

Memorandum

To: Workforce Development Council
CC: Director Brent Reinke, Idaho Department of Correction
From: Gail Cushman, Director of Education, IDOC
Date: 11/10/08
Re: IDOC Education/Employment Update 2008



Overview:

The IDOC has successfully developed a variety of projects during the past year. The national and local economies have affected both the training and hiring of offenders, but we are continuing to train within the prisons and have added programs for limited-skilled offenders who are on parole or probation. Many state agencies and school districts have donated over 200 computers, printers, servers, and software to the offenders at Robert Janss School this year, which has enabled better student access to technology.

Welding Project:

The Idaho Department of Correction began teaching welding courses, in collaboration with Lewis Clark State College four years ago. We have taught 112 individuals, and issued achieved 105 welding certificates (FY2005—2007).

We continue to teach welding courses in Orofino at LCSC and added instruction in welding at Idaho State University for Pocatello parolees. Ten female students from East Boise Community Work Center are enrolled in a BSU welding course and will finish in December. We have developed a partnership with Eastern Idaho Technical College and will offer welding to parolees in Idaho Falls and at Saint Anthony Work Camp in the Spring.



Carpentry Project:

The Idaho Department of Correction has been teaching carpentry for several years, but in FY 2005, we partnered with Habitat for Humanity to offer a hands-on opportunity for offenders to "give back" to the community. In those 3 years, we have taught 378 students, and issued 183 certificates and participated in building nine houses. Offenders built parts of the house shown in this photo. It is a "green" house and has been nominated for the prestigious, environmentally-friendly LEED award.

Office Management Project:

Idaho State University and the Idaho Department of Correction collaborated to provide an Office Management curriculum at the Pocatello Women's Correctional Center, which began in November 2007. This three-part curriculum provides three certificates, a Workforce Readiness Certificate (from IDOC), an Office Management Certificate from ISU, and industry certificates for various office technological skills. We have added Web Design to the curricula to make the offender-students more employable as they leave incarceration.

Drafting Project:

In collaboration with Correctional Industries and Boise State University, we added drafting training at Idaho State Correctional Institution, a medium security prison. Twelve offender students completed this program in FY 08 with twelve more enrolled in FY 09.

GED's:

Robert Janss School facilitated 599 high school completions, in FY 2008 and issued 135 vocational certificates. In addition, for those who were functionally illiterate when they arrived, we issued 134 literacy certificates, measured by a 3-grade improvement in reading skills. We held nearly 30 graduations throughout the year to honor the educational achievements of these students. Some of these students were in higher custody level institutions, including Maximum Security.



Offender Workforce Development Training

The Idaho Department of Correction and the Ada County Sheriff's Office recently received a training opportunity from the National Institute for Correction to provide a collaborative effort at developing training opportunities and jobs for offenders in Southwest Idaho. The training will include eight agencies.