



# The Insider

*North Dakota Department Of Corrections And Rehabilitation*



## Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Holds Dedication Ceremony & Guided Tour

On Thursday, June 13, 2013, the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCR) held a dedication ceremony unveiling the new expansion of the North Dakota State Penitentiary and giving guided tours to public officials.

Speaking at the dedication ceremony the Director of the DOCR, Leann Bertsch, talked about the physical improvements needed to make the prison a more efficient and safer place for staff members to work. She also thanked the legislative committee members responsible for the bill that awarded the expansion project, the contractors who worked on the project, and staff for all their hard work during the construction.

Lt. Governor Drew Wrigley also spoke at the dedication ceremony about how this expansion was a critical component of North Dakota's infrastructure needs as the state grows and changes.

Warden Robyn Schmalenberger closed

the ceremony by talking about how the new prison will be safer for staff and how we will be able to handle more medical needs in-house.

The new areas consist of:

- Orientation Unit
  - As new arrivals enter the facility they are evaluated, and segregated from the rest of the population.
- East Unit
  - General Housing
- Clinic and Infirmary
  - State of the art medical facility.
- Administration Unit
  - Housing for inmates that require a more secured area.



# North Dakota Department of Corrections Honored for Excellence in Reading

By: Penny Veit-Hetletved, Principal of Schools

In spite of the short window of time, the ND DOCR is helping teens in juvenile detention facilities and adults in North Dakota's prisons improve significantly in reading.

"Since 2005, North Dakota's Department of Corrections has served 900 teens and adults in a remarkable way," notes Dee Tadlock, Ph.D., founder of Read Right Systems and developer of Read Right methodology, chosen for use by the ND DOCR. "They are generating reading improvement that literally changes lives with just a few hours of tutoring."

To assure that it is using its education dollars wisely, the ND DOCR has for eight years used a standardized, norm-referenced reading test to document effectiveness of the reading program, implemented by ND DOCR staff members. They've documented significant progress at all five of the state's facilities:

## Correctional Facility Avg. Grades Gained & Avg. Hours Tutored\*

- Reading Test: Gates-MacGinitie

Reading Tests, Comprehension Sub-Set

### Youth Correctional Center n=628

- **2.6 grades** (from Grade 8.8 to 11.4) & 18/14 hours

### North Dakota State Penitentiary n=64

- **4.8 grades** (from Grade 5.2 to 10) & 24/40.2

### James River Correctional Center n=83

- **4.3 grades** (from Grade 6 to 10.3) & 20.8/26.3

### Dakota Women's CRC n=90

- **3.3 grades** (from Grade 7.2 to 10.5) & 18.4/10.8

### Missouri River Correctional Center n=34

- **1.9 grades** (from Grade 7.4 to 9.3) & 31.4/19.6



**Back row:** Becky Donovan (YCC), Ann Keller (YCC), Laurie Larson (YCC), and Courtney Storhoff (JRCC)  
**Front Row:** Rose Kreitinger (NDSP/MRCC), Alyssa Kramer (DOCR Trainer), Lenore Kuntz (YCC)

**\*Avg. Hours Tutored** includes ALL students tutored throughout the year, as follows: Students completing the program/students not completing due to discharge, transfer, or other reason.

The data shows that, on average, NDDOCR inmates of all ages—teens through adults—are improving in their reading abilities to levels that can support success in college or in vocational training programs. "It is a very exciting outcome for states seeking solutions," added Dr. Tadlock.

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# DOCR Honors Veterans on Memorial Day 2013

By: Tom Erhardt, Program Manager

On May 24, 2013, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation staff gathered to honor the men and women who have served our country in the United States Military, currently serve, and to remember those who have given their lives for the sake of freedom. Let us never forget the sacrifice they and their families have made for all of us to live in freedom; and let us never take those freedoms for granted.

