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Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members

From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Date: June 30, 2021

Re: Coronavirus and KDOC updates

I had the opportunity this past Friday to attend a graduation ceremony recognizing the accomplishments of 19 students at Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (KJCC) who earned their high school diplomas. As you might imagine, grins and tears were plentiful at this event.

The high school on the grounds of KJCC, Lawrence Gardner High School (LGHS), is a fully accredited school and offers a challenging and diverse curriculum for students. In addition to their diploma, each graduate was awarded a \$250 or \$500 merit scholarship through an application process to continue their education, and one graduate was also awarded a \$2,000 Marge Page Merit Scholarship. I applaud both the students and the education staff at KJCC for this outstanding achievement. Great work!

We have recently expanded to 42 the number of companies that provide opportunities for jobs for our residents. The newest company is Russell Stover Chocolates. I mentioned this in last week's message, but wanted to draw your attention to a story that ran recently in the Iola Register. You can read it here: <https://www.iolaregister.com/news/prison-program-expands>. These jobs are valued by our residents beyond the work skills, job experience and confidence they gain to help them be successful upon release.

In the news recently are reports of the Delta variant of COVID. According to Kansas health officials, this variant can spread quickly, especially among the unvaccinated. Even if vaccinated, this variant can cause serious illness. Let's all keep this in mind as we go about our daily lives, especially for those of you who may be gathering for Fourth of July celebrations with family, friends and in the community. Our COVID positive numbers are at or near zero in all of our facilities. This trend can continue if each of us will continue to do our part to control the virus.