

WHY FUND A NEW INDUSTRIAL TRAINING CENTER AT THE FORT DODGE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY? (January 2020)

The Iowa Department of Corrections, Prison Industry, and Iowa Community Colleges have been working together to educate, train and prepare those incarcerated in the Iowa Correctional system for many years.

When the Fort Dodge prison was proposed, developed and built, a key component was to include opportunities for companies to open satellite operations in the Prison Industry Building.

The Fort Dodge Correctional Facility (FDCF) is a medium security prison originally designed to house 762 adult male offenders in a double occupancy celled environment. Construction began in October 1996 and the facility opened April 1998. The facility is located on 60 acres of land in southern Fort Dodge. Recognizing the on-going need for public safety even before the first offenders arrived at the facility the legislature and Governor approved an expansion for an additional 400 beds and program space. Work on this addition was completed in late 1999. In FY01, 127 two-man cells were converted to house three offenders. Current rated capacity is 1392.

FDCF supports offender responsibility and progress through participation in targeted evidence-based treatment opportunities. Cognitive Based programs address issues of criminal thinking, domestic abuse, and substance abuse; offering offenders opportunities to increase their skills related to interpersonal relationships, self-care, decision making, and employment preparation.

FDCF provides educational opportunities through its partnership with Iowa Central Community College. Daily classes include HISET (high school equivalency diploma), Literacy, ELS (English as a second language), Special Education, and Life Skills. Vocational classes vary from year to year depending on funding availability and have included welding, culinary, baking, building trades, and supply chain management.

FDCF offers Apprentice Programs in the following disciplines: Cook, Electrician, Painter, Plumbing, Welding, Computer Operator, Landscaping, Sewing Machine Repair, Carpenter, and Housekeeping. Additionally, offenders are able to complete the National Career Readiness Certificate that assesses areas deemed critical for successful employment.

Iowa Prison Industries currently provides onsite vocational training with their textiles program.

NEXT STEPS.

Now that the prison has been opened since 1998, much has changed related corrections education and the role Iowa Central Community College plays in educating and training prisoners.

Iowa Central is one of 67 colleges in the United States awarded the Second Chance Pell Grant waiver in 2016. What the waiver allows Iowa Central to do, is award the Federal Pell Grant to incarcerated individuals. We actively recruit inmates to enroll in various programs of study for jobs in high demand. One of the goals of Future Ready Iowa.

Since that time Iowa Central and the Iowa Department of Corrections have enrolled 463, with 161 completing so far and an average GPA of 3.4. The college has leveraged \$1.6 million in Second Chance Federal Pell grants to help underwrite the cost of delivering the training.

Programs such as:

- 1) Welding: 119 completions
- 2) Supply Chain Management: 89 completions
- 3) Culinary Baking: 53 completions
- 4) Carpentry: 66 completions
- 5) Business: 16 completions
- 6) Accounting: 5 completions
- 7) Associate of Arts: 2 completions (just started in 2018).

In addition to the above classes that are offered for college credit we also have the ability to offer over 320 non-credit certificate classes per year. The classes offered are OSHA 30, Forklifting, CPR/First Aid, ServSafe, and Welding. These funds vary from year to year but have remained somewhat consistent the past 10 years. The DOC is working with Iowa Central to ensure, to the best of their ability, that funds will remain close to the previous years.

Currently enrolled into classes: 22 welding, 15 Supply chain management, 8 Carpentry, 15 Associate of Arts. AA numbers are low due to a technical issue at the facilities currently. Only allowed to use past students for Spring 2020. Iowa Central will get to recruit for new students in March here shortly, therefore those numbers are to rise.

Have been offered, but much more could be accomplished if there was additional training space.

Each prison student can access up to \$3097 in Second Chance Pell grants per semester. If we could add enough capacity, we could train approximately 100 welders per semester, and have potential to triple our enrollment capacity in the carpentry program, approximately 50 , while adding an Industrial Machinist (CNC Tool and Die) program to the Fort Dodge location, while utilizing the Second Chance Pell financial aid grant to pay the college tuition.

The return on investment to the state and taxpayer would be overwhelming, short and long term. We are leveraging federal student Pell Grants to pay for the actual education of the student (Faculty, equipment, books, etc....). What we are asking the state to do is appropriate \$4.9 million dollars to construct an Industrial Training center on the FDCC campus. (See attached schematic/layout).

Simultaneously we are expanding our online degree program at 6 Iowa Correctional facilities, with the hope to enroll 200 over the next 6-12 months. Again, at little or no cost to the state of Iowa.

This partnership with Iowa Central Community College, Department of Corrections, and the Federal Government Pell Grant program, is a model for the United States to emulate. We have very openminded and willing Leaders in Governor Kim Reynolds; Director Beth Skinner and Warden Bob Johnson (Fort Dodge and Rockwell City); along with Iowa Central President Dr. Dan Kinney, Dean Neale Adams, Adult Education & Literacy Director/Corrections Education Liaison Abby Underberg and Distance Learning Dean TJ Martin.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT JIM KERSTEN, VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AT IOWA CENTRAL. 515-570-0203 (CELL)