In September 2004, Anne Charles, Project Director of the Corrections Learning Network (CLN) extended an invitation to our juvenile detention education programs to collaborate on an exciting project to translate the Merging Two Worlds: A Transition/Career Planning Curriculum for Youth in the Justice System (M2W) to production for the purpose of nationwide broadcast to more than 800 correctional sites currently receiving CLN programming. CLN is a nationally recognized distance learning initiative administered by Educational Service District 101 (ESD 101) in Spokane, WA and funded through the U.S. Department of Education that provides relevant educational life and transition-based broadcasts for confined audiences and professional staff in correctional facilities.

The M2W Curriculum was grant-funded and developed under the guidance and direction of the Secure Care Education Committee convened by the Arizona Department of Education, Exceptional Student Services Division, for use in secure care education programs throughout the state. The Arizona juvenile detention schools were selected for this exciting opportunity because of CLN’s current focus on juvenile programming and the working relationship that is being forged with the Arizona Detention Schools in bringing this free resource to the state.

Upon review of CLN advisement regarding a television instructor, Nicole Wetzel, Detention Educator in the Cochise County Juvenile Detention School, was chosen to serve as the on camera Teacher/Presenter for the lessons. Cochise County has been and remains a leader throughout the state in representing our detention education programs, and it is fitting that staff from the program represent Arizona detention schools in this national initiative, as well. Dorothy (Dottie) Wodraska, Correctional Education Specialist from the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts, Juvenile Justice Services Division will facilitate and coordinate the planning and implementation of the project with CLN.

This is an exciting project that will provide a valuable resource for detention education programs and a wider nation of learners, as well as giving well-deserved recognition to Arizona detention educators statewide and nationally. Our detention education programs continue to lead the way on the journey to excellence in delivering educational services to the detained youth of Arizona, and their work deserves to be featured in this national broadcast initiative. The delivery of this curriculum via satellite television will be a “gift” to our nation of incarcerated learners.