Vocational and Technical Training as a Key to Rehabilitation

Education plays a major role in the after-correctional center life. Not only does it reduce the recidivism rate and improve life conditions on an individual basis, but it also reduces dependency on public assistance, cuts costs for the prison system, and increases positive contributions to society in general.

In order to grab good jobs and build new lives when returning to civil society, inmates need to be given the opportunity to develop employable skills while incarcerated.

Trends in the US labor market indicate that more and more jobs will require more than a GED. Skills developed through vocational and career education – especially the ones related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) – are in growing demand.

To match training offerings with evolving labor market requirements, an increasing number of correctional centers reinforce commitment to technical education by investing in the development or upgrade of their programs and facilities.

Career Technical Education at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Got Greener

Education is a top priority for CDCR. Programs managed by the Office of Correctional Education (OCE) encompass wide fields of study, from general high school education, to substance abuse programs, to career technical education.

The CDCR recently added Green Technology into the Building Trades and Construction curricula by acquiring training systems from the LabVolt Series by Festo Didactic. Instructors were also offered training sessions to make the most out of the equipment.

The new systems allow for a better understanding of solar/wind power, building energy management, basic refrigeration, electric heating, rigging, and more.

“This represents another milestone that puts the CDCR in the forefront of career technical training for inmates. [...] Not only do we want our inmate students to master these building trades, but we want to empower them to be competitive in the employment marketplace upon release. This will help them successfully reintegrate into the outside community and reduce recidivism.” – Brantley Choate, Superintendent, OCE

Sources (active in July 2015)
2 www.cdcr.ca.gov/rehabilitation/docs/Newsletters/Rehabilitation_Today_Newsletter_2014_08.pdf

www.festo-didactic.com
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Festo Didactic further strengthened its leadership position as a worldwide supplier of technical education solutions through the acquisition of the US-based manufacturer, Lab-Volt Systems.

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