

Wisconsin Division of Adult Institutions Education Milestones

The following is a timeline of Department of Adult Institutions education milestones that have occurred since the first state correctional facility was opened.

If you have information on milestones that could be added to this timeline, send it to jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com and your contributions may be added to this "History" that is posted on our website.

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- 1862 A cabinet shop is opened in the Waupun State Prison. In the next ten years, a shoe shop, tailor shop, wagon factory, and expansion to the cabinet shop for other furniture and chairs will be added. A knitting industry is added in 1893, a twine plant in 1912, a cannery in 1915, a license plate operation in 1917, a print shop in the early 1920s, and a laundry in 1940. The laundry, license plate, wood and metal furniture, printing and signage, silk-screening, and tailoring operations survive to this day at the prison.
- 1867 A school is organized under the direction of the Chaplain. Later it is placed under the supervision of a principal in the Waupun Public Schools. Inmates do all of the teaching.
- 1886 The first issue of "The Waupun Prison Press" is published. It is the first and only newspaper operated by inmates in the U.S.
- 1898 The Wisconsin State Reformatory in Green Bay opens. By close of the year, the Reformatory houses 24 inmates. The Reformatory is intended to house inmates 17-30 years old with the purpose is to rehabilitate young men through the teaching of trades, general education, and steady work.
- 1917 The Extension Division of the University of Wisconsin becomes the first in the nation to offer college courses to prisoners when they create a class in gas engines at the Wisconsin State Prison in Waupun.
- 1921 Industrial Home for Women at Taycheedah opens as a home for unwed mothers and women with venereal disease.
- 1932 A full-time education director is hired at Waupun State Prison, but inmates still do all of the teaching.
- 1933 A State Prison for Women is completed at Taycheedah. It is operated on the same grounds as the Home for Women. The women are provided general education, home economics education and work assignments.

1937 The Committee on Education of the American Prison Association, predecessor to the Correctional Education Association, publishes the first issue of "Correctional Education," a newsletter that gave an overview of education programs in federal and state correctional institutions. Included were descriptions of the education programs in the two Wisconsin institutions which existed at the time.

Wisconsin State Reformatory, Green Bay: A liberal use is made of University of Wisconsin extension correspondence courses for the more capable and better educated inmates. Vocational training is given in 32 training shops. Of 487 inmates, about 65 per cent are in attendance in school classes or are enrolled in university extension correspondence study courses. In addition to these formal courses about 350 cell-study and reading courses are being carried on in the institution. Approximately 120 boys on parole are continuing work started while they are in the reformatory. This institution, like the State Prison, receives an unusually high degree of co-operation from the State University and the State Library Commission. The program is headed by a full-time Director of Education.

Wisconsin State Prison, Waupun: Prior to the fall of 1932 the educational program in this institution was centered about the extension courses offered by the University of Wisconsin. These courses grew in popularity, until a record of 450 courses was attained during one year. In 1932 a large shop building became vacant and the building was converted into quarters for a full-time school under the supervision of a trained Director of Education. The full-time school provides instruction comparable to that found in the public elementary schools of the state in the first eight grades. The teachers are inmates, but they are carefully selected and are given a training course by the Director of Education. The average daily attendance is between 250 and 300 men from a resident population of about 1300 men. Cell-study work consists of correspondence courses corrected in the institution. Approximately 25 different courses are available and about 200 men. A reading course has about 800 men enrolled. The reading is in more than a hundred different fields, and the books and reading courses are obtained from the Wisconsin Free Travelling Library Commission, the libraries of the University of Wisconsin, and the local libraries. Warden Oscar Lee, a former president of the American Prison Association, was responsible for the creation of many of the education opportunities.

1938 John C. Burke is appointed warden of Waupun State Prison. One of his innovations is the parole school.

1951 Sanger B. Powers is appointed Warden at the Reformatory. Under his leadership, educational, vocational, social and clinical services are expanded.

1955 Sanger B. Powers appointed Administrator of Division of Corrections. Rehabilitation of inmates based on the medical model becomes the ideal.

