



# The Insider

North Dakota Department Of Corrections And Rehabilitation



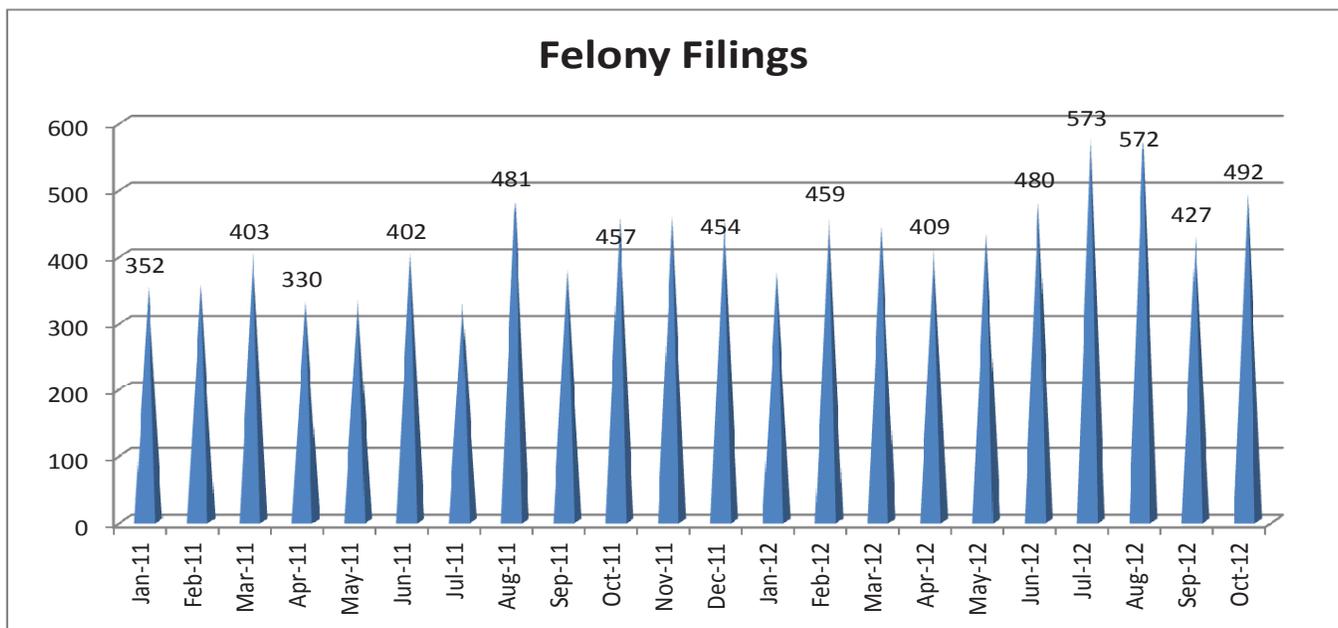
## The Boom with a Bang

By: Pat Bohn, Transitional Planning Director  
&  
Barney Tomanek, Parole and Probation Director

Not too many years ago our state was faced with a declining population and the out-migration of our youth. As a result, our leaders set forth initiatives to entice college graduates to remain in North Dakota and to recruit native North Dakotans to return. Little did anyone know at the time the oilfield developments in western North Dakota would not only accomplish what the initiatives set out to do; but would also entice people to

come to North Dakota from throughout the country. Unfortunately, growth and prosperity has come with a cost that people often do not want to acknowledge and address. As our state has grown, so too has the probation, parole and inmate population the DOCR manages.

Spearheading the increase is the number of felony filings throughout the state. In January 2011 there were 352 felony



