

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 9, 2021

Re: Coronavirus and KDOC updates

The most current COVID-19 emergency declaration is set to expire June 15th. This is another significant step in our resumption of normal operations and life. While it is exciting to take this next step signally coming out of the pandemic, as a reminder, we will continue to follow both the CDC's and KDHE's guidance on wearing masks in our correctional facilities. That practice remains in place until further notice. COVID-19 positive cases can still be found across Kansas, though they continue to decrease and KDOC numbers are at zero in most facilities. All very positive news.

Barton County Community College is featuring recent graduates of their BASICS (Building Academic Skills in Correctional Settings) on their website. The first in a series of stories highlights the accomplishments of a resident who finished both a welding certificate and a high school equivalency degree through the state's Pathway to Career High School Equivalency Program. In all, four residents have completed the program using Barton's programs. As we continue down our own "pathway" with our strategic plan, we are committed to expanding opportunities for more residents. There is compelling research behind the impact of earning education credentials while incarcerated and the increase in the potential for success once released. In fact, those who complete a GED, at least one CTE and/or a least one college course while incarcerated increase the likelihood of achieving a livable wage, a cornerstone of success for our residents who return to their communities.

To that end, we have reached an important milestone at Lansing Correctional Facility. On Tuesday, June 22nd, we will be dedicating the new 776 sq. ft. modular classroom/small group space located next to the minimum-security unit. The event will also include ceremonial signing of HB 2401. This legislation was passed during the recent legislative session and authorizes the formation of a 501(c)(3) for fundraising and construction of the full Lansing Career Campus.

The full Lansing Career Campus project will build and equip a 4,500 square foot modern building on the grounds of the facility's maximum/medium security unit. A coalition of forward-thinking public, non-profit and private innovators from the Kansas City metro area began officially working together January 16, 2020 to accomplish this vision. The coalition includes multiple businesses, chambers of commerce, colleges, non-profits, members of the faith community and other partners who have created a plan and are currently in the fund-raising stage.

The June 22nd event is a celebration of a unique public/private partnership and this project to create a talent pipeline through which KDOC residents will gain industry relevant job skills and employers in Kansas will gain qualified individuals to hire and grow the Kansas economy. Working with our college and career education partners, KDOC will be able to expand career-relevant training opportunities. The new education spaces will advance the concepts of how to use the best techniques, equipment and training to prepare incarcerated individuals for the workforce and success after release.