1962 The Wisconsin Correctional Institution opens at Fox Lake. It is the nation's first modern medium security prison for men.

1962 The Wisconsin School for Boys is opened at Plymouth. In 1974, it is converted to a medium security prison and later named Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution.

- 1971 UW-Green Bay offers its first on-site class for inmates at the Wisconsin State Reformatory.
- 1972 The Interagency Committee on Corrections Education is formed to “Design job training that meets the standards of the Wisconsin Board of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education.” Fox Lake Correctional Institution is chosen for the pilot project to offer the first certified vocational programs.
- 1973 The Union for Experimenting Colleges and Universities awards a \$15,000 grant to begin planning for a University Without Walls program at the Reformatory. UWGB quickly moved to expand the number of course offerings and students enrolled at the Reformatory.
- 1973 The Wisconsin State Reformatory partners with Northeast Wisconsin Technical Institute to develop diploma-granting programs.
- 1975 Waupun Correctional Institution partners with Moraine Park Technical College to develop accredited programs in Food Service Assistant, Legal Assistant, Machine Tool Operation, Mechanical Drafting and Welding, in addition to apprenticeship programs in Metal Fabrication and Meat-Cutting.
- 1976 The Taycheedah Correctional Institution Study-Release arrangement with the nearby MPTI-Fond du Lac campus reaches a high of 46 students.
- 1976 The former Oregon Girls School is converted into an adult male minimum-security institution. WTCS accredited programs in Building Services and Horticulture are offered.
- 1977 A new GED test is implemented. Due to re-norming many more Wisconsin inmates are able to pass the GED. Fox Lake Correctional Institution records 152 graduates during the year.
- 1981 The Post-Secondary Re-Entry Education Program (PREP) offers inmates at Kettle Moraine and Taycheedah Correctional Institutions an opportunity to pursue a liberal arts college education while incarcerated.
- 1982 The Wisconsin Resource Center opens at the Winnebago Mental Health Institute. WRC provides programming for inmates with severe mental health problems.
- 1983 Conversion of Central State Hospital to Dodge Correctional Institution is completed. DCI will serve as the Assessment & Evaluation reception center for all adult males and females.
- 1986 The Post-Secondary Re-Entry Education Program (PREP) is expanded to Waupun Correctional Institution.
- 1986 DOC receives a Job Training Partnership Grant from the VTAE Board to start the Training Opportunities for Placement Program (TOPP) to help correctional clients attend local VTAE schools. During the first two years, 79 students participate. After two years DOC picks up the funding of the program.

- 1986 Oshkosh Correctional Institution opens. Fox Valley Technical College accredited programs in Braille Transcription, Building Services, Dog Training and Grooming, Food Service/Culinary Arts, Horticulture, Institution Food Production, Multi-Occupational Aide, Office Software Applications and Practical Computer Skills are offered.
- 1986 Columbia Correctional Institution opens. Classes offered at CCI include: Adult Basic Education, HSED preparation, and vocational programs. Building Service and Custodial Services are accredited through Madison College and Print Technology is accredited through Northeast Wisconsin Technical College.
- 1988 The new GED adds an essay to the test, the total score required to pass is increased from 225 to 250, and the minimum score requirement for each section of the test is increased from 35 to 40. Wisconsin also adds Civic and Health components to the state requirements. Wisconsin changes the name of the certificate to High School Equivalency Diploma. During the first year, the number of graduates in Wisconsin correctional facilities declines by over 50%.
- 1988 Oshkosh Correctional Institution, Wisconsin Resource Center and Winnebago Mental Health Institution inaugurate LVA tutoring programs.
- 1989 Oshkosh Correctional Institution implements the first computer-based education system in DOC. The Principles of Adult Literacy System (PALS) is an IBM computer reading program designed to raise the reading levels of functionally illiterate adult learners.
- 1989 A Library Services Construction Act Grant provides funding for software and an IBM ST microcomputer to enable Oshkosh Correctional Institution to become the first DOC institution to use an automated circulation system in its library.
- 1989 Over 130 educators from DCTF and DOC attend the DHSS Special Education Conference.
- 1989 In responses to a law suit, DOC signs a consent decree that mandates gender parity in education, work and medical services at Taycheedah Correctional Institution. The consent decree led to expansion in the number and variety of vocational offerings at TCI.
- 1990 Governor Tommy Thompson announces that Wisconsin has become the first state to install a computerized literacy education program throughout the correctional system. The Principal of Alphabet Literacy System (PALS) program will be installed in all major institutions.
- 1991 Racine Correctional Institution in Sturtevant opens. Gateway Technical College accredited programs in Custodial Services and Culinary Arts are offered.
- 1991 The Challenge Incarceration Program, a boot camp program for non-violent offenders, is established at St. Croix Correctional Center. The Challenge Incarceration Program uses rigorous physical activity, military drill and ceremony, manual labor, intensive AODA treatment; individualized educational programming, in-depth group interaction

