



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Governor Tony Evers / Secretary Kevin A. Carr

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 14, 2021

DOC Communications, 608-240-5060

DOCMedia@wisconsin.gov

DWD, DOC Open Job Center Inside Prairie du Chien Correctional Institution

PDCI project is 6th Job Center collaboration between the agencies

(Prairie du Chien, Wis.) – The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and Department of Corrections (DOC) have collaborated on another institution-based Job Center. The Job Center at Prairie du Chien Correctional Institution (PDCI) opened with a soft launch on June 15.

“We want the persons in our care to have a head start on finding a job when they’re making the transition back to their community,” said DOC Sec. Kevin Carr. “I’m very proud of the work our Reentry Unit is doing with DWD to extend opportunities at more institutions.”

The number of institution-based job centers has increased dramatically over the past year. PDCI is the third DOC facility to open a Job Center in 2021, for a total of six institution-based centers across DOC. There are plans to have Job Centers up and running at 10 DOC institutions, plus a mobile Job Center, before the end of the year.

The Job Center at the minimum-security facility of PDCI is providing persons in our care with career readiness programming, job search assistance, resume development, services for veterans, and registered apprenticeships. It also offers assistance to people with disabilities.

Those who use the Job Center will create a Job Center of Wisconsin (JCW) account, allowing them to search for jobs, apply, and set up interviews with employers while still incarcerated.

“DWD is dedicated to providing the people of Wisconsin opportunities for employment,” said DWD Secretary-designee Amy Pehachek. “By providing workforce readiness opportunities through these Job Centers, we’re expediting the process of persons in DOC care finding meaningful employment once they return to their communities.”

The first group at PDCI to receive Jobs Center services will be five participants in DOC’s Earned Release Program, who have an anticipated program completion date of July 16th. They are scheduled to access the Job Center on five separate occasions before they complete the program, receiving assistance from PDCI staff and virtual career services provided by DWD staff.

DOC releases roughly 9,000 people from its care into the community each year, and more than 50% of PDCI's population has a year or less to serve with DOC. The increase in institution-based Job Centers, funded by DWD, assists them in getting a head start on their job search, and helps Wisconsin employers find workers to fill vacant positions and grow their businesses.

#####