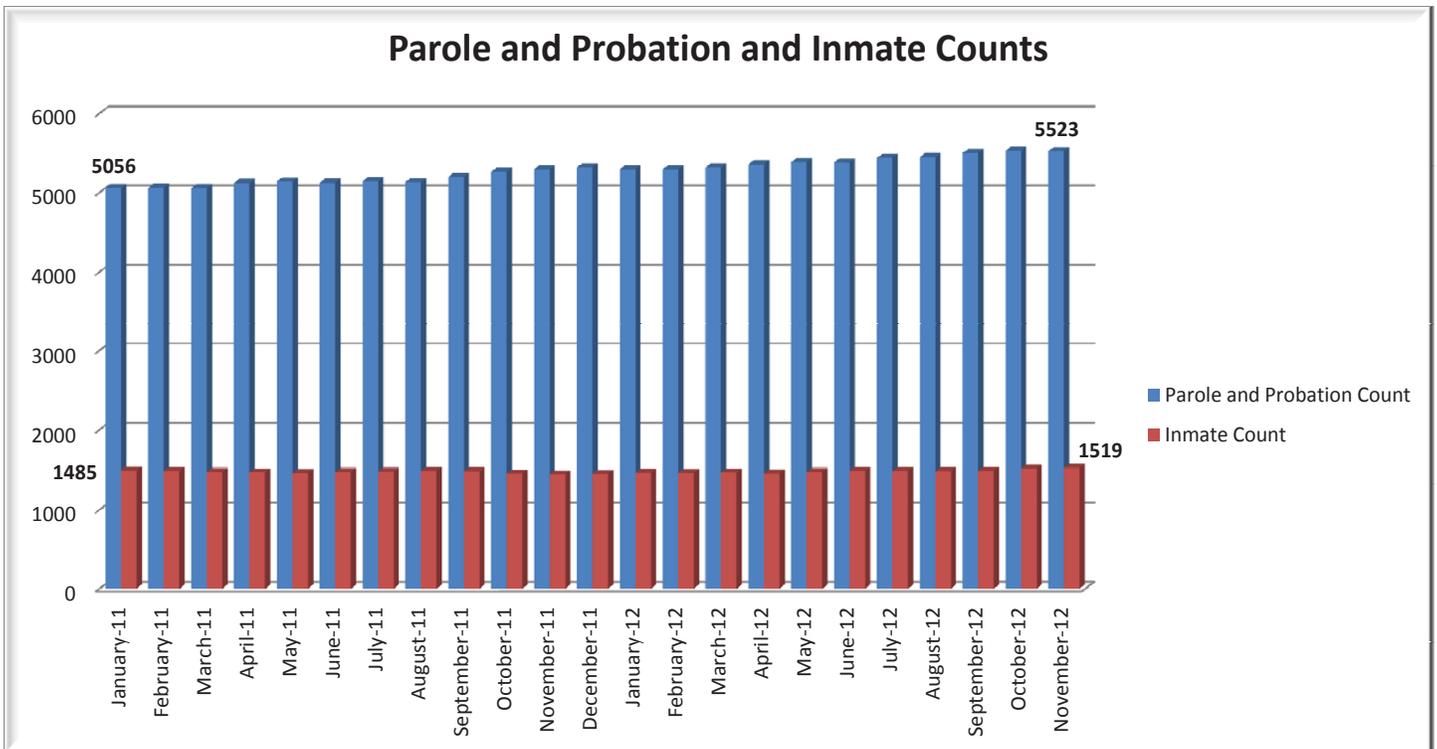
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*(The Boon with a Bang. continued from page 1)*

filings and as recently as August 2012, there were 572 which is a 220 case net increase. Correspondingly, in January 2011 the department supervised approximately 5050 people on probation and parole and in November 2012 there were approximately 5525 which is a net increase of 500.

As caseloads grow, officers have less time to engage with offenders in risk reduction and crime prevention. Instead, more of the officers' time is spent responding to crisis and

violations. In early 2011 an officer was supervising between 60-70 offenders. These same officers are now supervising between 75 and 90 offenders with some approaching 100. Because officers spend more time immediately dealing with crisis and violations, the number of cases in active revocation and the revocation rates increase. The percentage of offenders in active revocation has increased from approximately 7.2% of the caseload (354 offenders) to approximately 8.5% of the caseload (470 offenders).



This growth has a significant impact on department resources. As the caseload increases, so too does the number of violations. The department utilizes a graduated system of responses to every violation to strategically impact the risk and need presented by offenders. Offenders in need of more costly and restrictive correctional resources such as halfway houses, jails and prison have facilities throughout the state near or

exceeding capacity. The increase in the number of offenders also necessitates an increase in secure transportation. We currently have transports on the road throughout the state and the United States almost daily.

