

714 S.W. Jackson St.
Suite 300
Topeka, KS 66603



Phone: (785) 296-3317
Fax: (785) 296-0014
kdocpub@ks.gov
www.doc.ks.gov

Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members
From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary
Date: June 23, 2021
Re: Coronavirus and KDOC updates

I know we are all looking forward to resuming normal operations. We continue to monitor our COVID-19 positive cases and vaccination rates and remain in close contact with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) for guidance. For now, we will stay the course and continue with our current health and safety protocols.

Yesterday we marked an important milestone at the Lansing Correctional Facility with the ribbon cutting and dedication of the LCF Career Campus Minimum Unit new classroom. We were honored by the attendance of Governor Laura Kelly and Lt. Governor/Secretary of Commerce David Tolland along with many others who are committed to expanding opportunities for our residents to gain education and training. Another part of the celebration was the ceremonial signing of new legislation that allows for the creation of a non-profit organization to raise funds to build and equip a 4,500 square foot career campus building on the grounds of the maximum-medium security section of LCF. This project now enters the fundraising stage and we will keep you updated its progress.

One cornerstone of successful reentry for those leaving incarceration and returning to the community is a steady job that pays a livable wage. Most good jobs require some kind of training, and employers need individuals who have the skills to become successful, dependable employees. KDOC continues to expand opportunities for residents to gain work experience while earning a wage. Currently, 42 private industry and 16 correctional industry employers employ nearly 1,100 KDOC residents.

These partnership benefits everyone. Assessments of our population over the years reveals that holding an industry jobs six months or longer while incarcerated increases a resident's opportunity to find employment after release by 25%. And those who gain a livable wage job upon release are one-third less likely to return to prison. And when that returning citizen has that good job, Kansans living in communities in all regions of the state are safer.

Education and training have always been an important part of our mission, and we can now build on that strong foundation with renewed energy thanks to the support from Governor Kelly, Lt. Governor Tolland and our Kansas legislature along with private and public innovators who have joined us in our vision of *Transforming Lives for the Safety of All*.