

ROGER WERHOLTZ | 2010 Budget recommendations released

Department's Targeted Cuts to Help Close Budget Shortfall

In her annual State of the State Address, Governor Kathleen Sebelius praised the Kansas Department of Corrections for strengthening public safety while maintaining a commitment to fiscal responsibility.



"Six years ago we developed shared solutions when our prisons were crowded, beds were full and staffing was short," Governor Sebelius stated in her address. "We were faced with spending millions of dollars on new prisons to house the expanding population. Instead, we developed bipartisan legislation that resulted in treatment programs for nonviolent drug offenders and innovative and collaborative release efforts for inmates

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE returning to their communities. So today we have fewer inmates, less crime, lower recidivism rates, and more funds for other state needs. And the Kansas model is being replicated around the country."

Department of Corrections staff have worked hard, in often very difficult circumstances, to ensure that the investment of taxpayers' dollars has resulted in building a safer Kansas. Currently, we are in the midst of grap-

pling with budgetary challenges that have and will continue to have an effect on every aspect of Departmental operations. In February, Governor Sebelius released her revised recommendation for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 budget based upon receipt of federal stimulus funding.

The proposal would provide funding for the Department of Corrections for FY 2010 at the level contained in the Governor's original FY 2010 Budget Recommendation that was presented to the Legislature at the beginning of this session.

The revised recommendations include reductions totaling \$14.8 million. However, this includes a number of reductions that have already taken place or are planned to take place, including:

- Suspending operations of the minimum security units at Osawatomie, Toronto and Stockton;
- Taking "B" Housing Unit at Winfield Correctional Facility off-line;
- Terminating the contract for the operation of the Labette Women's Correctional Conservation Camp (LWCCC)

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Re-entry Program Earns Gold Star

The Kansas Mentors Office has named the Kansas Department of Corrections Re-entry Mentors Program a Gold Star member program.

The Re-entry Mentors Program is the only state agency program selected by Kansas Mentors to be named a Gold Star member.

Created in August 2008, the purpose of Kansas Gold Star Mentors is to promote mentoring opportunities and to recruit more Kansans to be a part of mentoring efforts. The program recognizes mentoring partners from across Kansas who have committed to maintaining a basic set of standards that ensure a

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MESSAGE: Making Targeted Cuts

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- and the Labette Correctional Conservation Camp at Oswego;
 - Terminating the contract for the operation of Day Reporting Centers (DRCs) in Topeka and Wichita; and,
 - Terminating the contracts for the Norton Correctional Facility Sex Offender Treatment Program, Substance Abuse Therapeutic Communities at the facilities at Lansing, Hutchinson, Ellsworth and Topeka, facility-based education programs, the Salvation Army Shield of Service House (SOS) in Kansas City, and the Community Residential Beds in Topeka and Wichita.
- Approval of the Governor's pro-

posal would avoid the need to make additional budget reductions and allow the Department to continue funding a number of programs and services in FY 2010 that have been brought up in discussions for potential reduction or elimination under different funding scenarios. Specifically these include the suspension of operations of the facilities at Winfield and Norton, significant reductions in parole services and community corrections, elimination of Special Enforcement Officers and virtual elimination of the remainder of offender programs.

The budgeting process for FY 2010 is not complete. A significant amount of discussion and consideration will be necessary before a final budget is approved. Depending on how quickly the economy begins to recover, it is

likely that additional reductions may be necessary in subsequent years.

While I do not perceive the use of federal stimulus funding as proposed by the Governor to be the solution to all of our budget challenges, I do believe it represents a ray of hope to help us focus on our responsibilities for maintaining public safety for all Kansans as we continue to make our way through these difficult times.

The efforts by the dedicated and professional staff of the Department of Corrections continue to bring down the number of offenders who violate conditions of their supervision, abscond or commit new crimes. And despite the uncertainty raised by the budget outlook, I am confident in our commitment to make Kansas a safer and better place to live for all citizens.

GOLD STAR: Reentry Mentors Program

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quality mentoring experience.

The Gold Star programs had previously targeted only youth programs through schools, community or faith-based organizations. The Re-entry Mentors Program, which learned of its Gold Star status in November, helps to build better citizens while building safer communities, said Casey Woodward, Statewide Risk Reduction and Re-entry (R3) Volunteer Developer and Trainer. Woodward helped develop the training, standards and performance reviews for the program.

"Offenders who have positive pro-

social people actively involved in their lives and invested in their success have a much greater likelihood of accomplishing their goals," Woodward said.

