

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
WORK ETHIC CAMP
LEGISLATIVE REPORT
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PURPOSE

The Work Ethic Camp (WEC) was authorized by LB882, which was signed into law by then Governor Ben Nelson on June 10, 1997. State Statute 83-4,147 requires an annual progress report to the Legislature beginning on November of the year following implementation. The WEC began taking offenders on April 10, 2001. On July 9, 2007, WEC began accepting inmates into the program due to the passage of LB83. Inmates transferred to WEC under this law are paroled pending successful completion of the Work Ethic Camp program. On August 30, 2009, LB274 was passed, allowing the Director of the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services discretion as to the placement of inmates at WEC. Inmates transferred to WEC under this law will be promoted to community custody upon successful completion of the Work Ethic Camp program.

INTRODUCTION

The Work Ethic Camp, originally designated as an incarceration work camp, was designed to reduce prison overcrowding and make space available for violent offenders. The Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS) changed the name in December of 1998 to more accurately reflect the programmatic emphasis of the facility. The mission of the Work Ethic Camp is to provide an integrated program in partnership with the Probation and Parole Administrations that combines evidence based practices within a highly structured treatment environment. The overall goal is to reduce the risk of recidivism through offender behavioral change and assisting them back into the community under close supervision.

It is the philosophy of the WEC that behaviors and attitudes that reflect positive work ethics and behavior can be learned and transferred to other areas of an individual's life. The WEC offers Intensive Outpatient/Out Patient substance abuse programming along with work experience, education, cognitive restructuring and life skills programs to enhance positive work ethics. The WEC emphasizes job preparation such as teamwork, filling out resumes and applications, understanding how to interview, and how to accept criticism, etc. Also, through vocational offerings such as Welding, Carpentry, and Introduction to Business, specific job skills are taught to qualified applicants.

Statutorily, the WEC is for male and female offenders, housing both Intensive Supervision Probation Offenders and minimum security NDCS male Inmates. They cannot have any sexual assaults or Part I violent offenses on record, and they must be convicted as an adult of a felony offense (such as drug offenses, burglary, theft, etc). The facility does not accept referrals from juvenile courts or county courts in Nebraska. The offenders must be physically and mentally fit to participate, with reasonable accommodations made whenever possible.

The Probation Offenders admitted to WEC are referred by Community-Based Intervention Officers through the sentencing District Court. The NDCS Inmates are classified to minimum custody. The staff at the WEC is NDCS employees. An identified Probation officer assigned to the district area is the contact and liaison for probation offenders. Prior to placement at WEC, both offenders and inmates are screened, utilizing the Level of Service - Case Management Inventory. This tool identifies each offender's criminogenic needs in order to individualize each case plan for targeting the specific needs of each offender/inmate. The partnership between Probation, Parole and NDCS has fostered this process to ensure seamless transition between both agencies, which is critical to the success of the facility.

The WEC, for probation offenders, is based on a 180 day maximum stay, but they may successfully complete the program in 154 days. The length of stay for NDCS inmates will vary upon sentence structure and parole eligibility date. The facility, which now has 200 beds, operates on a fourteen (14) to fifteen (15) hour day schedule, seven (7) days per week. Because it is a short-term program, few personal possessions are allowed. The offenders do not have access to cash while at the facility and tobacco products are prohibited. During their first month offenders are restricted to work on-site only, working jobs such as laundry, kitchen, maintenance, etc. Only approved visitors are allowed to visit once a week and phone calls are restricted to fifteen minutes per day. As they progress through the program, more responsibility is expected.

Under Nebraska law, successful completion of the Work Ethic Camp would allow the sentencing court to modify the offender’s conditions of probation, place the offender in an aftercare program or discharge the offender. If the offender does not complete the WEC program successfully, the court may impose the original sentence with credit for time spent in the Work Ethic Camp program. For inmates, successful completion of the WEC results in the inmate’s release on parole at their earliest parole eligibility date, released on their targeted release date, or custody promotion to community corrections. Inmates who do not complete the WEC program successfully will be transferred to other NDCS institutions with their parole status determined by the Nebraska Parole Board and/or they may be demoted in custody to the appropriate level.