"Today we want to recognize those veterans who now serve the great State of North Dakota as officers and employees of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Please offer them a round of applause. If you know a veteran please consider thanking them for their service to our country" said event speaker Tom Erhardt, veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

A flag was raised and accompanying citation was given to the North Dakota State Penitentiary and the ND Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation by First Lt. Kyle Garey. Kyle is the son of Belinda and Tim Garey. Belinda works in the Central Office. Kyle is a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and was stationed in Afghanistan.

The flag citation reads: "The accompanying flag was flown over NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE TASK UNIT TRIDENT on 19 February 2012. It bears witness to the destruction of terrorist forces and an undying dedication of the American resolve. A Task Unit of warriors directly supporting OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM Qalat, Afghanistan " Signed by SOCS (SEAL) Paul L Baber, Senior Enlisted Advisor, NSW Task Unit Trident and LCDR Christopher G. Hobert, Commander, NSW Task Unit Trident.



# National Crime Victims' Rights Week

By: Heidi Smith, Crime Victim Coordinator

This year April 21 - 27 marked National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW). In conjunction with this week the DOCR collaborated with Minot State University Social Work Program (Bismarck Campus) and CAWS ND to hold a candle light vigil to honor and remember victims of crime. This was the fourth year in a row the DOCR has held this event and has been awarded the Community Awareness grant to help put on community events during NCVRW.

We had powerful and moving speakers tell their story of how they became a victim of crime, how it has impacted them, what services were available and how they have overcome what happened. Joel Friesz from Lutheran Social Services spoke about the Restorative Justice Program and the impact that program has on victims. The DOCR Honor Guard participated in the event by posting the colors, and Victim Service providers in the community had informational booths set up at the event as well. The event closed with a balloon release, to remember loved ones lost by victims of crime.

This year the DOCR was able to promote NCVRW in a couple different ways with the help of the grant. Window decals were created and

1,500 were printed and disbursed statewide to various Law Enforcement and Victim Service Providers. The decals provided a website and phone number a victim can call to get information for services in their area. Morton County Sheriff's Office displayed the decals in their patrol cars as well.

The DOCR partnered with ND SAVIN and ran state-wide Facebook ads to promote NCVRW and victim rights in ND. The ads directed interested users to the ND SAVIN Facebook page, which included daily posts of victims' rights, services and events statewide that were going on the month of April, including Sexual Assault Awareness events.



# The Fargo/Moorhead 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Career Fair

By: Stacy Sanders, Parole Officer III/Re-Entry Specialist

On May 1, 2013, the second annual Fargo/Moorhead 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Career Fair was held at the Fargo Dome in connection with Project Community Connect. The Career Fair was designed to assist people with barriers to employment, whether it is homelessness, a criminal record, someone on government assistance, or someone that has gaps in their employment. Multiple agencies served on the planning committee and participated in running the Career Fair at the Fargo Dome. The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation was a member of the planning committee and one of the sponsors of the event.



In addition to meeting with employers, there were several additional services offered at the Career Fair including a resource area, child care, bus passes, free food, coping services, and free hair cuts. Participants were also encouraged to visit the Clothing Closet for free, gently used dress clothes. The clothing closet was stocked from donations from the community.

176 exit surveys were collected from the job seekers. Exit surveys

showed that participants met with an average of 7 employers. 146 job seekers were satisfied with the number and type of employers in attendance. 160 job seekers indicated they would attend the Career Fair again. From the surveys, it appears that the job seekers under-utilized the job readiness classes that were held in the community prior to the Career Fair (interviewing skills and resume building). 43 participants attended these classes while 130 did not. The Career Fair also provided a resume/application preparation room. It appears that this was also under-utilized with only 55 job seekers utilizing this room for preparing to meet the employers.

Surveys from the fair showed employers were overall happy with the event. Thirteen employers rated the Career Fair as Great, Twelve as Good and One as Fair. 100% of employers stated they would attend the fair next year.