The program recruits mentors from community resources or helps support those naturally occurring mentoring relationships that develop with inmates involved in reentry programs.

Offenders join the mentoring pro-

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE KANSAS MENTORS PROGRAM, VISIT WWW.KSMENTORS.KS.GOV

gram six months prior to release and continue six months after release.

"We only target those offenders who are high-risk offenders and lacking in strong positive personal support

outside of prison," Woodward said.

Governor Kathleen Sebelius signed an Executive Order in August that allows state employees up to 90 minutes of work time to mentor within an approved Gold Star program.

Department of Corrections staff members are not eligible to be mentors through the Re-entry Mentors Program due to Department policy.

However, other state agency personnel can mentor offenders through the Department's program.

"It opens a lot of doors for us to change the perspective of corrections and enable folks in our communities to get involved," Woodward said.

Female Inmates Receive \$20,000 Grant for New Running Track

Jenny Jones Foundation makes award to TCF

Making healthier choices got a little easier at Topeka Correctional Facility (TCF) with the installation of a new running track in December.

Talk show host Jenny Jones awarded TCF volunteer Suzanne MacDonald's "Running Free" program with a \$20,000 grant in October to replace TCF's crumbling track. After speaking with MacDonald during the award announcement, Jones was so moved by the project and its participants that she personally donated \$5,000 for new running shoes and socks for the inmates. Already the track's popularity has risen with TCF's female inmates who are planning a benefit run.

MacDonald approached the former talk show host's charitable foundation, The Jenny Jones Foundation, to fund the much-needed track replacement after beginning the "Running Free" program at TCF in 2007 with another volunteer, Carol Hill.

MacDonald, the director of social services for Heart of America Hospice in Topeka, began her volunteer work with TCF three years ago by leading a book group. She then began



Suzanne MacDonald, far left, with "Running Free" program organizers and Topeka Correctional Facility inmates who received a \$20,000 grant from the Jenny Jones Foundation for a new running track.

assisting a pregnancy support group that evolved into MacDonald asking speakers to talk to the inmates about fitness, nutrition and healthy living.

The focus on making healthy choices led MacDonald and Hill, who were named TCF's "Volunteers of the Year" in 2008, to start the running program that meets every Saturday and Sunday morning.

Running with donated shoes, the fitness group has held several five kilometer races for inmates to raise funds for area charities such as

the "Race Against Breast Cancer" and most recently the Battered Women's Task Force and the Helping Hands Humane Society, which had 100 participants.

To date, the inmate runners have raised more than \$4,000 through inmate entry fees. The group's next race, the 5K K9, will be held April 11 to benefit KSDS, Inc., a Washington, Kan.-based nonprofit that trains service dogs for people with disabilities. Part of the training is done by inmates at TCF. The running club's goal is to raise \$10,000, the cost of training one dog.

Kansas and Missouri Work Together for OWDS Training

Plans are underway to hold a second Kansas and Missouri Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) joint training session following the success of the first bi-state endeavor in July 2008.

The Missouri and Kansas department of corrections are the first in the nation to form a partnership to provide OWDS training to practitioners. The two groups hope, by working together with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC), the training sessions will

help uncover new ways to coordinate resources and break down geographical barriers, particularly for those offenders who live in Kansas City.

Jim Chastain, program manager for Offender Workforce Development for the Kansas Department of Corrections, and his counterpart in Missouri, Susie Edwards, are currently organizing another joint OWDS session for the Kansas City metropolitan area. The session to be held later this year has tentatively received a funding commitment from

the Kansas City Crime Commission.

Chastain and Edwards also will present a pre-conference session on creating bi-state partnerships to enhance the delivery of training and services for the Defendant Offender Workforce Development Conference scheduled in Pittsburgh, Pa., April 5-9.

Since 2004, the Kansas Department of Corrections has offered the training programs designed by the NIC for those whose jobs involve workforce development and job preparedness.

El Dorado Receives Thanks for Community Work

Chamber of Commerce Presents Volunteer Award to Facility



Inmates from El Dorado Correctional Facility put the finishing touches on the sign that the inmates constructed for the 2009 "Strong Kids Campaign" for YMCA's El Dorado branch.

The El Dorado Chamber of Commerce recognized El Dorado Correction Facility inmates in January for donating more than 147,000 man hours in Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 to help local projects.

Warden Ray Roberts accepted the Volunteer Community Project Award that was presented at the chamber's annual banquet.

