of a junior high teacher was too great. He briefly changed jobs, working at Oakwood where he learned a little about life in corrections but more about the human psyche. In 2002, he accepted a position as a Pre-GED teacher and taught at LCI. After a year, LCI announced that it was closing, and after much thought and prayer, he transferred to Toledo Correctional. While there, Tom taught GED classes for a time, and then later taught ABE, Pre-GED, and GED classes at the camp. In 2005, he again transferred back to Lima at Allen Correctional Institution as the Title One teacher for Region 1. His current duties allow him to work with students under 22 years of age at ACI, TOCI, and OCF. Every new job opportunity has led up to and prepared him for the challenges of meeting the needs of students with whom he teaches.

Tom earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree majoring in mathematics and education with a minor in biology from Bluffton College. He later earned a Master of Science in Education Degree in literacy and Learning from Walden University.

Each day Tom goes to work expecting to make a positive difference with every student with whom he works. He believes that students have individual needs, interests, and abilities, so he tries to adapt lessons to meet those needs. In his role as Title One teacher, Tom has the opportunity to work with students individually and in small groups. He has helped students earn their GED and high school diploma and learn simple life skills. He values collaborating with his peers and supervisors to better meet the needs of his students. Tom learns from others and even learns from his students. He enjoys coming to work. To him, it is not just a job; it is a passion to help others.