

Dana Berry

2015 Teacher of the Year Finalist

**Dana Berry, GED Teacher
Hilltop School, Southeastern Correctional Complex
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction**

How in the world did a country girl from Arkansas end up here, a CEO finalist? My blue collar family had not instilled in me the desire for college. I dropped out of school after the eleventh grade and married—four children followed.



Life happens, marriages fail, but if you're fortunate, you find the one you should have married in the first place. My husband and I have been married for thirty-five years now. Raising six kids, I could not have done what came next in my life if not for him. I enrolled at Santa Rosa Adult School just to get my high school diploma and ended up winning scholarships to the University of West Florida.

I went right back to work at the adult school I'd graduated from, only now it was a Dropout Prevention Program. Now it was filled with kids who had been kicked out from every school in the county or were pregnant or discarded and forgotten by their families. Some of them lived in abandoned school busses, tents, and back yard sheds, or had their first child at the age of twelve and their second at fourteen. But all of them needed. NEEDED. We tried to fill those needs. I volunteered to add a school newspaper, a year book, TV Production, Journalism, Prom, and Student Government. These kids needed opportunities to see that there were possibilities in this world that really were open to them.

That I went to work for SCC-L when I moved to Ohio isn't so surprising. These guys are the ones who NEEDED those opportunities, never got it, and chose the darker path. Yes, the light of hope at the end of the tunnel is faint, but there is hope. It's a long way from Arkansas, but it's the path I've chosen, and I've a few more steps to go before I'm finished.

CEA Ohio Janet Carter 2015 Teacher of the Year

Janet Carter, Administrative Professional Support Teacher Madison Branch, Madison Correctional Institution Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

I previously taught AOT (Administrative Office Technology) at Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility for a little over 9 years. I am currently teaching APS (Administrative Professional Support) at Madison Correctional Facility. This is my 17th year as a correctional education teacher. I consider myself very fortunate to be able to have a career that is fulfilling and challenging.

When I first started teaching I was a non-degreed Career-Technical instructor. Since then I have obtained an Associate's degree, a Bachelor's of Specialized Studies with a Human Relations Concentration, a Master's degree in Criminal Justice, and am currently enrolled in the Education Administration Master's degree program at Ashland University. I am a huge advocate for continuing education and incorporate my lifelong learning experiences into my teachings.

I have two children, Chuck, who is married to Amanda, and a daughter, Cassie, who is engaged to Chris. Together they have given me 8 beautiful grandchildren who bring tremendous joy and purpose to my life. This next school year I will have four grandchildren in high school at the same time – a freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior. I am looking forward to a very busy four years. I have a 5 pound Maltese named Queenie who rules my home, and a new kitten named Gus, who is battling for control!

I enjoy spending time with my family, reading, crocheting, dabbling in photography, and cooking. More than anything I love to travel, and do so whenever I can. Sedona, Arizona and the beaches of Florida and the Carolinas are some of my favorite travel spots.

I am extremely honored to have been selected as a finalist for TOY. However, I could not be in this position was it not for some very key people who have crossed my path professionally. To them I give a big "Thank You!"



CEA Ohio

Nikki Lewis 2015 Teacher of the Year Runner-Up

**Nikki Lewis, GED Teacher
Clearview School, Ohio Reformatory for Women
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction**

“Treat people as if they were what they ought to be and you help them become what they are capable of being.” – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

One of the most amazing aspects of being a correctional educator is the power to change lives for the better and brighten the futures of those who travelled down the wrong path. For me, the quote above has become my professional motto. I believe that if we treat our students like productive, intelligent and successful citizens, then that is what they will become.

I always knew I would be a teacher, but like most correctional educators, I never knew that working in a prison would be my calling. I believe that all things happen for a reason and that I was meant to be at the Ohio Reformatory for Women. I love my job. I enjoy my daily interactions with my students, whether that’s helping them to solve a difficult math problem, giving them encouraging words before their big test, or simply listening as they struggle through being away from their kids. Yes, I am an academic teacher, but my day consists of so much more. In an environment that is punitive in nature, I make a conscious effort to recognize their perseverance, hard work and commitment, to lift them up when they most need it, and to figuratively give them a kick in the pants when they need it. I love what I do. It’s important work and I’m honored to do it.

I am a mother of three young kids, ages 11, 10 and 6. My family is very important to me; we enjoy traveling and going on adventures. It’s important to me that we live an active lifestyle, and we definitely stay busy with soccer, football and gymnastics. I love photography, my rescues and Buckeye football.

