

Title of Session: Alt/Correctional Ed Forum - Juvenile Justice Educator Training

Moderator: BJ Berquist

Guest Speaker: Tess Alan

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Room: After School Online

BJ: Welcome to tonight's Alt/Correctional Ed Forum.

JudyMi: Judy waves Hi

BJ: Our special guests for this session are Tess Alan and John Platt from JJET

TessA: Hello everyone!

BJ: o O (John is running late)

MichelleDP: Michelle waves hi.

TessA: yes, he is probably having technical difficulties...

BJ: As usual, let's do a little bit of housekeeping first...

AnnE: Hello, I know all about technical difficulties

JaneGu joined the room.

BJ: if you are new to Tapped In, click on the ACTIONS MENU in the top right of the chat window and click on DETACH

BJ waves hi to Jane

JaneGu: Hi!

BJ: we usually start all the discussions in Tapped In with introductions so our discussion leaders can get a sense of audience

BJ: I'm an art teacher in a juvenile correctional facility in Pennsylvania

JaneGu: Hello everyone...I am the LMT at Central Juvenile Hall in San Bernardino, CA

TessA: I am the Project Coordinator of JJET (Juvenile Justice Educator Training)

MichelleDP: I am a high school teacher in Spotsylvania County and who also worked for the VA Dept of Ed for eight years and now teaching.

AnnE: I'm an ABE teacher in an all male correctional in Wisconsin

JudyMi: I'm a special education teacher at an adult women's state prison in Pennsylvania

ChrisCo: I am a high school teacher in juvenile prison in Washington State

ChrisCo: also my students are all males - 15-21 years old

SusanBro joined the room.

BJ: Hi, Susan. Just in time for introductions

TessA: How many of you are enrolled in the JJET on-line program?

SusanBro: Thank you!!!!

SusanBro: Me

BJ raises her hand

AnnE: raise her hand

ChrisCo: I am taking LD class

JaneGu: I don't know about the program?

JudyMi: I'm in 2 classes

TessA: Great! So, many of you are familiar with our project. How is it going so far?

SusanBro: I am taking the strategies as well as assessments

BJ: Jane, when you get a chance, look at www.jjet.org

SusanBro: Other than the hurricanes, things are going well

JaneGu: Thank you...

BJ chuckles. That was bad, Susan!

ChrisCo: I am learning a lot about my students who are definitely LD

TessA: thank you, **BJ**...yes, Susan...I agree...I'm glad the hurricane season is almost over.

SusanBro: I have learned a lot about hurricanes as well as ESE

MichelleDP: Although I work with students many of them have been in or experienced juvenile detention and I would like to see it from another perspective. I am also a graduate student at UMW James Monroe Ctr, Fredericksburg. Many of my students are LD too.

AnnE: The material is useful and can be directly applied in my classes

TessA: I forgot to mention that our project is in Pensacola...

BJ: Tess, can you please give a brief overview of JJET for Jane?

ChrisCo: You could be in Washington. We're waiting for Mt. St. Helens to erupt, but no hurricanes.

SusanBro: Thanks but no thanks, Chris

TessA: We all have our natural disasters!

TessA: JJET is a three year teacher training grant funded by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) where we provide personnel preparation/training in special education via distance education at the graduate and undergraduate levels

TessA: We began offering courses summer 2004

JaneGu: Thank you

TessA: 2 classes are offered each semester (at grad and undergrad level). The grant pays student tuition.

MichelleDP: Interesting how can I find out more for summer courses (maybe one or two)

TessA: there are 6 courses required for certification in Florida

JaneGu: I will definitely take this info back to my school...

SusanBro: What are the courses Tess?

TessA: Our grant is scheduled to end June 30, 2005. All the info is located at www.jjet.org for the course sequence. Depending on availability of funding, we may be able to offer the courses again next summer.

BJ crosses her fingers

AnnE: ditto

SusanBro: Mine are crossed too!

TessA: We are currently seeking additional grant funding to keep the project going, as it is an underserved population and definite need

ChrisCo: me three

TessA: We have over 100 students enrolled this semester in one or both courses and continue to grow each semester

ChrisCo: I really appreciated your rationale for how the prison population is so very special ed. It put it clearly in black and white for me.

TessA: I recently conducted a survey of 4 states (FL, AZ, MS, LA) to determine personnel preparation level...whether teachers are certified in the area they teach and their highest degree level.

TessA: Thank you

TessA: I was formerly the state special education compliance monitor for AZ jails, detentions, prisons and juvenile corrections, so I've been where you are and know your challenges

ChrisCo: isn't qualification a part of NCLB??? Qualified teachers in the correct positions?

