

Testimony Joint Committee of Corrections and Juvenile Justice

Governor's Council on Education—Talent Pipeline Sub-Committee

Co-Chair- Heather Morgan, Executive Director- Kansas Association of Community Colleges

October 26th, 2021

The Governor's Council on Education is made up of various stakeholders from all aspects of the educational systems in Kansas as well as members of the business community. The Council is Co-Chaired by Dr. Cindy Lane who is a former Superintendent and Fred Dierksen who is the current Dodge City Superintendent. The Council has four sub-committees including: Future Ready, Work-Based Learning, Childcare and Early Learning, and Talent Pipeline. The Talent Pipeline Sub-Committee recommendations are the focus of the work for today. The group is focused on finding ways to ensure that incarcerated citizens returning to the community use their time wisely while incarcerated to gain education and skills which will allow them to be employable and earn a livable wage that is a cornerstone to their success upon reentry into the community.

Since the 1994 Crime Bill, during an era that is known for being very "tough on crime," incarcerated people have been banned from receiving federal Pell Grant funding. In December 2020, Congress lifted this ban with bi-partisan support. However, they could not get the policies, rules, and regulations in place quickly enough and the ban will not be lifted until 2023. In the meantime, the Department of Education's Second Chance Pell Experimental Sites Initiative/Pilot program which started five years ago continues. In Kansas, Barton CC, Colby CC, Donnelly College, Hutchinson CC, Kansas City Kansas CC, University of St. Mary's, and Washburn are second chance pilot program participants and currently are able to access Pell Grant funding while delivering educational programming to the Kansas Department of Correction (KDOC). See the back of this page for a listing of the programs and colleges at each correctional facility. The Vera Institute has been working with Second Chance sites around the country for the last three years and the data is clear: incarcerated students find the experience transformative, they are more likely to be employed and earn higher wages post-release, and are 48% less likely to recidivate than other inmates, and the environment inside prisons with these educational programs are generally less violent. The access to college for incarcerated people is critical to advancing opportunity, improving safety—both within prisons and across our communities—and strengthening families.

KDOC has over 44 industry partners and 16 correctional industries employing 1,318 individuals. The industry partners are poised to hire qualified offenders upon release. There are also state employees both within KDOC and the KansasWorks system whose specialty it to assist offenders gain and keep employment post release. The education received while incarcerated is key to landing a quality job. The Kansas Chamber, various Chambers of Commerce, business and industry have all been involved in the discussion of how to improve the workforce pipeline to ensure every able-bodied Kansan has the education and skills needed to meet the desperate workforce shortages being experienced across the state.

Currently, of those inmates released from KDOC last year only 28% of those released were reached with a GED, completion of a Career and Technical Education (CTE) college course, or industry job. To expand the amount of prison education occurring within the Kansas Department of Corrections and to prepare for the new Pell Grant opportunities which will be available to offenders some one-time purchases need to be made to allow for the educational programming being delivered to be the most effective and impactful. **The needs fall into two categories: IT upgrades, PC tablet, and equipment purchases. All expenditures are primarily one-time expenditures and could be appropriate to be funded either out of the Maintenance of Effort funding required for higher education or American Rescue Plan (ARP) SPARK funding.** The portion of the budget shown as KDOC sustainability will be sustained out of the existing resources appropriated to KDOC within their budget.

The wifi equipment is necessary to make the tablets and equipment work and allow for homework in the cells. The tablets, will supplement classroom work, allow for the sharing of instructors across sites (ex. English comp), allow for classes in evening hours for those working, and allowed for continued education during periods of lockdown for whatever reason. The simulators will allow 10-15% more students to be enrolled and will also increase the students skill level to allow them to be ready to walk into a job and be productive upon release.