addressing rational thinking and responsible behavior, and release preparation to successfully return inmates to the community.

- 1991 DOC is awarded 9 grants resulting from the Excellence in Education Literacy Bill passed by Congress. Green Bay Correctional Institution, Oshkosh Correctional Institution, Waupun Correctional Institution, St. Croix Correctional Center, and DOC Central Office are the recipients of the grants.
- 1992 Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution's new drug treatment program, STOP, mixes academic learning with drug treatment.
- 1993 Fox Lake Correctional Institution and Moraine Park Technical College mark 20 years of partnering to deliver certified vocational programs for correctional inmates.
- 1993 The Post-Secondary Re-Entry Program (PREP) moves from Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution to Fox Lake Correctional Institution. The Taycheedah Correctional Institution and Waupun Correctional Institution PREP programs remain at those facilities.
- 1993 Specialized Training and Employment Project (STEP) begins at Fox Lake Correctional Institution. Start-up funding was provided by a Federal Department of Education grant. The project was scheduled to run through 1995.
- 1993 Racine Correctional Institution begins its annual celebration of Black History Month. Over the years the celebration evolved into a Cultural Diversity Celebration involving all cultures because each culture is unique within itself and has something important to contribute and share with all other cultures.
- 1994 After examining the 1993 norming study for the GED, the Department of Public Instruction lowers the score required to pass from 250 to 230.
- 1994 John McGrath of the State Hospital in Carstairs, Scotland and Neil Gleason of the Wisconsin Resource Center participate in the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program.
- 1994 The DOC Teacher training Advisory Committee is formed.
- 1995 Jackson Correctional Institution opens. A WTCS accredited program in Food Service/ Culinary Arts is offered.
- 1995 Using the Instructional Televised Fixed Service technology at the Corrections Training Center, DOC launches its first Distance Education offerings. Carol Seichter, Taycheedah Correctional Institution; Glenn Poler, Fox Lake Correctional Institution; and Sherry (Settle) Zwickey, Wisconsin Resource center provide the instruction.
- 1995 Due to the loss of federal Pell Grant funding, the Post-Secondary Re-Entry Education Program (PREP) comes to an end with its final graduation at Waupun Correctional Institution. The first workshops that started at Taycheedah Correctional Institution in 1981, grew into a full two-year Associate Degree program at TCI and Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution and later expanded to Waupun Correctional Institution. In 1993 the KMCI component of PREP moved to Fox Lake Correctional Institution. During its

15 years, PREP saw over 4000 men and women participate in college programming, with 163 earning degrees.