In FY 2008, inmates donated a total of 147,591 hours valued at \$863,407 to community projects and non-profit organizations. This included donating 80,432 hours to state parks and the Kansas Department of Transportation, 9,000 hours to the City of El Dorado and 1,974 hours to the Butler County landfill. Inmates also have assisted in local projects such as constructing a sign for the 2009 "Strong Kids Campaign" for the YMCA's El Dorado branch and constructing bleachers, funded by Frontier Refinery, for events such as football games for the local high school and Butler County Community College.

Kansas Correctional Association Presents Annual Awards

KCA honors Carolyn Bunch with Dr. Karl Menninger Award

The Kansas Correctional Association (KCA) honored Carolyn Bunch with the Kansas Department of Corrections 2008 Dr. Karl Menninger Award for her work as the executive director of Kansas School for Effective Learning (KANSEL).

Bunch, who was honored during KCA's annual awards ceremony in October, received the award for assisting with offender re-entry efforts by providing educational services. KANSEL has provided GED preparation, basic skills training and other types of tutoring.

Lansing Correctional Facility's Fire and Safety Officer, Lt. Sharon Blankenship, was named KCA's 2008 Institutional Employee of the Year. The group highlighted Blankenship's commitment to recycling at the correctional facility which recycles 2.5 tons of paper from the facility's Central Unit each month.

The KCA, formed in 1973, supports and promotes the acceptance of corrections as a profession by enlisting the support of correctional professionals in all correctional endeavors.

Other 2008 KCA Award Recipients

- **KCA/EMBARQ \$1,000 Scholarship** - Shane Maupin, Senior, Lucas-Luray High School
- **KCA/EMBARQ \$500 Scholarship** - Lori Travnicek, Corrections Officer I, El Dorado Correctional Facility
- **KCA Woman of Distinction in Criminal Justice Award** - Colette Winkelbauer, Deputy Warden, Lansing Correctional Facility (LCF)
- **KCA Citizen Recognition Award** - Samuel F. Jones, Volunteer, (LCF)
- **Paul S. Weber Award** - Patricia Jackson, Adult Intensive Supervision Administrator, Wyandotte County Community Corrections
- **KCA Presidential Award** - Robert Sanders, member, Kansas Parole Board
- **Benjamin Day Award** - Terry Hund, Volunteer Resource Coordinator, Northern Parole Reentry Region
- **KCA Award for Valor** - Jeremy Welch, Corrections Officer I, (LCF), and Lionel Barley, storekeeper, (LCF).

Salina Parole Has Successful Season Despite 1-12 Record

Staff and offenders form softball team

The Salina Parole Office closed its softball season with one win and finished last in its league. Yet the struggling team still had reason to celebrate.

The parole office team, made up of 12 offenders and six parole office staff members, played under the Department of Corrections' banner as a way for offenders to participate in a positive social event in the community.

The team earned funding to join the slow-pitch league from the JEHT Foundation of New York because of its innovative effort.

At the end of the seven-week season in the Salina Parks and Recreation Co-Ed Slow Pitch City League, the team closed October with a dozen losses. But the team accomplished what it had set out to do, said Salina



Salina Parole Office staff took to the softball field to give offenders an opportunity to participate in a positive social event in the community.

Parole Supervisor Lisa Eastep.

"It allowed offenders the opportunity to participate in community activities - something they normally do not get to do partially due to financial barriers or just the simple opportunity," Eastep said.

The foundation paid for the team's entry and fees that totaled \$365 and a season-ending celebratory barbeque.

The team was coached by Parole Officer Michelle Real, who also developed the idea of forming the unlikely mix of softball players.

Real said the offenders, who had to be in good standing with parole to play, initially had mixed reactions when asked to participate. By season's end, the group had a dedicated fan base and new perspectives about their community and parole officers.

"On any given game night, you could find offenders' parents, children, friends, and significant others in the stands," Real said.

"Everyone worked together to ensure we played every game. We even had some members of the local police department join in when we were short players. This softball team was truly a community effort."

Florida Department of Corrections Visits Kansas

FDOC learns about Kansas re-entry program

Florida Secretary of Corrections Walter McNeil, Florida correctional staff and State of Florida Rep. Sandra Adams spent two days in December with Kansas Department of Corrections staff to learn more about Kansas' re-entry work.

Part of the Florida contingent toured Lansing Correctional Facility to learn more about its private industry programs while another group toured Topeka Correctional Facility. Both groups also met with staff from the Topeka and Kansas City parole offices.