Other more recent factors impacting the department and offenders include the lack of available, appropriate and affordable housing and the influx of

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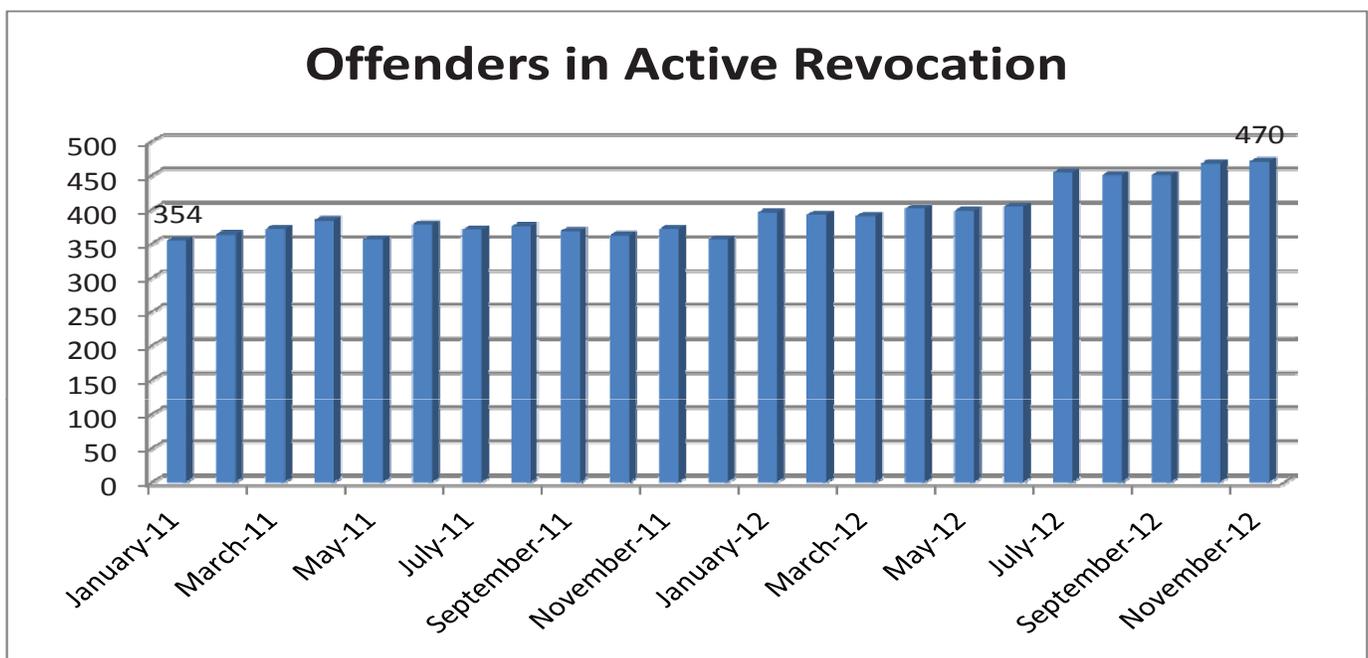
synthetic drugs.

The lack of appropriate and affordable housing in North Dakota has broad effects that spill over into public safety. Despite the increased employment opportunities many offenders cannot find housing to return to upon their release from prison. Housing costs have risen dramatically and housing vacancies are minimal. Further exacerbating the matter are the limitations many offenders face regarding where they are eligible to reside. Restrictions relating to sex offenders, drug dealers and manufacturers and felons further reduce housing options for offenders as they return to the community from prison. Because many offenders cannot find appropriate and affordable housing in their home communities, they end up transplanted in other communities. Many of them fail on supervision because they lack a pro-social network of family and friends and feel alienated.

The recent influx of synthetic drugs

has also had a negative impact on revocation rates. Until very recently, many synthetic drugs were not illegal and generally easy to obtain. The violations committed by offenders using the synthetics were driven by the erratic and irrational behavior. Synthetics were very problematic in our halfway houses and readily available. Providing quality evidence-based programming and achieving positive behavior changes is difficult with a population that is abusing the synthetics. Consequently, the number of violations and offenders being in need of higher end correctional resources increased.