REFERRALS, ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES AT WEC

One of the major issues referenced in previous WEC annual reports to the Legislature is continued underutilization of the Camp. As illustrated in Table 1.0 – Number of Offenders/Inmates at WEC, June 30th, Each Year Since 2001 the facility remained below capacity (100) since opening, until November 5, 2008:

Table 1.0 – Number of Offenders/Inmates at WEC, June 30th, Each Year Since 2001

<u>Year (as of June 30th)</u>	<u>Number of Offenders</u>
2001	26
2002	72
2003	92
2004	75
2005	85
2006	73
2007	66
2008	68
2009	100
2010	174
2011	178
2012	148
2013	124

As Table 1.0 indicates, these efforts have resulted in an increase in numbers of inmates at the Work Ethic Camp in the past few years. The increase in numbers in general after 2009 is due to

the implementation of LB83, which allowed the placement of inmates at the WEC, and LB274, which expanded the population base to over 180.

As indicated in Table 1.1 - Number of Admissions per Year to the WEC – From April 30, 2001 Through September 30, 2013, a total of 3,819 offenders/inmates have been admitted to the Work Ethic Camp. (Numbers in Table 1.1 have been changed due to inaccuracies in the 2012 Legislative Report.)

**Table 1.1 – Number of Admissions per Year to the WEC –
From April 30, 2001, Through September 30, 2013**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Average Per Month</u>
2001	98	10.9
2002	209	17.4
2003	267	22.3
2004	244	20.3
2005	250	20.8
2006	225	18.8
2007	225	18.8
2008	237	19.8
2009	289	24.1
2010	439	36.6
2011	537	44.8
2012	475	39.6
2013	324	36.0
TOTAL	3819	24.9

According to WEC's records, 4,057 Probation Offenders have been referred to the facility for intake, but only 2,242 (55.2%) were actually admitted into the program. From July 2007 through September 2013, 1577 inmates have been admitted to WEC. (Numbers in this chart have been changed due to errors in the 2012 Legislative Report.)

**Table 1.2 – Number of Discharges per Year From the WEC
April 30, 2001 to September 30, 2013**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Average Per Month</u>
2001	58	7.3
2002	174	14.5
2003	252	21.0
2004	261	21.8
2005	256	21.3
2006	222	18.5
2007	202	16.8
2008	212	17.7
2009	281	23.4
2010	414	34.5
2011	497	37.6
2012	508	42.3
2013	315	35.0

TOTAL	3652	23.9
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As illustrated in Table 1.2, of the 3,819 offenders/inmates admitted, a total of 3,652 have, to date, been discharged from the facility. However, not all of these discharges were successful. (Numbers in Table 1.2 have been changed to correct the inaccuracies in the 2012 Legislative Report.)

Table 1.3 – Number of Successful Discharges per Year from the WEC – April 30, 2001 to September 30, 2013, looks at the number of discharges that were successful. During the time period under review, 81.% or 2,960 offenders/inmates were successfully discharged from the Work Ethic Camp. (Numbers in Table 1.3 have been changed to correct the inaccuracies in the 2012 Legislative Report)

**Table 1.3 – Number of Successful Discharges per Year from the WEC
From April 30, 2001 to September 30, 2013**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Average Per Month</u>
2001	41	5.1
2002	147	12.3
2003	205	17.1
2004	214	17.8
2005	220	18.3
2006	200	16.7
2007	171	14.3
2008	174	14.5
2009	231	19.3
2010	305	25.4
2011	386	29.2
2012	416	34.6
2013	250	27.8
TOTAL	2960	19.4

Table 1.4 – Number of Unsuccessful Discharges per Year from the WEC – April 30, 2001 to September 30, 2013, is shown below. A total of 629 offenders/inmates were not successful during the time period under review. This represents 17.2% of the total number of discharges.

**Table 1.4 – Number of Unsuccessful Discharges per Year From The WEC
April 30, 2001 to September 30, 2013**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Average Per Month</u>
2001	17	2.1
2002	27	2.3
2003	47	3.9
2004	47	3.9
2005	36	3.0
2006	22	1.8
2007	31	2.6
2008	38	3.2
2009	50	4.2
2010	109	9.1
2011	111	9.3
2012	67	5.6
2013	27	3.0

TOTAL	629	4.2
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PROGRAMS AT WEC

Work

Programs available at the WEC include supervised work crews, in which offenders/inmates are taken to work for various government agencies throughout Southwest Nebraska. Those agencies and organizations include the Department of Roads, Nebraska Game and Parks, and county and city governments. The presence of the Work Ethic Camp through its supervised work crews in Southwest Nebraska has been a significant benefit both to the individual offenders/inmates and to the surrounding communities. Offenders/inmates leave WEC with a positive work ethic and a new beginning in their home communities.