- 1996 Oshkosh Correctional Institution's "Breaking Barriers with Books; A Book Sharing Program from Prison" receives a Barbara Bush Foundation Grant. The program was the brainchild of UW-Oshkosh professor Margaret Genisio who trained OSCI teachers and volunteers to facilitate the program.
- 1996 Racine Correctional Institution initiates the ABLE MINDS program to help inmates "think first".
- 1997 Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility opens. Gateway Technical College accredited programs in Computer Numerical Control (CNC), Computer Help Desk and Masonry are offered.
- 1997 Prairie du Chien Correctional Institution, originally purchased by the State as a boys' juvenile facility, opens as an adult institution. WTCS accredited programs in Building Services, Computer Literacy, Masonry and Office Software Applications are offered.
- 1998 Eight institutions meet to form a Literacy Volunteers of America affiliate, LVA-Wisconsin Institutions. Five of the correctional institutions previously had independent LVA programs: Oshkosh, Columbia, Fox Lake, Jackson and Wisconsin Resource Center. Institutions new to the LVA program are: Oakhill, Waupun, and FCI-Oxford.
- 1999 DOC begins a five-year process to incorporate the Wisconsin Instructional Design System (WIDS) to promote consistency in education programming and facilitate inmates' transitioning to WTCS programs after release.
- 1999 Vocational programs at several institutions partner with Habitat for Humanity to help in the construction of homes. Columbia, Fox Lake, Jackson, Oshkosh, Waupun, Kettle Moraine, Oakhill Lincoln Hills School, St. Croix Correctional Center, and Drug Abuse Correctional Center are involved in making components for the homes.
- 1999 The Supermax prison opens in Boscobel. A WTCS accredited program in Barbering/Cosmetology is offered.
- 2000 Youthful Offender Grant funds from the US Department of Education are used to create the Career Development Project. Mike Exum is hired as Director of the two-year project whose goal is to match eligible inmates with appropriate vocational training and assist them in acquiring employment after release.
- 2000 LVA-Wisconsin Institutions receives a three-year Accreditation Award from the National LVA Board of Directors.
- 2000 The inaugural Second Chance Job Fair is held in June at Summerfest in Milwaukee. Planning for the Second Chance Job Fair was done by a committee of staff from the Wisconsin DOC, Wisconsin DWD, U.S. BOP, Wisconsin Department of Veterans' Affairs, and United Migrant Opportunities Services. Two other job fairs involving correctional clients are held in 2001 in Milwaukee and Madison, and a third at the Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution.

- 2000 Racine Correctional Institution Education Department hosts it first Father's Fair.
- 2001 LVA Wisconsin Institutions receives LVA's national Exemplary Practice Award at the LVA National Conference in Albuquerque.
- 2001 Redgranite Correctional Institution opens. Classes offered at RGCI include: Adult Basic Education; an HSED program including Health, Civics, and Employability; Computer Lab-Plato support; Rosetta Stone for English Language Learners; and a vocational program which includes Microsoft Office and American Government certification. Ten modules of the DOC Reentry program are available. A Pro-Literacy tutor program through the Wisconsin Literacy Council program provides a trained tutor to work individually with students in the classroom or on the unit.
- 2001 Stanley Correctional Institution opens. WTCS accredited program in Custodial Services was offered. Later, Computer Assisted Drafting (CAD), Office Assistant/Aide and Welding were added.
- 2002 A new GED test is implemented. Examinees are allowed to use a calculator on the Mathematics Test. Other tests emphasize cross-disciplinary skills.
- 2003 The Three State Recidivism Study endorsed by the US Department of Education affirms the positive impact of correctional education.
- 2004 Governor Jim Doyle rededicates Black River Correctional Center as it converted to the 180-day Challenge Incarceration Program. The program is a military style boot camp with substance abuse treatment, personal development counseling, education, and work crews.
- 2004 Joyce D. Caldwell, Racine Correctional Institution; Margaret Done, R.E. Ellsworth Correctional Center; and Kay George, Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility; provide two days of ProLiteracy America-Wisconsin Institutions Certification training for DOC educators. A total of seventeen DOC staff members receive certification.
- 2004 New Lisbon Correction Institution opens with its Education Department offering Adult Basic Education and High School Equivalency Diploma classes. Classes include Reading, Writing, Social Studies, Math, Science, Civics, Employability Skills, and Health. After earning a GED/HSED, offenders can further their education by enrolling in Computer Literacy and Horticulture vocational programs certified through Western Technical College. Later, Horticulture was discontinued and Bakery and Wood Tech were added.
- 2004 Oakhill Correctional Institution hosts its first Job Fair.
- 2004 R.E. Ellsworth Correctional Center starts its book club. Each month, inmates read the same book and gather like any other book club to discuss it. Often the club chooses the same selection as the nearby Racine Reads citywide program and when Racine Reads authors make appearances in the area, they're usually invited to REECC too.
- 2006 Waupun Correctional Institution teacher Michael Breszee designs the "Workplace Success" vocational curriculum and course content for the DOC in conjunction with

Moraine Park Technical College. The course is a 2-credit class essential for a one-year technical diploma.