Pathways for Success

Mission: Partnering to Promote Safety and Responsibility through Best Practices

Vision: Transforming Lives for the Safety of All



Norton Correctional Facility

Colby CC
C-Tech Certified Training
Sustainable/Renewable
Energy Certificate
Welding Cert A
AAS Sustainable/Renewable
Energy

Hutchinson Correctional Facility

Hutchinson CC
Technical Studies Certificate
Plumbing
Electrical
Carpentry
NCCER Core
AAS Technical Studies

Ellsworth Correctional Facility

Barton CC
Welding Cert A
Business Management &
Leadership Certificate
AAS BM&L
AAS General Studies

Larned Correctional Facility

Barton CC
Welding Cert A
Business Management &
Leadership Certificate
AAS BM&L
AAS General Studies

Topeka Correctional Facility

Washburn
Associates of Arts in
Liberal Studies

El Dorado Correctional Facility

Butler CC
Masonry
Construction Technology

Winfield Correctional Facility

Cowley CC
Electromechanical Maintenance
Carpentry
NCCER Core
AO-K Manufacturing

Lansing Correctional Facility

Kansas City Kansas CC
Welding Cert A

Lansing Correctional Facility

University of Saint Mary
Bachelor of Science in Computer
Information Systems
Bachelor of Science in Health
Information Management

Lansing Correctional Facility

Donnelly
Associates of Arts
Associate of Applied
Science Business

Technology/Equipment	Purpose	One-time Cost	KDOC Sustainment
Internet/WiFi Hardware	Establish resident-level access to WiFi to enable full participation in higher education programming. Equipment includes corrections-approved wiring, conduit, cabling, and access points.	\$ 202,312.00	
APDS Tablets (\$411)	Approximately 1000 residents at one time could have a secure, corrections-approved tablet where they would complete a full diagnostic assessment and have individualized programming based on their needs. Programming would range from Adult Basic Education to GED Ready and Test Prep curriculum with quantifiable gains. APDS WiFi Support and Essential Education Curriculum would be annual	\$ 411,000.00	
APDS WiFi Support (\$449)		\$ 449,000.00	\$ 449,000.00
APDS Essential Education (\$87.76)		\$ 87,760.00	\$ 87,760.00
APDS Charging Carts \$3400 (capacity 36 tablets per cart, 30 carts total)		\$ 102,000.00	
Neatboards with mobile stands (\$8593 each)	Neatboards are corrections-approved electronic whiteboards allowing for programming to occur asynchronously and across multiple locations. At total of 5 Neatboards will be placed at each of 8 adult facilities.	\$ 343,720.00	
SecureBooks \$499 each	Securebooks are PC-based laptops designed specifically for the corrections environment. Any student enrolled in CTE/PSE programming would have access to a	\$ 499,000.00	
Secure Dock \$149 each		\$ 149,000.00	
VS600M \$115,000 each (CDL Simulator)	A lower-cost alternative to standard CDL programming, these could be utilized as a stand-alone certification or in tandem with Pell-eligible college programming leading to an Associate's degree. Each of the 8 adult facilities would implement programming of this nature.*	\$ 920,000.00	
Lincoln Electric - Virtual Welders \$43,770 each	This advanced technology enables students to not only learn the current welding techniques in demand by multiple employers, but also allows for more finite and exact welding instruction. The units will help conserve space within each facility, as well as increasing security. Certifications include A, B, and American Welding Society (AWS), and partnership with a Pell-eligible college will also lead to college credits and/or degrees. A total of 10 units will be placed at each adult facility.**	\$ 3,501,600.00	
Total		\$ 6,665,392.00	\$ 536,760.00

***Occupational Outlook - Commercial Driver's License**

The occupation most associated with CDL recipients is a Heavy Tractor-Truck Driver. For the State of Kansas, the projected change in employment for 2028 is an increase of 2.3%. In addition, both Region 1 (LAI and LAII) and Region 2 (LAI, LAIV, LAV) have identified Heavy Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers in their Top 25 High Demand Occupations for 2020. They also both identify Heavy Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers in the Top 25 Long-Term Occupational Projections by Annual Numeric Change and Annual Exits and Transfers.

****Occupational Outlook - Welding**

Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers, are not identified as high demand by KSDOL, but this occupation does show a 4.4% projected change in employment for 2028. However, in reviewing the industries with the highest location quotients for the region, Region 2 (LAI, LAIV, LAV) identified several industries in their top 10 that utilize welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers. There are three industries Region 2 with greater share of the local area employment; Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing, Machinery Manufacturing, and Transportation Equipment