WEC would like to expand the services of its work crews to include non-profit organizations, so to have a greater benefit to both the work crews and the surrounding communities. This would necessitate exploring the language of State Statute 83-183 during the next session.

Table 1.5 – Total Offender Labor Hours at the Work Ethic Camp From April 30, 2001 to September 30, 2013 summarizes offender labor at WEC since the facility opened.

**Table 1.5 – Total Offender Labor Hours at the Work Ethic Camp
April 30, 2001 to September 30, 2012**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Number of Hours</u>
2001	12,484
2002	34,406
2003	44,050
2004	44,091
2005	37,696
2006	32,413
2007	27,039
2008	37,369
2009	32,455
2010	23,519
2011	13,163
2012	10,042
2013	7799
TOTAL	356,526

It should be noted that the total number of work hours in 2011, and 2012 are lower than in previous years. This is due to budget modifications which reduced the Road Crew Corporal positions at WEC from eight to four and statutory constraints excluding non-profit organizations.

Education

Another main program component of the WEC is education, which offers General Education Development (GED) and Adult Basic Education (ABE), for those offenders/inmates who are not high school graduates or who have education deficits. All offenders entering the program undergo a test of Adult Basic Education to determine their education needs. The Department of Correctional Services employs two full-time teachers to provide educational instruction for WEC offenders/inmates.

One of the primary goals of the Education Department is the obtainment of a GED, which in some cases has been court-ordered as a condition of probation, but is otherwise viewed as enhancing an offender's employability upon discharge. Of the 3,813 offenders/inmates admitted to the Work Ethic Camp, 1,573 (41%) were identified as needing ABE or GED instruction upon admission. To date, 581 (37%) of these offenders/inmates have received their GED while at the WEC. Due to the short-term nature of the program, no college classes are offered.

During 2013, WEC continued to partner with Mid-Plains Community College, Valmont Industries, and McCook Public Schools in the vocational program offered to the offender/ inmate population. This program consists of a nine-week welding course for which each participating offender receives college credit upon successful completion. The courses are taught off-site at the Center for Applied Science and Technology (CAST). To date (through September 2013) sixteen classes have completed instruction and several students graduated with certifications. One hundred thirteen offenders/inmates have participated in this program since March 2009, with 75% of the students graduating from the program. To date the welding program is on hold pending restructuring of class room work and continued partnership with Valmont Industries.

Beginning in April 2010, another vocational program was offered to offenders/inmates at the Work Ethic Camp. This program is a nine-week Business Technology class, which is instructed by teachers at Mid-Plains Community College at their campus in McCook. Eight classes have completed instruction since April 2010. Of the eight completed classes, fifty-three students participated in the program, with forty two of those receiving certificates for completion. Another class is currently being attended by seven students with a completion date of late November. The Business Tech class was upgraded recently to an Intro to Business class and includes a Business planning class.

Due to a lack of a qualified teacher this class has not been reposted at this time. Green Construction Vocational class has not been posted.

The Director of the Department of Correctional Services requested that the Work Ethic Camp offer services to Probation Offenders and Parolees who are not confined at WEC. Beginning on September 1, 2010, WEC began offering services through a Reporting Center to Probation and Parole offenders within a 60-mile radius of McCook. Since September 2010, there have been 53 referrals for 64 classes to the WEC Reporting Center; with 43 referrals for Anger Management classes, 6 for Think class, 5 for Life Skills classes, 4 for Substance Abuse Treatment/Relapse Prevention, and 2 for Victim Impact class. Forty-nine of these referrals were from Probation and four were from Adult Parole.

Substance Abuse

Every offender/inmate who enters the program is also given a substance abuse assessment, and those with treatment needs enter the substance abuse treatment component of the WEC, which includes substance abuse education, individual and group counseling, and attendance at self-help groups, facilitated by local volunteers. Eighty-nine percent (89%) of the offenders/inmates at the WEC have been identified as needing substance abuse treatment.

The substance abuse program at the Work Ethic Camp is at present an Intensive Out Patient/Out Patient program. Offenders/inmates assessed as appropriate for substance abuse services are referred to the substance abuse program for regularly scheduled sessions. An individualized treatment plan is completed on all offenders/inmates. The intensity of each individual's treatment will be based upon his or her level of need. These sessions, including group, individual and educational, focus on the impact of substance use and abuse. The groups will use an educational approach to substance use and abuse that covers topics including the biomedical effects of drugs and alcohol on the body, general health risks, the effects of substance abuse on decision making, the effects of substance abuse on interpersonal relationships, and especially the relationship between addiction and delinquent lifestyles.

