

The



LINK

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GRADUATION SPEAKER

TRIO Project Director Regenia Massey was the graduation speaker for the Annual Graduation Ceremony at the United States Penitentiary in Lee County. Approximately 150 inmates received GED's, Department of Labor Apprenticeships, or completed vocational training. One inmate received his college degree. The penitentiary is a high security federal penitentiary that houses approximately 960 male offenders. Gena said, "It was an awesome experience."



BROWN MEETS GOAL

Texas Instruments agreed to donate 30 Nspire calculators (a \$4500 retail value) to MECC if Assistant Professor of Mathematics Sylvia Brown trained 200 teachers to use the new calculator by February. It's only November and Sylvia has already met that goal.

Way to go Sylvia!!



COEBURN'S PROGRAM WINS

IST Instructor Fred Coeburn's Computer Networking Program has been selected for CISCO as a winner in their Networking Academy Global Recognition Award Program. MECC received a framed award in addition to a video camera and accessories to be used to showcase the program to the rest of the Global Networking Academy community.



SACS UPDATE

MECC will soon begin its reaffirmation of accreditation process with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The Leadership Team members (as designated by SACS) will go to Atlanta on January 28th for an orientation session. Team members include President Suarez, Vice-President Richard Phillips, Vice-President Patti Cantrell, Accreditation Liaison Sharon Fisher, and Faculty Senate President Chris Allgyer. Other members will be added at a later time.

The "SACS Update" will be a feature in the LINK to help keep the college community informed and involved.

*If you have knowledge,
let others light their
candles in it.*

Margaret Fuller
Source: Quote A Day

Southern
Association
of Colleges
and Schools



The Mission of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools is the Improvement of Education in the South Through Accreditation.

MRSA INFORMATION

MRSA stands for methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, a form of staph infection that does not respond to routine treatment with some commonly used antibiotics, although other antibiotics are effective.

Staph infections have been around for a long time, causing mild to severe illness. MRSA may be more difficult to treat, but is otherwise the same as a “staph infection.” Mild infections may look like a pimple or boil and can be red, swollen, painful, or have pus or other drainage. More serious infections may cause pneumonia, blood-stream infections, or surgical wound infections.

MRSA outbreaks in the college setting have been linked to poor hygiene, sharing contaminated personal items or athletic equipment, skin-to-skin contact, and cuts or breaks in the skin.

Approximately 25-30% of the population is colonized with staph, and about 1-2% of the population is colonized with MRSA. Colonization means the organism is carried on the body, either in the nose or on the skin, but is not causing any symptoms or infection. As a result, a college student or staff member could be a carrier, but not be aware of it. These individuals may spread the organism to others who could go on to develop infections.

Staph, including MRSA, are spread by direct skin-to-skin contact or contact with a shared, contaminated item. Students sharing towels, personal hygiene items, athletic equipment, or students engaging in close-contact sports are example situations where staph could be transmitted.

Basic Steps for Prevention

Practice good hand hygiene and encourage students and staff to keep hands washed.

Discourage sharing of personal items.

Encourage athletes and students who participate in sports to wash their hands after each practice and game. They should not share personal equipment, uniforms, towels, or other personal items (e.g., razors). Uniforms and towels should be washed with hot water and detergent after each use.

Disinfect shared athletic equipment on a regular basis. Contaminated surfaces may be cleaned using an EPA-registered cleaner or bleach solution (1/4 cup bleach to 1 gallon of water or 1 tablespoon bleach per quart of water). Bleach solutions should be mixed fresh daily.

Routine cleaning is all that is recommended for disinfection. Because the bacteria live on the skin, they may be reintroduced into any environment at any time. Therefore, hand washing and wound care remain the primary means of preventing staph infections.

Source: Virginia.gov (Office of Epidemiology)

SAFETY AT WORK

Hard Line or Soft Touch

What approach toward preventing repeat accidents works best for you? Do you respond better when management takes a hard line or when they use a soft touch? Both approaches can help or hinder the process of breaking the chain. Here are some points to keep in mind with either method.

Taking a **hard line approach certainly conveys the seriousness of the safety message, but it still may not break the chain because employees may:**

- Resist ultimatums
- Resent being pressured
- Retaliate or sabotage safety efforts
- Experience low morale
- Meet only the minimum requirements
- Meet requirements only when supervisors are around

Soft touch approaches avoid blame and negative feelings but they may not get the message across as forcefully. Here are other objections to this method:

- Busy supervisors in bustling departments don't have time to coddle workers who have been well-trained and should know better.
- Co-workers may take advantage of the situation if they don't sense any real consequences for accidents.

Break the Chain

Each company needs to use the combination of hard and soft approaches that best fit the company's culture. Give supervisors your feedback on which methods work best for you.