



Excerpt taken from the Review of Education Programs for Students in the Texas Youth Commission State Schools

Office of the Independent Ombudsman July 2008

...One facility offered a telecommunications cabling program. The students were actively involved in computer-based activities, cable splicing and testing procedures. The instructor worked with individual students and also discussed important issues with the entire class. Each of the students I spoke with reported that this was one of the best courses they had ever taken. Many of the students reported that the teacher was the best teacher they had ever had. In addition to teaching the content, the teacher had also helped the students to investigate jobs available in their home communities, helped them to prepare for interviews, and helped them prepare a work portfolio.

Mr. M exemplified the qualities of an exceptional teacher, and represented the characteristics typical of many of the CATE teachers we interviewed. He taught a network cabling class that prepared students to work in the field of telecommunications. His classroom was filled with students diligently working on computers, splicing cables, testing work, and completing written coursework. Mr. M provided consistent guidance, and continuously praised the efforts and dedication of the students while maintaining high standards of achievement. His dedication towards his students went beyond typical duties. When his students stated that they wanted to know how to find jobs in the area, Mr. M developed individual job folders for each student. These folders contained positions available in the areas the students would be returning to. His dedication was recognized by all of his students. One student stated, "When I got locked up I thought...I'll just do my time. I never thought I could change my life here. Mr. M has helped me to do that." Another said, "Mr. M is really into helping the kids out...he is working with us. You can really change your life in this class."

Current recommendations for TYC regarding CATE programs:

Increase number of technological CATE programs like the telecommunications cabling program.

The telecommunications program is C-Tech.
The facility is the Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Complex.
"Mr. M" is Mr. Kenneth McCoy - Certified C-Tech Instructor.