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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF
JUVENILE JUSTICE

QUARTERLY TRANSFORMATION REPORT



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CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION UPDATE

COLLEGE & CAREER EXPLORATION & PLANNING

IDJJ's Transformation Plan includes the goals of reducing the harm of incarceration and working toward better outcomes for the young people we serve. Providing opportunities to youth for career & technical education (CTE) trainings and certifications and higher education opportunities is a key element of meeting the goals of the Transformation. This report will highlight many of the current and upcoming CTE programs and opportunities for IDJJ's teens and young adults as the Department increases efforts to accomplish our mission of building youth skills, strengthening families, promoting safe communities, and achieving positive youth outcomes.

Schoolinks

Schoolinks is a college and career readiness platform that educates youth about potential careers, helps them explore and apply to colleges, and builds soft skills that are vital for employability. The platform also includes trainings for social and emotional development.

Youth are able to continue to utilize Schoolinks after release from a DJJ youth center, and goal setting and career planning functions help DJJ educators and counselors partner with youth on putting plans for the future in motion.

IDJJ's CTE staff have completed Schoolinks training, and the rollout for using the platform will begin in August of 2023.

Construction & Heavy Equipment

IDJJ partners with Lake Land College, Lewis & Clark Community College's YouthBuild program, Victory XR, and Sim Log to provide a variety of training and certification opportunities to DJJ youth in the construction field.

Lake Land College in Mattoon, Illinois offers a building construction certification opportunity to youth at DJJ's IYC St. Charles facility. Hands-on activities and classroom-based courses prepare youth for the construction industry.

Lewis & Clark Community College in Godfrey, Illinois collaborates with **YouthBuild Illinois** to offer a variety of construction related courses and certifications to youth at DJJ's Pere Marquette youth center. YouthBuild offers Carpentry, Solar Installation, and Welding certifications, as well as leadership training, career development, and community service opportunities.

SimLog provides training and certifications in operating heavy equipment such as backhoes, bulldozers, and excavators. SimLog uses simulator based training and offers a lot of flexibility to utilize the program at DJJ facilities.

Victory XR offers a carpentry certification to DJJ youth through its virtual reality training platform. Victory XR is on the cutting edge of immersive classrooms and campuses through virtual reality. Students interact in a synchronous yet virtual environment.

CONSTRUCTION & HEAVY EQUIPMENT



Coming Soon in Construction

IDJJ is in the process of securing a partnership with [First Institute Management and Training](#) to expand welding certification opportunities to IYC St. Charles and IYC Harrisburg. The program offers a comprehensive 150-hour program preparing students for an entry-level position in welding. The focus is to teach students the necessary weld process skills to successfully complete an industry-standard weld certification test governed by the American Welding Society (AWS).

Cosmetology & Barber Program

DJJ partners with [Larry's Barber College](#) to provide on site training for cosmetology and barber licensing at IYC Warrenville and IYC Chicago. The shop at IYC St. Charles is awaiting inspection and will be up and running soon.

Youth can get fully trained with all required clinical hours and even sit for their licensing exam at the facility.

A new partnership with [Champion Barber College](#) in Belleville, Illinois will allow youth at IYC Pere Marquette to receive training and work toward a barber license. Barber students will also undergo extensive hands-on, one-on-one, training with licensed instructors.

CONSTRUCTION & HEAVY EQUIPMENT CONT.

COSMETOLOGY & BARBER PROGRAM



Culinary Arts

IDJJ works with several partners to provide opportunities to youth for training in culinary:

- Youth at IYC Harrisburg have the opportunity to take culinary arts classes from [Lake Land College](#).
- IDJJ is in the process of setting up a partnership with [EDWINS Leadership & Restaurant Institute](#). EDWINS is a 501(c)(3) organization that offers formerly incarcerated adults a foundation in the culinary and hospitality industries and a support network necessary for long-term success. EDWINS graduates have a 95% employment rate and less than 1% recidivism rate.
- A pilot program with [Curt's Café](#) began in May and is in the early stages for students at IYC Chicago. The mission of Curt's Café is to improve outcomes for young adults living in at-risk situations through work and life skills training. Youth practice culinary techniques but also receive instruction they will need to fill in educational gaps, gain confidence, and become job-ready. Some teaching is done on café lines, some is done in a classroom setting, and some by individual mentors.

CULINARY & HOSPITALITY



LIFE SKILLS

Finance

IDJJ's CTE educators have recently developed a twelve week personal finance course that is tailored to the needs of youth at IDJJ. A vast array of topics are covered, including checking accounts, savings accounts, debit cards, online deposits, certificates of deposit, special accounts, overdraft fees, and minimum balances. The course also covers topics related to credit cards, credit scores, and budgeting.

Driver's Education

IDJJ is partnering with [Nova Driving School](#) to provide online driver's education courses to eligible youth at all facilities. IDJJ has completed the contract with Nova and is in the process of identifying youth who will participate in the first course offering this fall.

Technology & Manufacturing Association of Illinois

A new partnership with the [Technology & Manufacturing Association](#) that began in July of 2023 allows youth at IYC Harrisburg and IYC St. Charles to receive online education in manufacturing. Youth who complete the program can earn a certificate as a Certified Manufacturing Associate.

MANUFACTURING

MEDICAL FIELD

SHIPPING & RECEIVING

SOLAR INSTALLATION



Victory XR

In addition to offering carpentry certifications for IDJJ youth, [Victory XR](#) also provides training to receive nursing assistant (CNA) or medical assistant certifications. Because Victory XR is virtual/online training, eligible youth at all IDJJ youth centers will soon have access to this opportunity.

Lewis & Clark Community College (LCCC)

Youth at IYC Pere Marquette have access to the [CNA Bridge course](#) at LCCC which helps students prepare and succeed in the CNA certification course. The three week course teaches health science terminology, basic math, study skills, test-taking strategies and much more.

Greater West Town Project

IDJJ's brand new partnership with [Greater West Town Project's](#) twelve-week shipping and receiving program prepares trainees with a broad base of skills needed to be highly qualified for entry-level employment in positions such as a shipping & receiving clerk, forklift operator, warehouse associate, material handler, traffic agent, stocker, order picker, or dock worker. Program graduates also receive an OSHA certification and assistance with job placement. This new program began on August 7th with youth at IYC Chicago.

D&D Electric

Youth at IYC Harrisburg will now have the opportunity to get certified in solar electric installation through a new partnership with [D&D Electric, LLC](#) in Harrisburg. D&D works in industrial, commercial, and residential installation.

LOOKING AHEAD

Pointful Education

IDJJ has secured a partnership with [Pointful Education](#), which offers online CTE courses and certification preparation in career fields not previously offered by IDJJ. Courses include A/V Technician, Communication, Business Management & Administration, Project Management, and IT/Application Development.

Emerging Adult Career Site at IYC St. Charles

The 21st Century Transformation Plan includes a more individualized response to youth needs, and the plan to transition IYC St. Charles into an emerging adult site for high school graduates will respond to the unique needs of our young adult population.

This specialized site for high school graduates will allow for more focused and developmentally appropriate skill building and programming for our older youth, and will also offer unique life skills training and re-entry preparation. Post-secondary educational opportunities will also be available to youth at the emerging adult site. IDJJ tentatively plans to begin the transition of IYC St. Charles this fall.

IDJJ is continuing to focus on achieving the goals set forth in the 21st Century Transformation Plan. Increased opportunities in Career & Technical Education will help youth to build successful futures for themselves and their families. IDJJ looks forward to reporting data related to the current and upcoming CTE initiatives in the near future!