In many ways, we are fortunate people in North Dakota. In order to perpetuate the good fortune, we'll need more resources to manage our growing population but we cannot fall victim to thinking that more resources is the only answer. We must continue to challenge ourselves to find effective innovative strategies to address the growing and changing needs of our state.



# VOCA NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

By: Lori Steele, VOCA Grant Administer

Lori Steele, VOCA Grant Administer, and Amy Vorachek, Director of Administrative Services, attended the combined training for the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators (NAVAA) and The National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards (NACVCB). This year the training conference was held on October 1-4, 2012, in Atlanta, Georgia. The training was supported by federal funds issued by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, and the U.S. Department of Justice.

NAVAA and NACVCB are professional groups dedicated to providing consultation, support, training and technical assistance to VOCA Administrators and Crime Victims Compensation Managers. Being members in these groups allows Program Managers the opportunities to receive up-to-the minute news and to discuss issues of mutual interest with colleagues in other states.

Joye Frost, Acting Director for Office of Victims of Crime (OVC), presented Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services. Vision 21 is a major initiative developed by OVC to expand the vision of the crime victim services field. OVC did this by designing a philosophical and strategic framework to evaluate the country's response to crime and to move the field forward in the future. Roundtable discussions were held to exchange ideas regarding changes to

the Victims of Crime Act and to allow state VOCA administering agencies and victim service organizations more flexibility in serving crime victims.

Workshop sessions included a variety of topics specific to Compensation Managers and VOCA Assistance Administrators. Some of these topics included; Civil Rights Regulations, Building Capacity to Sustain Services, New Developments in Mental Health Therapy, Tough Compensation Cases: When to Reduce and Deny, Subgrant Monitoring and Working with Problem Subgrantees, just to name a few.

Annual National Conferences provide training opportunities for Program Managers to communicate with their colleagues and gain knowledge on how other states are managing victim assistance grants and compensation claims. This is a great opportunity for new Program Managers to meet their colleagues in neighboring states and discuss how they are managing their programs and exchange ideas on how to improve services for crime victims and victim service agencies.

The DOCR administers the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) victim assistance grant and the Crime Victims Compensation Program. For additional information about these programs, contact Lori Steele, VOCA Grant Administer at (701) 328-6195 or [loristeele@nd.gov](mailto:loristeele@nd.gov)

# Law Enforcement Memorial Association Honor Guard Training

By: Sarena Ebel, Human Relations Counselor

On September, 16, 2012, seven members of the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCR) Honor Guard teams were selected to travel to Camp Ripley in Minnesota for Law Enforcement Memorial Association (LEMA) Honor Guard Training. The seven members were compiled from both the East and West Honor Guard. Representing the East Honor Guard was Jeff Lorenz, Michael Weatherly, Chris Kinzler, Laura McCleary and I. Representing the West Honor Guard was Steve Renner and James Carkuff.

Upon arrival we were issued clothing and were directed to change and line up outside. We were instructed to wear our BDU's as well as blouse them. The training was intense and we were amazed by the many things that the instructors had to offer us. Going into the training I believe the majority of the team thought that we would be ahead of other teams because of our prior service as honor guard members. We could not be more wrong. The second day of training was marching, and more marching. It is amazing how many people (not the DOCR) did not know their left from their right and the day as a whole was exhausting mentally and physically.

Later on that evening the "Top Gun" competition with teams (made up of members from all departments) pitted against each other to conduct a 15 point drill with their rifle. I am proud to say that all the members of the DOCR honor guard excelled in this competition with

two of the members receiving challenge coins.

The next morning we learned how to fold an American Flag appropriately and present it, how to carry the flags in a parade/processional, how to carry a casket, and how to conduct a three rifle volley. We continued these rotations into the following day.

The DOCR honor guard stood firm through practicing the carrying of the casket training even though the weather was intense. Winds howled, with rain making frequent appearances. While attempting to fold the flag over an urn, the wind picked up and a blitzkrieg of hail occurred. We stuck it out, proving that North Dakotans are tougher than most.