Florida Secretary of Corrections Walter McNeil, third from left, visited Lansing Correction Facility with other Florida corrections staff in December as part of a trip to learn about the Department's re-entry efforts.



Learning Work Place Essential Skills and Financial Literacy at NCF

By Matthew Woodyard
Norton Correctional Facility

With the movement toward reducing recidivism both in and out of the prison system, the Risk Reduction and Reentry Department (R3) at Norton Correctional Facility (NCF) has welcomed Colby Community College's Nancy Munderloh and Dian Organ to the R3 Volunteer Staff.

Through funding from the Workforce Investment Act and Adult Education State Grants, the pair developed a program that teaches math skills and real-life applications of those skills to offenders. The program

also promotes success by teaching interview etiquette through pro-social behaviors. Utilizing traditional and innovative methods of teaching, the pair first presented the program to a group of high-risk offenders at NCF in the fall of 2008.

This is one way that the Kansas Department of Corrections has begun to target offenders' needs and to take measures to reduce the risk of repeat offenses.

Additionally, the Department is working to provide these services to inmates without relying on taxpayers' dollars by securing grant funding and by appealing to volunteers and interns who are interested in the criminal justice field.

Munderloh and Organ are familiar with the needs of offenders and the importance of accountability. Munderloh, who has spent 13 years as an Adult Education Instructor with Colby Community College, and Organ, who has four years as a Intensive Supervision Officer, provide a dynamic team approach as they co-teach courses.

Their attentiveness to each student, coupled with their expectation of a positive classroom environment, creates a foundation of respect without hindering their ability to make

learning enjoyable.

The utilization of "here-and-now" applications in regard to financial literacy lessons is geared toward those who struggle with impulse control and cognitive distortions. Lessons on identifying the differences between "wants versus needs" help inmates curb their impulsive behaviors while teaching inmates about taking responsibility for their actions.

These concepts pave the way for learning skills such as planning ahead and understanding budgeting tools. The process of reviewing pay stubs, timecards, credit and interest banking concepts bring real-life applications to the math skills the students either learned for the first time or had not applied in the past.

VOLUNTEERS AID IN REDUCING BUDGET EXPENSES AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNS INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

Organ also uses visual presentations to illustrate the importance of appearance during an interview. With a heavily applied crooked lipstick smile, messy hair, mismatched shoes and socks, Organ shows how one's appearance can disrupt the interview process and turn away a prospective employer. She also pairs each inappro-

priate part of her appearance and behavior with the process of filling out and turning in an application.

The teaching duo also solicits the aid of other professionals who conduct mock interviews with the students in order to provide feedback.

Several inmates expressed their gratitude in their class evaluations. Inmates remarked how the teaching duo was able to respond to the learning needs of inmates who have a wide-range of proficiency levels.

In a final testament to how the class was received, the teachers asked the class about whether to require homework. Only three students asked that homework not be added while the rest believed the extra work would be beneficial and asked for mandatory homework assignments.

The program's approach coincides with the R3 Program's vision statement, "Every offender released from prison will have the tools needed to succeed in the community."

By balancing the expectation of compliance with the opportunity to develop the skills needed to hold oneself accountable and utilize the resources presented for successful reintegration to society, the Department can, with dedicated volunteers, reduce the recidivism rates of high risk offenders.

KANSASWORKS' RV Makes Stop at Norton Correctional Facility

By Matthew Woodyard
Norton Correctional Facility

Offenders preparing for release from Norton Correctional Facility (NCF) got a head start on preparing to re-enter the workforce by boarding a 38-foot recreational vehicle, the **KANSASWORKS** Mobile Center.

The NCF ReEntry Program allowed its minimum custody inmates to board the Kansas Department of Commerce's mobile center twice this past fall to preview **KANSASWORKS**' efforts to restructure the way offender employment is conducted.

The visits also gave offenders the opportunity to see how the program aims to meet the employment search needs of Kansans in rural areas and to aid in outreach activities such as natural disasters, mass layoffs and plant closings.

The RV, equipped with 11 computer stations linked to the state's Public Workforce System, can help job seekers with resume building and other job search assistance for no charge and aid employers looking to fill positions.

Inmates were allowed only to view the center but the visit enabled the offenders to learn about how the program can help with their reintegration back into the community in a fashion that makes for a safer Kansas.

KANSASWORKS employment specialist Cindy Villarreal stated that the program's focus is to help reduce recidivism by increasing both the employment and the employability of those she serves.

