



To Our Readers

By D. Kasey Tobin, President/Reporter

YOUR JULY MULE Creek Post heats up the summer with a sizzling array of stories sure to heat your BBQ. The NFL schedule arrives (pg. 26); Maya Emig talks about domestic violence for Board prep (pg. 13); a fresh batch of California bills are examined (pg. 27); and Lara Galarza's writing circle continues to embrace local talent (pg. 5).

We discover karma isn't merely consequences but opportunity (pg. 4); Charlie Blacker's art shows debate (pg. 28); and juvenile crime and diversion are featured (pgs. 11-12).

With the Post re-engaged on the GTL tablets and available on channel 32 at MCSP, we look forward to sharing past and current issues in a timely manner.



Folsom Lake College business professors including the workshop attendees, as they are introduced to teaching in prisons. From left to right: Sherrill Davis, S. Davis, T. Gonsky.
(D. Kasey Tobin/Reporter)

MCSP Residents Create Neighbors

By Jane Caron, Editor in Chief

THIS SPRING, SEVERAL professors from the Los Rios Community College District gathered at the Mule Creek State Prison for a three-session workshop on the topic of teaching to incarcerated students. The instructors came from Sacramento City and Folsom Lake colleges for three hours every other Friday afternoon to participate in the Creating Neighbors project, where they discussed cultural humility, recognizing and challenging stereotypes, and developing a more person-centered approach to prison education. What makes this workshop unique is that it was developed and presented by residents of the prison.

Jerry King, Angelo Ward, and Keshia Johnson are students of Folsom Lake College and interns in the school's social work program. As part of the internship, they were required to develop and implement a project that filled a need for residents of the yard. Over the course of two semesters, the three conducted surveys and interviews to identify a need and then researched and brainstormed the best way to meet that need. What they came up with was Creating Neighbors. The workshops were co-facilitated by Alex Rana, a former inmate, and current intern students Chris Partell and Jacob Robles.

"Our hope was to be able to increase incarcerated student involvement and raise educators' awareness of incarcerated students' unique experiences," said King, "ultimately resulting in improved college faculty training outcomes and improved prison education environments."

Eleven professors completed the three workshops, which included presentations, small group discussions, and homework assignments. "The whole concept was valuable," said professor R. Spangler, who has taught English at Folsom Lake and Sacramento City for almost 20 years.

"The program is really beneficial as a new teacher," agreed social work/human services co-professor C. Gardner, who is new to prison education. She added that a lot of value came from collaborating with the more experienced teachers. Gardner was not alone in being a first-time educator, but she was joined by professors with over a decade of criminal experience.

Math professor S. McKag, who retired after 34 years but continues to teach part-time, is just beginning as a prison educator. "I'm thrilled at what we're walking away with," she shared. "In-prison college has been my best teaching

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