- 2007 Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution reverses its decision not develop any WTCS accredited programs and adds its first MPTC diploma offerings in Welding and Custodial Services.
- 2010 Black River Correctional Center hosts its first Job Fair.
- 2010 Redgranite Correctional Institution implements and field tests the Reentry Initiative modules before they are rolled out state-wide.
- 2011 DOC Secretary Hamblin announces departmental plans to restructure and centralize the oversight of its correctional treatment programs. Creation of the Evidence-Based Program Manager position within the Reentry Unit in the Office of the Secretary is central to the plan.
- 2012 Holly Audley is hired as DOC's Evidence-Based Program Manager position.
- 2013 RAND Corporation and Correctional Education Association conduct meta-analysis of research that demonstrates effectiveness of correctional education programs.
- 2013 Marty Kehe, GED Testing Service, and Margaret Done, R.E. Ellsworth Correctional Center teacher, launch the new computer-based GED 2014 in Wisconsin by training to over 300 participants at CEA-Wisconsin Training Days at the Concourse Hotel in Madison.
- 2013 The US Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs awards the Wisconsin DOC a \$454,214 Second Chance Act Technology and Careers grant to provide technology career training to inmates. Inmates eligible to participate must reside at the Taycheedah, Fox Lake, Kettle Moraine, Oshkosh, Racine Youthful Offender or Racine institutions and must be releasing to a southeastern Wisconsin county.
- 2014 DOC and DWD teamed up with the Wisconsin Technical College System to launch the DOC's' Computer Numerical Controlled (CNC) Mobile Lab at the Racine Correctional Institution.
- 2015 Racine Correctional Institution begins the Gateway Accredited Computerized Numeric Control program.
- 2015 The Department of Workforce Development awards Wisconsin Fast Forward grants to three Technical Colleges to offer 14-week CNC technical education certificate programs for DOC inmates and offenders under Division of Community Corrections supervision.
- 2016 Milwaukee Area Technical College in partnership with the Wisconsin DOC is awarded a \$1.45 million Pell Grant to serve 250 inmates. Programs included in the grant are Technical College Certificates, Diplomas and Associate Degrees. Sixteen institutions have been identified for inmate/student participation: 11 medium male institutions – Fox Lake, Jackson, Kettle Moraine, Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility, New Lisbon,

Oshkosh, Prairie du Chien, Racine, Redgranite, Racine Youthful Offender and Stanley; 3 minimum male centers – Felmers O. Chaney, Marshall E. Sherrer and Oakhill; 1 medium female institution – Taycheedah; and 1 minimum female center – R.E.Ellsworth.

- 2016 The Wisconsin DOC enters into a contract with each of Wisconsin's 11 Workforce Development Boards to provide, or subcontract to provide, a Windows to Work program at 12 state correctional institutions and 4 county jail facilities throughout the state.
- 2016 The Higher Learning Commission revises its guidelines on faculty qualifications to insure that faculty members have appropriate expertise in the subjects they teach.
- 2017 Milwaukee Area Technical College provides instruction over the course of two years at its downtown campus to about 50 participants from Felmers O. Chaney, Marshall E. Sherrer and Milwaukee Women's Correctional Centers and individuals on DCC supervision in Region 3.
- 2018 Gateway Technical College provides instruction at Racine Correctional Institution utilizing the DOC's self-contained mobile CNC lab as the classroom. The DOC also purchases two additional mobile labs which provide instruction in welding and industrial maintenance.
- 2018 DOC's conducts a pilot project with Madison College to train inmates from Oregon and Thompson Correctional Centers with work release privileges in its 12-week Industrial Maintenance certificate program.
- 2020 New Lisbon Correction Institution adds an electrical program vocational program certified through Western Technical College.