Villarreal urged the offenders to work with **KANSASWORKS** staff upon release to help staff tailor individual interests and personalities to the

appropriate employment opportunities.

The program tests and rates each offender for employment placement and provides "WORKReady! Certificates" with three classifications. Each classification represents achievement levels that employers can use in placing the employee. The certificates also help those searching for work to identify positions for which they qualify.

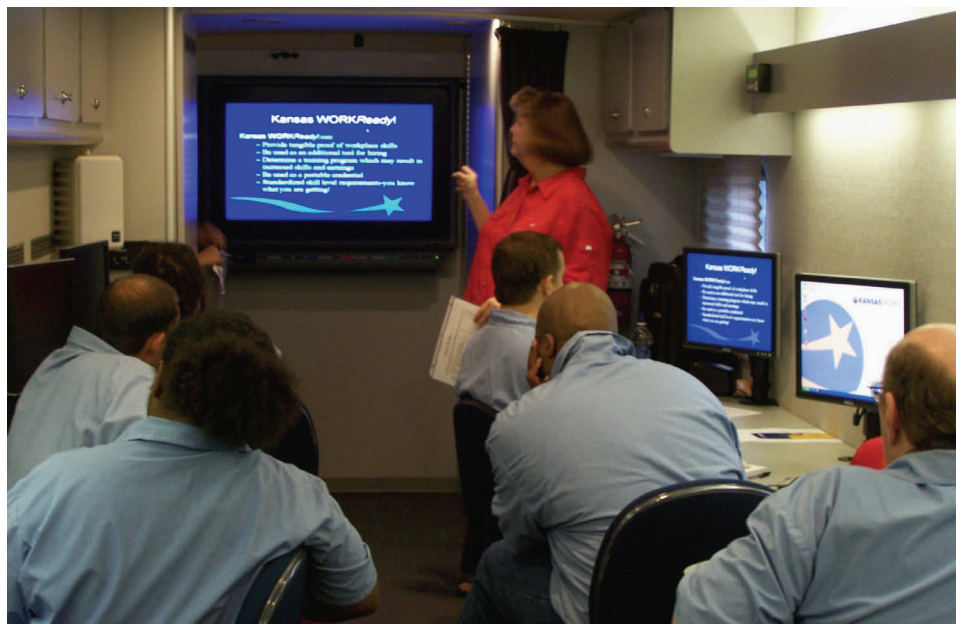
During one presentation, Villarreal demonstrated the various job search engines available with the click of a mouse through the **KANSASWORKS** web site.

One offender remarked how much time he could save by using the mobile center. The offender commented that in the past he spent a lot of time filling out applications, and walking or riding the bus to deliver the applications only to feel like he wasted his time after-

ward. The free service was of further significance as many offenders have limited incomes and would not have a computer at home.

The mobile center also reduces stress by giving offenders a direction to pursue. One offender said that a work ready certificate would give him an edge on the competition and show potential employers his willingness to go above the standard.

To learn more about **KANSASWORKS**, visit kansasworks.com.



KANSASWORKS visited NCF to show inmates how its Mobile Center can help offenders upon release with finding employment opportunities.