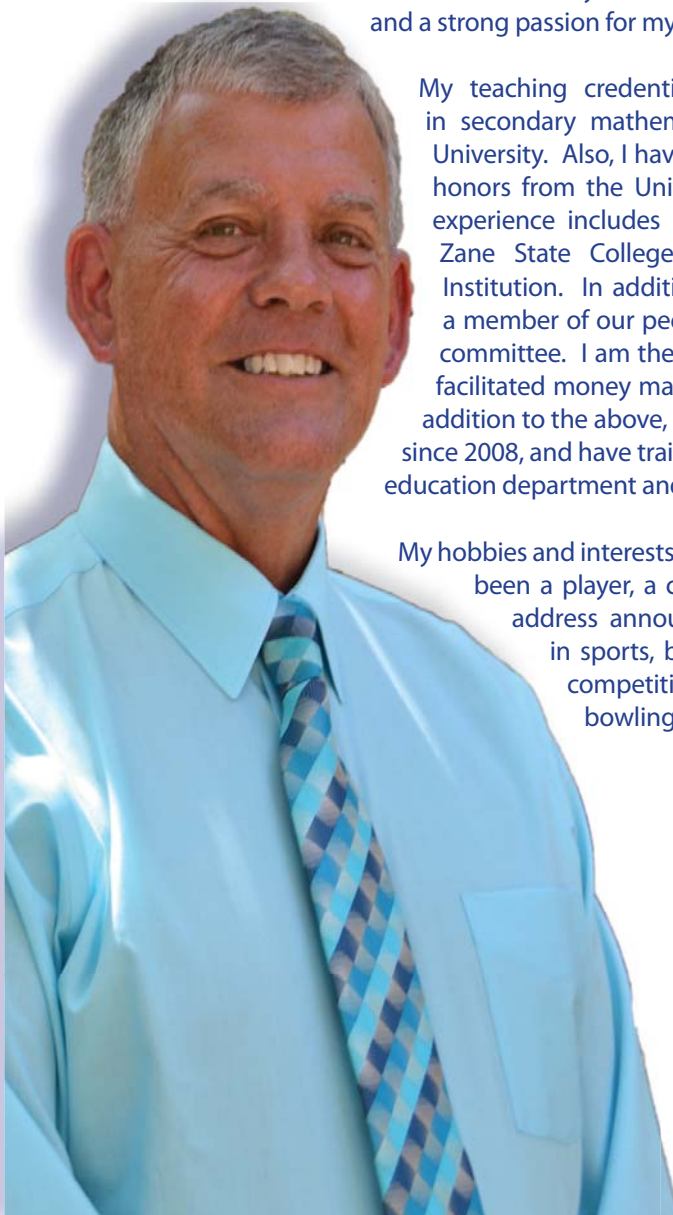


CEA Ohio

Roy "Al" Glitch 2015 Teacher of the Year Finalist

**Roy "Al" Glitch, GED Mathematics/APS Business Mathematics Teacher
Eastern Horizons Center, Belmont Correctional Institution
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction**

I have been an educator for 42 years and have always thought that teaching was exactly what I was meant to do. After 32 years in the public school system, I have now worked the last 10 years in the Ohio Central School System. My philosophy has always been that every student who enters my classroom is capable of learning and becoming successful. I remind my students on a daily basis that failure is never an option. I try to make sure that every time I enter my classroom I bring energy, enthusiasm, and a strong passion for my profession.



My teaching credentials include a Bachelor of Science degree in secondary mathematics with high honors from West Liberty University. Also, I have a Master's degree in education with highest honors from the University of Dayton. Since 1973, my teaching experience includes St. Clairsville City Schools, Belmont College, Zane State College, and currently the Belmont Correctional Institution. In addition to my teaching responsibilities, I am also a member of our peer support team and serve on our graduation committee. I am the co-advisor for our resource/job fair and have facilitated money management classes and resume workshops. In addition to the above, I have been in charge of our tutoring program since 2008, and have trained approximately 400 inmates to work in our education department and in our housing units.

My hobbies and interests have been totally dominated by sports. I have been a player, a coach, a director, a scorekeeper, and a public address announcer for most of my life. I still participate in sports, but when you reach the age of 60 plus, your competitive days are mostly limited to golfing and bowling.

Scott Skaggs

2015 Teacher of the Year Finalist

Scott Skaggs, Automotive Technology Instructor Indian River High School, Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility Ohio Department of Youth Services

Scott Skaggs has worked for the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) for the last eight years as an Automotive Technologies Instructor. He and his wife, Melanie Skaggs, have been married for 20 years, and live with their children in Orrville, Ohio. The youngest, Timothy, is 14 and plays golf for Orrville High School (OHS). Jacob is 16 and is a junior at OHS and is studying Heavy Truck at the Wayne County Career Center (WCCC). His oldest, Kiersten graduated from OHS and the WCCC two years ago and recently blessed Scott with a beautiful granddaughter five months ago.



Outside of work, Scott enjoys hunting, riding his Harley, playing his guitar, and spending as much time as possible with his family and new granddaughter, Sophia. He spends each deer and pheasant season hunting with his friends and children; as soon as spring comes around he rides his Harley as much as possible. Scott has had a life-long passion for bluegrass gospel music. He enjoys playing old gospel songs he grew up listening to as a child. Scott also believes it is important to help people in the community by using his talents and knowledge he has been blessed with to “pay it forward.”

During his 8 years of service in the ODYS, Scott began working at Marion Juvenile Correctional facility, after it closed he continued his teaching career at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility (IRJCF) in Massillon, Ohio as an Automotive Instructor. While at IRJCF, he obtained his route B CTE licensure and became a certified OSHA general industry instructor, along with becoming a Resident Educator Mentor Teacher.

Scott realizes that the students he is teaching have multiple learning disabilities and require intense patience, and the determination to keep a calm, non-aggressive learning environment. His goal is to help his students acquire skills for employment in the outside world.