The career fair was not only beneficial to the participants. Many members of the planning committee found it beneficial to participate in the planning of the event. Through cooperation and

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*(2nd Chance... continued from page 5)*

collaboration, local, state, and federal agencies were able to put on a successful event. In the process, members of the planning committee learned about other agencies and formed relationships that may help them in the future. Through media exposure, the community learned about a serious issue affecting those in their community. Lastly, employers learned that to give people a second chance can be good for business and for the community.

### A Message from the Editor

The Insider Newsletter is an official publication of the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and is published four times each year. Its goal is to enhance communication and keep staff, and all those interested, informed of developments and achievements throughout the Department. All employees are encouraged to submit articles, letters, comments, and ideas for future issues of The Insider to be considered in the next publication. The Editor reserves the right to edit or exclude, if deemed inappropriate, any items submitted for publication. Please e-mail articles to:

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**The Career Fair consisted of 25 employers and many community resources. Approximately 362 job seekers attended the fair. Information regarding the job seekers was collected during registration and is as follows:**

<b>Age:</b>		<b>Race:</b>		<b>Unemployed:</b>	254
18-24	48	White	246	<b>How long unemployed:</b>	
25-34	92	Black	29	< 1 week	6
35-44	76	Hispanic	17	1 wk - 1 mo	19
45-54	85	Native	37	1 mo - 3 mo	36
55-64	50	African	11	3 mo+	50
64+	9	Alaskan	1	1 yr. +	75
<hr/>		Am. Indian	5	<b>Employed:</b>	110
<b>Gender:</b>		Pacific Islander	1	Part-time	67
Male	231	<hr/>		Full-time	26
Female	131	<b>Education:</b>		Underemployed	55
<hr/>		Less than H.S.	33	<hr/>	
<b>Armed Forces:</b>		H.S. Diploma	141	<b>Obstacles:</b>	
Yes	55	Some College	93	Disability	93
No	268	Four Year	47	Gov't Assist.	55
<hr/>		Masters	8	Gaps in Employ.	145
<b>ID:</b>				Childcare	15
Resume:	125			Homeless	51
Gen. App.	13			New American	6
ID	315			Criminal Record	174
SS Card	224			Transportation	93
				Other	17

<b>Organizational Characteristics. All DOCR Inmates. One Day Counts on the Last Day Of The Month.</b> These numbers use the Association of State Correctional Administrator (ASCA) Performance Based Measurement Standards (PBMS) and are based on the controlling sentence.	April 2013	March 2013	February 2013	January 2013	December 2012	November 2012	October 2012	September 2012	August 2012	July 2012
<b>General Organization Information</b>										
Prisoners Housed in NDSP, JRCC, MRCC	1,146	1,130	1,117	1,120	1,102	1,098	1,099	1,090	1,086	1,088
Prisoners Outsourced	407	417	435	436	434	420	413	392	391	390
Total Inmates Under DOCR Responsibility	<b>1,553</b>	<b>1,547</b>	<b>1,552</b>	<b>1,556</b>	<b>1,536</b>	<b>1,518</b>	<b>1,512</b>	<b>1,482</b>	<b>1,477</b>	<b>1,478</b>
Average Length of Sentence (Years)	6.76	6.77	6.78	6.75	6.74	6.76	6.77	6.80	6.86	6.84
<b>Prisoners Serving Sentences Of Court (Prison Sentence)</b>										
Inmates Serving Less Than 1 Year	13	11	10	12	13	14	15	15	14	14
Inmates Serving 1 to 3 Years	733	731	737	735	712	696	698	674	669	679
Inmates Serving 3 to 5 Years (3.01 to 5)	286	286	284	294	297	299	291	287	287	282
Inmates Serving 5 to 10 years (5.01 to 10)	227	229	229	228	230	222	226	221	224	220
Inmates Serving 10 to 20 Years (10.01 to 20)	141	138	140	136	134	138	136	139	138	140
Inmates Serving 20 to 40 Years (20.01 to 40)	70	70	70	68	67	66	65	66	65	65
Inmates Serving More than 40 Years (40.01 plus)	17	17	17	19	18	18	18	17	18	18
Inmates Serving Life with Parole	38	38	38	37	38	28	38	38	37	37
Inmates - Life Without Parole	28	27	27	27	27	37	25	25	25	23
Inmates - Death Sentence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Crime Distribution Statistics (Use Controlling Sentence)</b>										
Part 1 Violent Crime Inmates	546	545	544	529	562	568	567	562	559	554
Other Violent Crime Inmates	219	217	221	225	197	191	196	177	177	171
Property Crime Inmates	276	273	282	288	270	271	270	269	266	273
Drug Offense Inmates	373	378	372	378	365	353	350	344	345	349
Other Public Order Offense Inmates	139	134	133	136	142	135	129	130	130	131
<b>Inmate Demographics</b>										
Average Inmate Age	35.73	35.76	35.69	35.57	35.51	35.51	35.52	35.51	35.61	35.50
Male Inmates	1,382	1,377	1,379	1,380	1,365	1,339	1,329	1,322	1,314	1,309
Female Inmates	171	170	173	176	171	179	183	160	163	169
White Inmates	1033	1,028	1,033	1,029	1,018	1,007	998	975	970	964
Black Inmates	104	106	103	102	101	101	103	101	98	91
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander Inmates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American/Alaskan Native Inmates	335	330	333	343	338	334	337	330	329	341
Hispanic or Latino Inmates	75	77	77	76	74	71	69	70	73	76
Asian Inmates	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
Other Race/Ethnicity Inmates	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	2
Inmates With Unknown/Missing Race/Ethnicity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inmates Non-Citizens	17	16	11	13	16	15	14	13	13	11