SusanBro: And challenging it is!!

TessA: Yes, absolutely.

TessA: That is why I conducted the survey

AnnE: It is challenging and rewarding as well

ChrisCo: Did the survey show any thing surprising or interesting?

TessA: I also heard a need from the field to have an advanced degree, rather than collecting credits (for those who have a masters)

TessA: Lots of good data. I'm in the process of compiling it this semester for our final report to justify a dire need for this type of program

ChrisCo: Do teachers in other states get any special stipend for working in corrections?

We just get the regular teacher pay plus 40 extra days (if we want) through the summer.

TessA: Back on the degree plan, John and I put together a proposal to create an Ed.

Specialist degree in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Correctional Special Ed Admin

SusanBro: In Florida we make less than the public school teachers- and in my facility we work year round.

JaneGu: Same policy in CA

JudyMi: In PA we get similar pay to public school teachers, but work all 12 months for it.

TessA: We expect to have it approved through the university chAnnEls by Fall 2005

ChrisCo: I guess I have it good then

SusanBro: Tess-would it be online?

TessA: Yes, and your credits from JJET will transfer into the specialization area

SusanBro: Where are you Chris?

SusanBro: That would be excellent, Tess...

ChrisCo: I am in Washington State.

TessA: We are seeking funding for that project as well, but if we were not able to get dollars to pay your tuition, you would just need to pay the in-state rate

TessA: It would be 36 hours beyond a master's degree

SusanBro: Luckily, since I work for the state, I'd get reimbursed...

TessA: and 15 of the hours from JJET would be included

TessA: so you'd be almost 1/2 of the way through the program

SusanBro: And which of the offered JJET courses will lead to certification here in Florida?

TessA: we have some details to resolve internally...

JudyMi: Would it count beyond that? The end of this semester I'll have masters +30.

MichelleDP: I wanted to experience teaching in correctional education but, could not find a position related to help students attain their GED since I have assessment background too.

TessA: ALL of the courses. We used the course series/sequence required for Fl cert

ChrisCo: I have to go to a Girl Scout leaders meeting so I will say good-bye to you. Hope to talk to you all again soon.

ChrisCo left the room (signed off).

TessA: We would need to evaluate students based on their transcripts, as they would need to be formally admitted to the program and have GRE, etc

TessA: I posted a tentative plan on www.jjet.org for students to preview and consider.

SusanBro: I shall check it out

AnnE: Can you give us a brief summary

MichelleDP: I would love to join you all again next time. Michelle waves by to everyone and leaves.

TessA: We are currently taking names of students who might be interested in the first cohort group.

AnnE: What does that entail?

TessA: Sure, the core courses are those that are required for an advanced degree at UWF, then the specialization is in correctional/alt ed. It will be more project/application based than the JJET courses, as they are at the 6000-7000 level. The courses could also be used to complete a doctoral program at UWF.

AnnE: Are these on-line classes as well and is there a timeframe to complete the program?

TessA: There is a component in the program emphasizing ed leadership, which is an option

TessA: they are expected to be all online

TessA: the timeframe is up to the student

TessA: you could take one class a semester...or 3. Since they aren't grant funded, the program would be ongoing.

JeremyFS joined the room.

TessA: The preliminary data I collected reported that 42% of correctional educators have a master's degree

BJ waves hi to Jeremy

AnnE: Do these classes use Kansas based curriculum as well?

JudyMi: Would this degree transfer to other states or only be applicable in FL?

JeremyFS waves to BJ

JeremyFS waves to everybody!!!

TessA: just the strategies courses offer the Kansas strategies

JudyMi: Back at you Jeremy.

TessA: it's more focused on leadership and becoming a change agent

TessA: UWF is NCATE accredited, so it's nationally recognized

JudyMi: Thanks

TessA: The certification from JJET is designed around the FLorida certification requirements

TessA: Ann, do you like the Kansas strategies?

AnnE: yes, I have tried some of the techniques and they work. I have been using some strategies without knowing that someone had researched them. I guess some of my techniques aren't so bad after all.

TessA: that's great!

TessA: the routines are very useful for students all ages! I use them in my undergraduate college courses with students and it makes a big difference

AnnE: Your earlier statement about 42% of correctional educators with a master's degree is shocking.

TessA: more interesting preliminary data is that approx 25% of teachers are working on a provisional or temporary teaching certi.

TessA: It was a shock to me too, but showed a need to provide a program to help teachers advance their careers

AnnE: I didn't know there were schools in corrections until I lost my first private sector job after 24 years to Mexico

TessA: and their paycheck!

TessA: I started teaching in corrections as a vocational instructor at age 18.