Amidst the hurricane-like winds, teams were ordered to grab rifles and flags and prepare for a mock parade. The DOCR honor guard team was first in line to go. The course was explained as to what the instructors expected us to do. We began to march, squishing together to meet the wind head on. Flags whipped across faces leaving welts, hats flew off, dirt hit our faces like a swarm of angry bees. Our perseverance resulted in us getting selected to lead the procession the following day for the mock funeral. That night all teams had to volunteer a member for a pie eating competition. Weatherly rose to the occasion and ate the cherry pie like a madman (regardless of the fact that he hates cherry pie).

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# Flags Raised Over New Central Office Building

By: Tom Erhardt, Program Manager

On, November 2, 2012, the 123rd Statehood Day of the Great State of North Dakota, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCR) Honor Guard raised the United States, State of North Dakota, and DOCR Flags over the new Central Office building. The Central Office opened and staff started moving in the week of August 20, 2012. The Central Office was part of the \$64 million addition and renovation of the North Dakota State Penitentiary,



"We raise these flags to pay tribute to the men and women who serve our country, our state, and our department" commented Director Leann Bertsch at the flag raising ceremony. Approximately thirty staff braved the cold and snow to watch the Honor Guard raise the flags to the National Anthem; and to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Work continues on the renovation and addition project, expected to be completed in the spring of 2013.

*(LEMA Honor Guard.. continued from page 5)*

The final day of LEMA we prepared to lead the processional to the church. Instead of the DOCR flag, we were granted the LEMA flag to carry. The rest of the day was a whirlwind of activities from casket watch, ceremony, TAPS being played and Amazing Grace carried over the wind by the bagpiper. After everything was said and done, pictures and completion certificates were awarded to the all that completed the training.

What we learned at this LEMA training was way beyond our expectations. We left the training feeling invigorated to put that knowledge into practice and incredibly thankful that we were given the opportunity to attend.

## 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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# Harvesting the Rewards of Homegrown Initiatives at ND YCC

By: Penny Veit-Hetletved, Principal

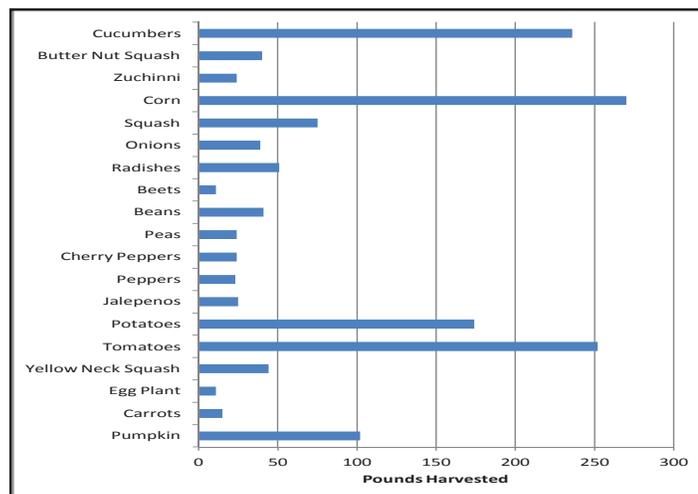
ND YCC has had their educational faculty implement multiple, grass-roots efforts to make the most of the learning environment for the students that they serve. In the past school year, (SY 2011-12), ND YCC served students in 186 school districts coming in ages 12-20, who are often deficient in high school credits as well as academic progress. Through the collective efforts of many, several initiatives were implemented this year to invigorate their academic success.

An educator, along with a food service staff, started a garden project a couple of years ago. Through determination and elbow grease, along with the experiences of many students, the garden project now has a fence, sprinkler systems, and many a man-hour that helps harvest its produce. This year's garden proved to be the most successful yet, not only pounds of produce harvested, but also in student opinion. One young man, who has never given any thought to where his food came from, shared with me, "The garden work is an amazing experience. I learned how to care for and pick vegetables. Then, I really enjoyed eating what we grew. I had a great feeling of accomplishment." The garden project has become a campus-wide project. This year was another great season. There were volunteers from a church group who volunteered—the interaction amongst the volunteers and the students was a meaningful experience.

