



Changing Lives, Changing Workforce

A dramatic plan to reduce Kansas recidivism starts with a Public-Private Partnership to build a new Career Campus at the Lansing Correctional Facility. It's a model for cooperative development, designed to be replicated across the state.



Main Entry

Public and private sector partnerships of business, chambers of commerce, community organizations, corrections, faith leaders, workforce, state leaders and returned citizens are working together to build a modern Career Campus at Lansing Correctional Facility (LCF).

Current members of the Career Campus Public-Private Partnership

Brothers in Blue Reentry

Donnelly College

Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce

JE Dunn Construction

Kansas Board of Regents

The Kansas Chamber of Commerce

Kansas City Kansas Community College

Kansas Department of Commerce

Kansas Department of Corrections

KC Common Good

KC Crime Commission's Second Chance

Reaching Out From Within

University of St. Mary

Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce

List current as of February 5, 2021

It's so much more than just a building – it's a mile marker on the path to a new life.



Aerial of project



By providing market certification and college courses for in-demand occupations, the Career Campus will train incarcerated students for new, worthwhile careers, while helping employers better meet their critical workforce needs. Research shows increased employment in livable wage jobs can reduce recidivism by half. Thriving, contributing citizens lead to increased public safety and community well-being. Businesses get highly dedicated workers, and access to supports like tax credits, bonding, background checks, drug testing, and case management.

This is a data-driven solution.

- Every \$1 spent on educating an incarcerated citizen saves between \$4 - \$5 in 3-year incarceration costs. (Rand study)
- 75% of those entering prison have weak employment and education histories, which contribute to reoffending.
- 50% of the reincarcerated were unemployed at the time of re-entry
- 99% of the jobs that returned after the 2008 recession require post-secondary education. (Georgetown University study)

Businesses driving our economic recovery need a qualified talent pool that is ready to get to work.

Who is the Career Campus designed for?

All Lansing Correctional Facility residents will be eligible for training and education. Some residents who have long sentences can receive training to take the role of peer tutors. Individual education and employment plans will be developed so that residents enter the program at the right time in relation to their release date and other programming needs.

All businesses are invited to give input to educators about the content of the programming, and to hire graduates upon release.

This model educational resource can start with Lansing Correctional Facility and be applied elsewhere across the state.

Greenhouse & Garden





Indoor Lecture & Event Space

Success looks like this.

During incarceration:

- Improved behavior reflected in fewer rules violations and placements in restrictive housing
- Improved behavior reflected in positive engagement with staff and other residents
- Improved skills that can be used in jobs during incarceration
- Improved environment in the facility reflected in fewer incidents and rules violations among the whole population

After release:

- Increase in livable wage jobs
- Increase in promotions/career advancement
- Increase in higher education degrees
- Increase in community service/engagement
- Quantifiable contribution to needs of Kansas employers in high demand occupations
- Improved mental and physical health

Historically, Kansas Department of Corrections has provided GED readiness and testing, and some certified programs. Moderate and high-risk residents receive soft skills training related to employment in a cognitive skills-based job readiness program. In the past, there have been some CTE programs, including welding. Also, Donnelly College has provided college classes for nearly 20 years, with some residents completing an Associate's degree.

We want to do more.



Main Approach to Building

Momentum is building.



Outdoor Lecture & Event Spaces

Momentum is building.

Through the Second Chance Pell initiative, in April 2020, Donnelly, University of St. Mary's and Kansas City Kansas Community College were among seven Kansas colleges selected to deliver higher education programming at LCF. In January 2021, Donnelly served 32 residents with classes towards an Associates of Applied Science/Business and Associates of Science; and University of St. Mary's has begun offerings for the Bachelor's in Computer Information Systems. The next wave will be classes towards a Bachelor's in Health Information Management, and later in the spring, Kansas City Kansas Community College will begin a Welding Cert A class with 32 residents.

The Career Campus model can result in:

- More programming to be offered, including CTE and other college courses, with even more college partners. (Congress lifted the Pell ban completely in December 2020.)
- Programming is better targeted to workforce needs, through close partnerships with employers
- A strong learning environment, with market relevant training.
- More support services, including tutoring, readiness, and social supports.
- More specialized staff to support career navigation, and employer engagement.
- More residents served.
- Potential for apprenticeship and private industry programs alongside education.



Study Lounge / Library



Lecture Hall / Flex Space

Where does this project stand?

A modular building located next to the minimum unit is opening in February 2021. An existing building is also being refurbished. These two buildings will provide space for programs for the minimum population. Programming is underway in the Max/Med unit, in the education area. The next step is to build this campus, a multi-year project of fundraising and construction.

As fundraising commences, the next key steps include identifying a financial manager and construction manager. As progress continues is, identifying additional education partners, and business support will also be critical.

Our challenges.

- Securing funds to build and staff
- Targeting the most market-relevant programs that can be delivered in a campus at a correctional facility
- Building supports for hiring residents who complete the program

Help wanted!

Consider making an investment in the project, and sharing this information with individuals in your personal and professional networks who may be able to contribute as well. Engage with members of the Public-Private Partnership to share information on what occupations are most in need, and what training will best prepare for those jobs. Finally, hire program graduates and encourage others to do so with you. Watch the video event recording to learn more.

For more information about any aspect of this life-changing and community-changing project, email John Jenks, at jjenks@kcchamber.com.

Thank you to TreanorHL for the spirit sketches used throughout this brochure. While they do not necessarily reflect the final design for the Career Campus, they do reflect the functionality and vision of the Public-Private Partnership that is working to make the Campus a reality.



Dining Space