AnnE: Wow! Did the inmates try to take advantage of you? Weren't you afraid?

TessA: I tried public and private school, but prefer corrections...you see more growth and receive more appreciation from the students

TessA: They tried, but mutual respect and boundaries goes a long way. I didn't know enough to be afraid...and it was a maximum security juvenile correctional facility

AnnE: I thought I was crazy to even interview for the job and then afraid they would call and offer me the job.

TessA smiles

AnnE: If I had to do it over again I would choose to teach in corrections because it is very rewarding.

TessA: I agree

TessA: Too bad colleges of education don't offer programs specifically designed to teach this population

AnnE: I agree. There definitely is a need.

TessA: imagine if you had coursework in criminal justice, blended with teaching and learning strategies to work effectively with this unique population

BJ: regular public school teachers need more special ed programs too

TessA: More interesting facts...about 25% of teachers who work in corrections entered the teaching field through an alternative certification means, not a traditional teacher training program

TessA: that means they came from business and industry or the military

AnnE: Teacher's could really make a difference and maybe it would break the cycle of incarceration within a family

BJ . o O (imagine if the sped kids were id'd and given appropriate attention in the primary grades)

TessA: Yes.

TessA: More tidbits...about 45% of correctional educators are certified in all areas they teach

BJ is feeling like she's on the wrong side of the statistics list

TessA frowns

BJ . o O (I'm certified elementary ed, teach art, and was an alternative student, getting certification at age 50)

AnnE: I guess I better get going to catch up to the statistics

TessA: I'll be formulating more tidbits over the next few weeks. I received 299 surveys, so crunching the numbers has been labor intensive.

TessA: you aren't uncommon

AnnE: It must be interesting to compile the data

TessA: I wish I had better responses from some of the states. Florida and AZ had decent responses...but LA and MS didn't

TessA: I would hate to generalize, which is why I sent out over 3000 surveys

AnnE: Did you think about surveying Wisconsin?

TessA: I tried to focus on neighboring states/regions

BJ: 10% return is pretty good!

TessA: I could have conducted a study of the 4 corners

TessA: Yeah, the return was ok...I just wish I had more data

TessA: It's rather important because it will be a determining factor in whether or not JJET is funded

BJ wonders if CEA would be willing to help

TessA: I needed a random sample

AnnE: Wisconsin is trying to coordinate with technical colleges for follow-up with inmate releases

TessA: CEA would have been a segmented population

TessA: that's super, Ann!

TessA: I may send out another survey sample in the spring and include Wisconsin

AnnE: That would really help inmates to finish their education if they didn't have time when imprisoned.

TessA: Exactly, and provide them with opportunities for skill development so they don't reoffend

AnnE: Teachers and others are offering scholarships to help inmates pay the fees because they can't afford them.

TessA: That's right, because if they committed a felony, they aren't eligible for PELL

TessA: Have you considered contacting a local business to sponsor your institution?

TessA: Or a partnership for the former inmate to receive job training for a particular business in the area?

AnnE: No, Tess, I never thought of that. Just was exposed to the scholarship idea today at a Literacy Conference

TessA: Oh, perfect!

TessA: Lots of businesses are interested in sponsoring former inmates for tax advantages and because they want to help someone change their life

TessA: They actually become mentors for the former inmate and that has shown to reduce recidivism

AnnE: It sounds like an excellent idea!

TessA: I had business partnerships with my class and it made ALL the difference in the world

TessA: Students saw the connection between work and school

TessA: And they had specific job skills. It's a win-win situation

JeremyFS: I'm distracted by ER. Everyone have a good night!

AnnE: One session talked about enabling students to focus internally and take on responsibility. Without these skills, they wouldn't last a day in the workplace.

TessA: Exactly

TessA: There is more of an emphasis on those concepts in the transition course scheduled next semester

BJ: Our time is about up. Thank you, Tess, for being our guest for this discussion.

BJ: We'd love to have you join us again!

AnnE: Thanks Tess and BJ

TessA: Thanks!

JudyMi: I thank you too.

BJ: The next Alt/Correctional Ed discussion will have Jill Gurr from CreateNow

BJ . o O (www.createnow.org)

JudyMi: Waves good night

BJ: There is also a Special Ed Resources for Math and Science...

BJ: from ENC on November 16

BJ . o O (www.enc.org)

AnnE: What is ENC?

BJ: ENC is Eisenhower National Clearinghouse for Math and Science

AnnE: Thanks

AnnE waves bye for now

TessA: Thanks everyone! Have a great night. If you need more information about our program, you can call me toll free at 1-866-jjetorg or email me at talán@uwf.edu

BJ waves goodnight. Thanks everyone for participating