A team of four educators planned a curriculum for what is now referred to as "STEM-LAH" (Science Technology Engineering Math Language Arts and History). STEM-LAH offers the students a rich curriculum of math and science concepts that are encircled within the core knowledge, ability, and skills (KSAs) of the research component and historical piece behind the STEM themes, while also teaching the communication, writing and presentation components. This allows for content specialization, and additionally, high quality educational opportunities for the STEM students. Knowledge and information in STEM fields is growing at an increasingly brisk pace. An ever increasing number of interesting problems in the STEM fields now lie at the interface of multiple disciplines. Our students, who are already at-risk, are afforded a course experience that prepares them for "real-world" experiences and KSAs.

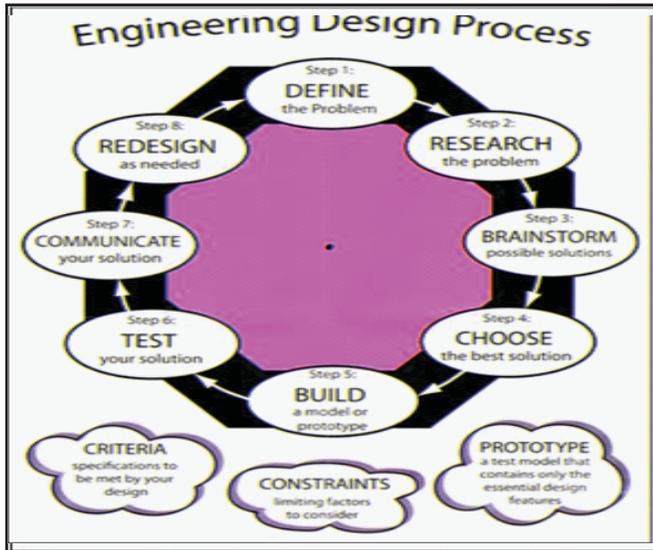
Offering this project with four core content specialists at the helm, allows students an instant opportunity to experience concepts using differentiated instruction strategies at every turn; thereby, assisting the student

in learning a bountiful curriculum through many methods which decreases experiences of failure while increasing student motivation.



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(Harvesting the Reward... continued from page 7)



A team of three educators, two content specialist instructors of Family and Consumer Science along with the Special Education teacher, joined forces to design an independent living course experience for students who enter ND YCC's student population on "treatment status."



This status means that through their assessment experience it was determined that staying at ND YCC will best serve that student's immediate needs. These three educators have created a performance-based, assessment process that identifies what the student already has as mastery knowledge and skills and what he/she needs to continue to develop. After the assessment phase, students enter independent living where they begin studying a myriad of topics, that fall into the following categories: academic and technical skills; managing personal finances; selecting and managing a

household; caring for personal needs; buying, preparing, and consuming food; responsible citizenship; self-awareness; self-confidence; socially responsible behavior; maintain good interpersonal skills; achieving independence; communicating with others; career preparation; education financial assistance; employment programs or vocational training opportunities; and post-secondary educational support.

As the ND DOCR Education merged into one department jointly serving juvenile and adult students with one unified faculty, ND YCC teachers began teaching students "across the rivers" who were of age to continue with their high school diploma efforts instead of the GED path. The occurrences haven't been a large amount of the adult population as of late, but ND YCC teachers along with their adult education cohort, have successfully guided three male inmates to a high school diploma, with a fourth student close to the finish line as well. These four high school diploma students have needed and received instruction in seventeen course areas to earn the needed credits for graduation.

Historically across the nation, youth and adult have been separate entities within correctional education. North Dakota, due to its demographics and direction, has created a team effort in this department. It is through the expertise of these highly qualified teachers that such exceptional learning is offered to all of the students that we serve. Examples of these fine efforts are displayed here as well as the additional articles on the topics of Read Right, Meeting of the Minds, and Career Readiness. With each grass-root effort and initiative, we get one step closer to our mission to "Provide Quality Student-Centered Educational Opportunities and Resources" to arrive at the vision of "A Successful Reentry for Every Student."