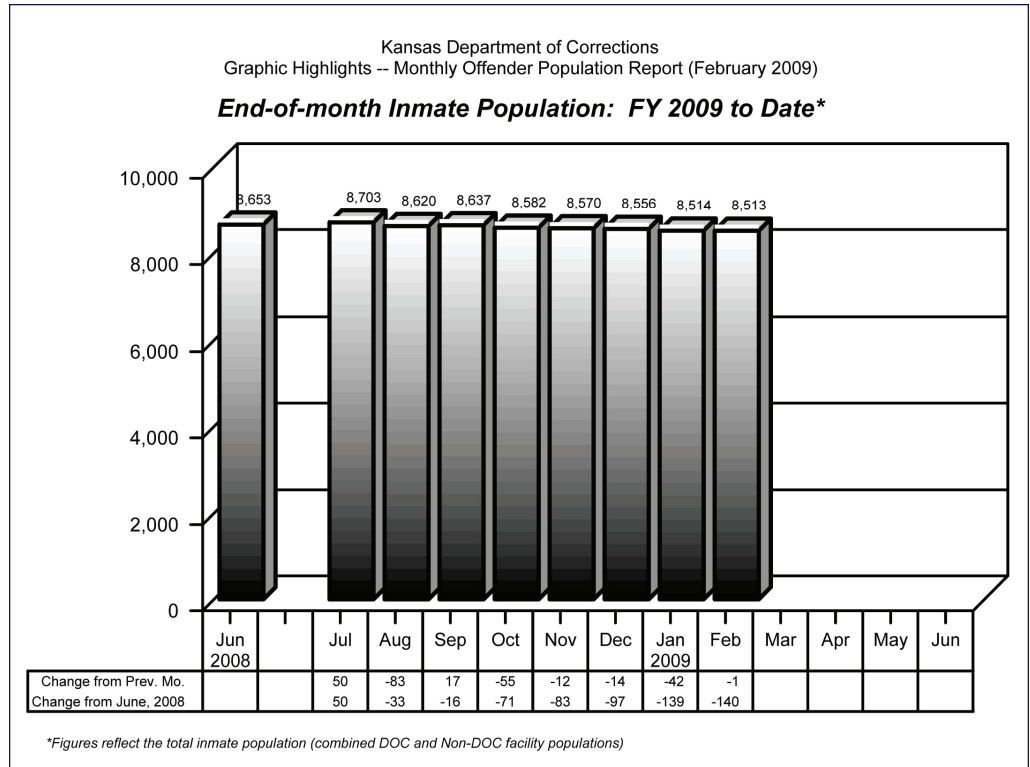
By The Numbers

A Statistical Overview of KDOC Population Numbers

Inmate Population Total

A total of 8,513 inmates were in the custody of the Secretary of Corrections as of February 28, 2009.

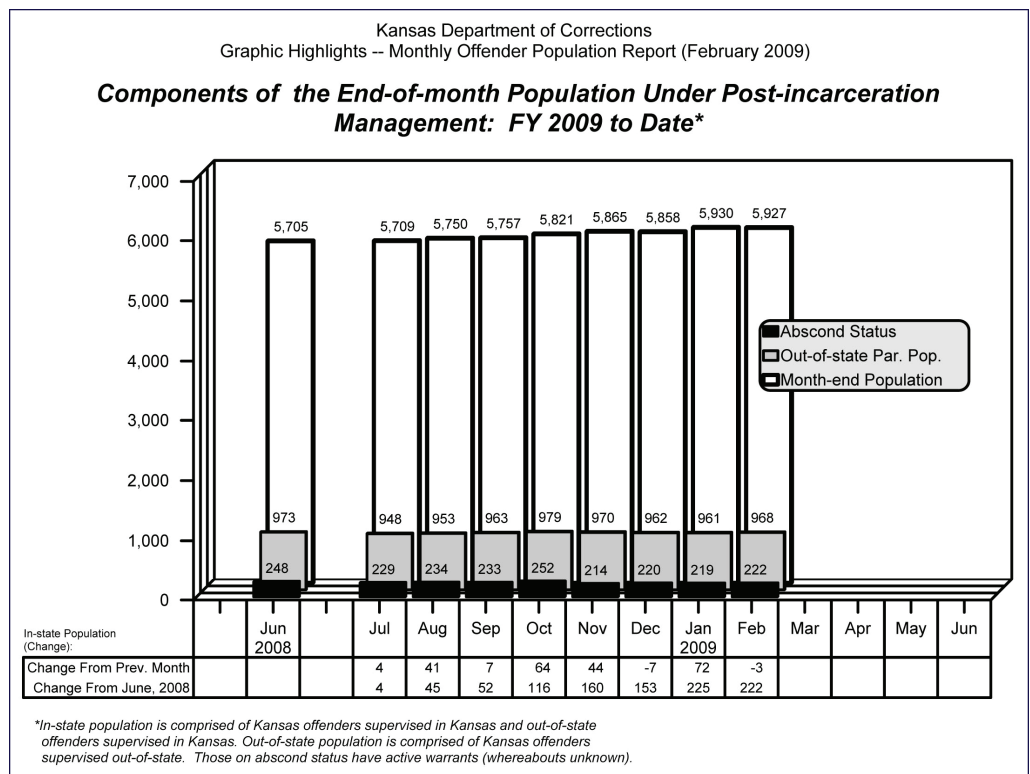
This total reflects the combined inmate population from Kansas Department of Corrections facilities and non-Department of Corrections facilities. Some inmates are housed in other correctional-type environments throughout the state.