<http://www.nd.gov/docr/media/stats.html>

(2nd Chance... continued from page 2)

Read Right tutoring was brought to North Dakota under extraordinary circumstances. A former student of the Youth Correctional Center (YCC) transformed his life and began a successful career. The former student provided a large gift to the YCC that made it possible for it to obtain Read Right training for its staff in 2005.

An engraved trophy is being presented to the ND DOCR for its exemplary work. Notes Dr. Tadlock: "But a trophy does not compare to the lives the ND DOCR tutors have changed. That's the real reward."

[www.readright.com](http://www.readright.com)

**Trainer Note:**

*This award is a great honor for the ND DOCR. It is truly a team effort and I am proud to be a part of it. Congratulations to all of the tutors!*

To read more about the other winners and to find out more information in regards to Read Right, please visit, [www.readright.com](http://www.readright.com).

**Parole Board Members**

Parole Board Members are appointed by the Governor for a three-year term. The Parole Board Members are listed as follows:

<u>Members</u>	<u>Location</u>
Duane Houdek, Chairman	Bismarck
Robert Bennett	Bismarck
Norman Anderson	Fargo
Robert Udland	Fargo
Sheri Baker	Bismarck
Jennifer Thompson	Fargo

**Pardon Advisory Board Members**

Pardon Advisory Board Members are appointed by the Governor for an open ended term to include the attorney general, two members of the parole board, and 2 citizens/residents of the state. The Pardon Board Members are listed as follows:

<u>Members</u>	<u>Location</u>
Duane Dekrey, Chairman	Pettibone
Wayne Stenehjem	Bismarck
Beverley Adams	Fargo
Vacant	Vacant
Duane Houdek	Bismarck

**Parole Board Meeting Dates for 2013**

January	6-7
February	4-5
March	3-4
April	7-8
May	5-6
June	2-3
July	June 30 - July 1
August	4-5
September	8-9
October	6-7
November	3-4
December	1-2

**Pardon Advisory Board Dates for 2013**

April 3

November 4

***Our Vision...**A safer North Dakota through effective correctional services.*

***Our Mission...**To enhance public safety, to reduce the risk of future criminal behavior by holding adult and juvenile offenders accountable, and to provide opportunities for change.*