<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.	<b>October 2012</b>	<b>September 2012</b>	<b>August 2012</b>	<b>July 2012</b>	<b>June 2012</b>	<b>May 2012</b>	<b>April 2012</b>	<b>March 2012</b>	<b>February 2012</b>	<b>January 2012</b>
<b>General Organization Information</b>										
Prisoners Housed by DOCR Institutions	1,099	1,090	1,086	1,088	1,080	1,079	1,099	1,095	1,089	1,103
Prisoners Outsourced (Not In A ND DOCR Facility)	413	392	391	390	402	388	348	363	361	350
Total Inmates Under DOCR Responsibility	<b>1,512</b>	<b>1,482</b>	<b>1,477</b>	<b>1,478</b>	<b>1,482</b>	<b>1,467</b>	<b>1,447</b>	<b>1,458</b>	<b>1,450</b>	<b>1,453</b>
Average Length of Sentence (Years)	6.77	6.80	6.86	6.84	6.84	6.80	6.85	6.87	6.91	6.88
<b>Prisoners Serving Sentences Of Court (Prison Sentence)</b>										
Inmates Serving Less Than 1 Year	15	15	14	14	11	16	15	12	15	13
Inmates Serving 1 to 3 Years	698	674	669	679	677	658	645	651	631	640
Inmates Serving 3 to 5 Years (3.01 to 5)	291	287	287	282	294	296	292	299	307	302
Inmates Serving 5 to 10 years (5.01 to 10)	226	221	224	220	219	221	223	222	224	225
Inmates Serving 10 to 20 Years (10.01 to 20)	136	139	138	140	139	136	134	132	133	134
Inmates Serving 20 to 40 Years (20.01 to 40)	65	66	65	65	66	65	64	68	67	66
Inmates Serving More than 40 Years (40.01 plus)	18	17	18	18	18	16	16	16	16	16
Inmates Serving Life with Parole	38	38	37	37	37	37	37	37	36	36
Inmates - Life Without Parole	25	25	25	23	21	22	21	21	21	21
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	567	562	559	554	556	557	549	550	570	568
Other Violent Crime Inmates	196	177	177	171	177	176	172	163	167	170
Property Crime Inmates	270	269	266	273	276	270	252	261	267	267
Drug Offense Inmates	350	344	345	349	339	332	333	347	321	324
Other Public Order Offense Inmates	129	130	130	131	134	132	141	137	125	124
<b>Inmate Demographics</b>										
Average Inmate Age	35.52	35.51	35.61	35.50	35.56	35.70	35.75	35.62	35.77	35.78
Male Inmates	1,329	1,322	1,314	1,309	1,313	1,303	1,292	1,298	1,294	1,296
Female Inmates	183	160	163	169	169	164	155	160	156	157
White Inmates	998	975	970	964	965	937	924	934	931	929
Black Inmates	103	101	98	91	84	89	91	92	89	87
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander Inmates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American/Alaskan Native Inmates	337	330	329	341	346	353	349	348	350	358
Hispanic or Latino Inmates	69	70	73	76	80	80	77	77	74	74
Asian Inmates	3	3	4	4	5	5	4	5	4	4
Other Race/Ethnicity Inmates	2	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	1
Inmates With Unknown/Missing Race/Ethnicity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inmates Non-Citizens	14	13	13	11	9	9	8	8	6	8

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

# ND DOCR Read Right Update

By: Alyssa Kramer, Read Right Trainer

It has been a very busy year in Read Right. There are currently seven certified Read Right tutors within the ND DOCR. There are four tutors at ND YCC, one at JRCC, one at MRCC and NDSP, and one at DWCRC. These tutors must go through certification each year so they are currently involved in becoming certified for the 2013 year. As we all know, you never stop learning, especially in education!

Our students are always changing and finding the best way to serve them is obviously our ultimate goal. We have tried such things as block scheduling and

having class every other day to serve more students. Monthly data is collected and reviewed locally and through the Read Right corporate reports.

There have been 35 adult Read Right graduates (including DWCRC) and 59 youth Read Right graduates so far in 2012. A graduate is a student who can now successfully read without reading symptoms. The students who participate in the program work very hard to finish the program. It takes a lot of determination and ability to overcome frustration in order to get to the end.

## 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
Ronald Goodman	Oakes
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 Stenehjerm	Bismarck
Beverley Adams	Fargo
Ronald Goodman	Oakes
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.*