Post-incarceration Population Total

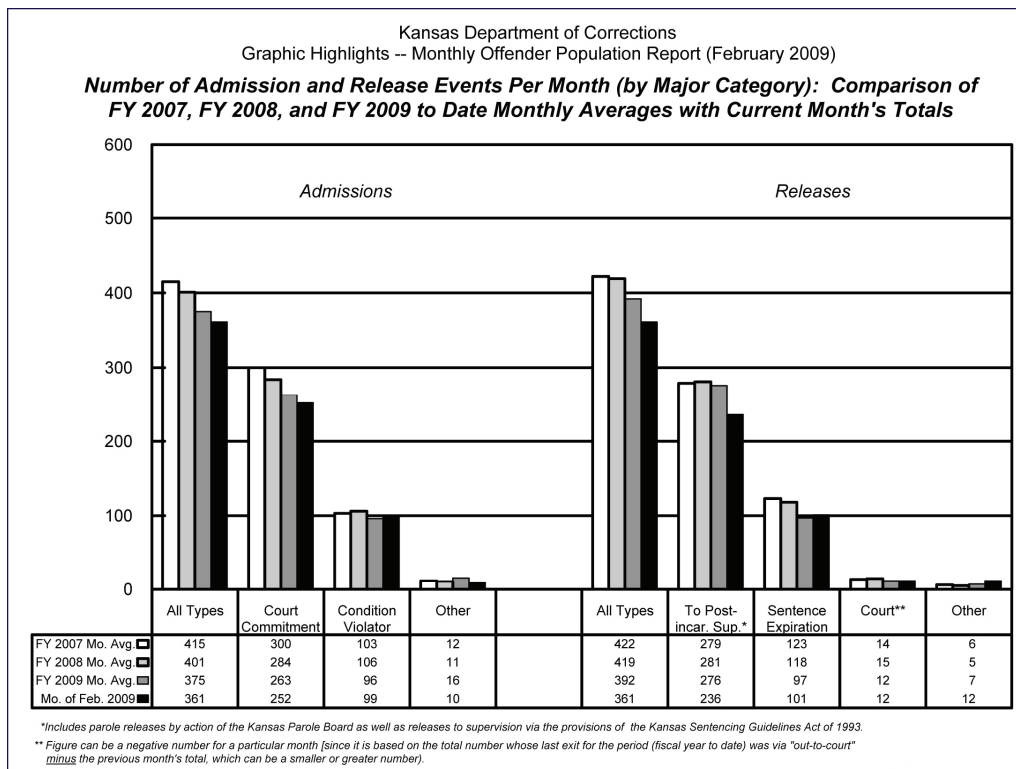
A total of 5,927 inmates were under post-incarceration management in Kansas as of February 28, 2009. The term "under post-incarceration management" encompasses the traditional "parole population" (Kansas offenders on parole/conditional release in Kansas and compact cases supervised in Kansas), as well as offenders released under the provisions of the Kansas Sentencing Guidelines Act who are serving a designated period of supervised release.

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NUMBERS: Statistical Overview

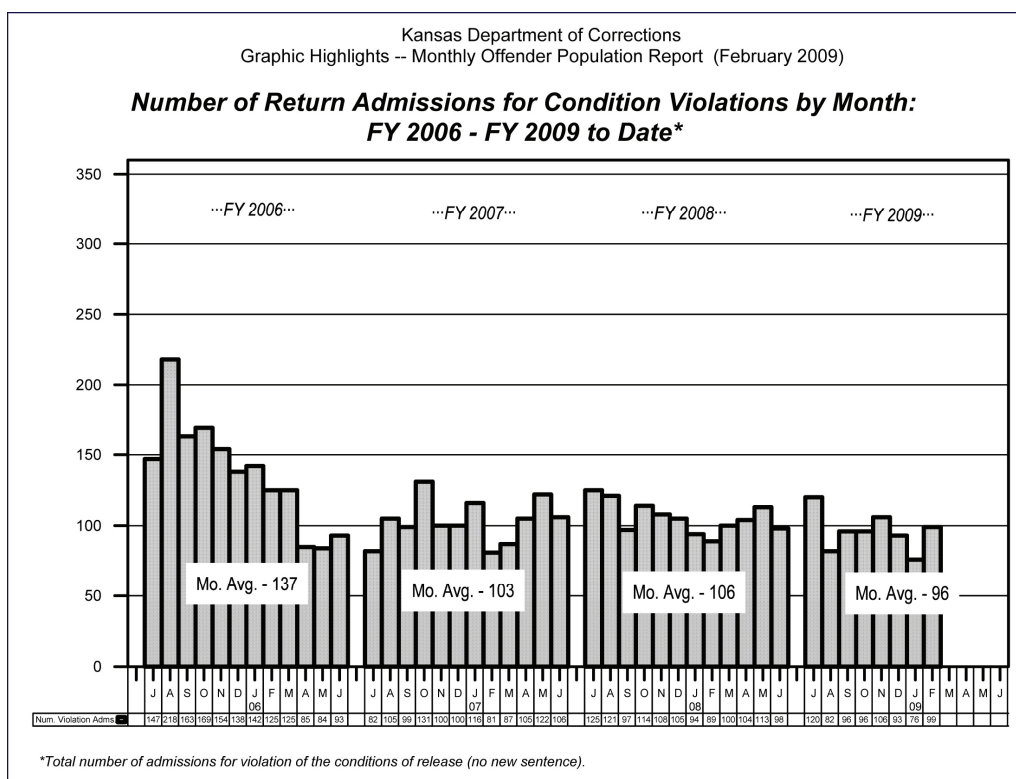
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Admission and Release Events

