

2011 Teacher of the Year Finalists



From Left to Right - Dana Berry, Tammy White, Bill Lewis, Donna Marshalko, and Amanda Crist

Tammy White

I began my career with DRC as a Pre-GED and GED teacher at Noble Correctional Institution (NCI) in 1997. Shortly after starting as a correctional educator I went back to the University of Akron and completed my MA in Education majoring in Literacy Education and Curriculum and Development. I then went on to Kent State University and pursued classes at the doctoral level, becoming actively involved in literacy education and adult literacy programming. As part of my classes at Kent State, I participated in a group research project evaluating the effectiveness of the Ohio Reads Program. I have also used my literacy background to help develop the Language Arts course of instruction for the past two five-year cycles. Having a husband in the military gave me the opportunity to travel to Korea where I did my student teaching and some substitute teaching. Being able to experience a different culture was a great experience and one that I hope to enjoy again after retirement.

My two years as a Middle School Teacher in Baltimore, MD working with high needs and moderate needs special education students, has given me great preparation in effectively dealing with my students at NCI. At any time I may have to deal with brand new students, promotions from the ABE program, students waiting to take their GED or waiting for their GED scores, and students trying to pass their practice GED. My program also consists of a large amount of students under 22 years of age with longer sentences and some students over 22 with at most 2-3 months until they leave. Since my classes are mixed in levels, abilities, and length of enrollment, and with the aid of a great crew of tutors, I gear each individual student's learning to what is specifically needed for each individual to pass his GED. Being able to think on my feet allows me to adapt lessons and change my way of teaching a concept when a student shows confusion.

Since 1998, over 2000 GEDs have been earned at NCI. My partner teacher, Barbara Sobie, and I help approximately 100 students each year successfully earn their GED. My

biggest enjoyment from the job is the reaction that my students have when they find out they have passed their GED.

Since 1998, I have taken on many extra responsibilities as part of my job. I have voluntarily mentored the new teachers and became a certified mentor in 2008 and again in 2011. I served as the Ohio Reads Coordinator for 5 years. Since 2000, I have coordinated the scheduling of training and tracking for tutors. I co-coordinate the graduation ceremony, producing the program and certificates of recognition for all participants. I also serve on the institution's Security Threat Group committee. In my spare time, I enjoy quilting, embroidery, gardening, canning, four wheeling with my husband, and swimming. I live on beautiful 33 acres with my husband of almost 25 years and my cat-Tigger.