Admission events for court commitments include new court commitments, probation violators with no new sentence, probation violators with a new sentence and conditional release violators with a new sentence. Admission events for condition violations include returns by KDOC action while "Other" admission events include inter-jurisdictional transfers and returns from escape and court appearances.

Release events for court releases include probation, those returned parolees placed on probation, those released on appeal bond and those released for court appearances. Release in the "Other" category include deaths, inter-jurisdictional transfers and escapes.



Return Admissions for Condition Violations

Admission events for condition violations are returns by KDOC action including parole violators with no new sentence and conditional release violators with no new sentence.

Beyond Bars: Barton Community College Partners with Ellsworth

By: Michael Dawes,
Director of Public Relations
Barton Community College

At first glance, it seems odd, the idea of Barton Community College going behind bars to provide opportunities for education to those who are incarcerated. But research shows that inmates who take college classes while incarcerated are four times more likely to remain out of prison once they are released.* Couple that statistic with the social reality that an educated inmate is more employable upon his release – which helps him and the community he returns to – and that makes providing inmate education at Barton a wise endeavor.

Seven years ago, Barton partnered with nearby Ellsworth Correctional Facility (ECF) to originate BASICS, which stands for Building Academic Skills in Correctional Settings. Through the program, which receives no tax support, student inmates have the opportunity to take a class, or pursue coursework toward completion of a degree. It is a program that realized its first associate's degree graduate last May.

"When offenders have success in education, change is more likely to occur," explained ECF Warden Johnnie Goddard. "At Ellsworth Correctional Facility, our BASICS program through Barton Community College provides this opportunity for change. Education, combined with solid risk management



Barton's Executive Director of Institutional Advancement Darnell Holopirek presented a \$250 Barton Community College Foundation Scholarship to an ECF inmate for Barton's BASICS program.

principals, will provide the tools to offenders to be more successful, thus reducing recidivism in the state and ultimately decreasing the number of victims of crimes."

Partnerships are key to BASICS' success, not only between Barton and ECF, but between faculty and administration, as well as partnerships that exist with the College's Foundation and the communities that support the inmate education program. Inmates are not eligible for financial aid, but if they meet strict requirements, they are eligible for program scholarships. Nearly three years ago, Heartland Riders, a Christian motorcycle group from Hugoton, Kan., donated the program's

first two scholarships and today, participation has increased by several more groups and organizations, so that Barton's Foundation can award almost a dozen \$250 scholarships to inmate students each semester.

Every fall, College and ECF Administrators alike hold a "Learning Celebration" at the facility where 32- and 16-hour-progress certificates are awarded; ECF Post Rock Jaycees provide food and refreshments; and about a dozen scholarship recipients are announced for the coming year by the College's Foundation.

"We receive such sincere and heartfelt thank-you notes from the inmates who are awarded scholarships each year," said Barton's Executive Director of Institutional Advancement Darnell Holopirek.

"There is no doubt that they appreciate the awesome opportunity to better themselves. Small as they are, those scholarships serve a large role to encourage inmate students to live for the future. They start to believe and dream about what they can become because of the education provided to them from Barton."

* The subjects of the 2001 study, conducted by The Graduate Center of The City University of New York, *Changing Minds: The Impact of College in a Maximum-Security Prison*, were female inmates. However, similar studies conducted with male inmates also show recidivism rate reductions for those successfully completing educational programs in prisons including associate- and baccalaureate-degree programs.