Cognitive Programming:

The WEC programming includes the following classes. The Transformation Project is a program that helps inmates prepare for their transition through the prison system into the community by creating a comprehensive action plan. The program includes 22 modules covering a range of topics related to transition and re-entry such as education, employment, housing and social networks. Participants discuss thoughts, attitudes and values, practice activities such as budgets, role playing, drafting a resume, and identify goals they need to accomplish.

Seven Habits On the Inside is a program that helps inmates to live their lives more effectively. The purpose of this program is to help inmates develop new habits that will help them to achieve their full potential in work and life and help them get the results they want for healthy living. Habits are small things – but they determine our destiny.

Victim Impact focuses on the impact inmates' crimes on victim victims and the community. The Anger Management class focuses on learning tools for how to manage and control anger. Inside Out Dads class focuses on techniques to enhance parenting skills and redeveloping relationships with inmates' children in a healthy way.

Rewards Program

One of the goals at WEC is to create an environment that encourages positive change. Every offender/inmate at the facility will have the opportunity to earn rewards for positive behavior and for demonstrating progress on the Individualized Treatment Plan. Each offender/inmate that meets established criteria may select up to three (3) rewards.

Trust Program

The Trust Program allows offenders/inmates to have an opportunity to work offsite with intermittent supervision and also allows them to work onsite jobs within the Trust Program. The

trust positions available on site are in the kitchen, warehouse/laundry, zone porter, and maintenance departments. In order for an offender/inmate to be eligible for the Trust Program, he/she must meet the same criteria as those in the Rewards Program, and have the support of their work supervisor.

Recreation / Religion

In the spring of 2010 a full time Recreation Specialist was added to the staff at WEC. The benefit of this position is to aid in the positive use of free time, physical exercise and development of positive social interaction. This is accomplished through organized sporting activities, board games, tournaments, and special activities on certain holidays. Since the arrival of the Recreation Specialist, WEC has added several new sporting supplies and weight equipment.

Improvements have been made in the Religion program at WEC with the implementation of an organized Religious Library, with designated times available for use. In addition, new efforts have made in working with religious volunteers to meet the needs of the expanding religious affiliations represented in the inmate population. In addition, communal religious ground has been identified for various religious practices.

Regimented and Structured

Nebraska State Statute, section 83-4,142 mandates that the WEC provide regimented, structured, disciplined programming. Offenders/inmates begin their day at 5:30 AM with personal hygiene. Offenders/inmates are then assigned to jobs at the facility, or on work crews, and attend program and education classes until 9:00 PM, with lights out at 10:00 PM. Visiting is allowed on Saturday and Sunday for those offenders/inmates with approved visitors. Religious programs are provided for those offenders/inmates who wish to participate. Some free time is scheduled to allow offenders/inmates time to complete homework assignments, clean their bunk area/dorm, manage personal hygiene, or write letters. There are guidelines for how offenders/inmates are to move from class to class, how they are to address staff, visitors and other offenders, how they are to wear their state issued clothing, and how they are to maintain their bunk, locker and dorm area. It is believed that the daily schedule, the work crews, and the expectations regarding appearance and behavior meet the statutory requirements for “regimented and structured”.

OFFENDER/INMATE DISCIPLINE ACTIVITY

There have been 475 releases from WEC during fiscal year 2013 (July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013). Within that same time period, 100 offenders/inmates have been removed prior to successfully completing the program. It should be noted that the individuals could be removed via two mechanisms. First, probation offenders can be determined to be a threat to themselves or others, or threaten to abscond, and as a result be removed by Probation staff. The second mechanism is through serious or repeated violations of WEC rules, where a Disposition Treatment Team recommends removal of the offender. The offender can appeal that (or any) decision of the Disposition Treatment Team to the Warden’s Review Committee. NDCS inmates can be removed for the same issues; however, the inmates are returned to the Diagnostic and Evaluation facility and will be reclassified to a lower custody level. Inmates must also demonstrate adequate institutional adjustment as well.

Offenders/inmates during fiscal year 2013 have been removed for the following reasons:

<u>Reason for Removal</u>	<u>Number of Offender/Inmates</u>
Program Failure	57
Medical/Mental Health	9
Abscond / Walk Away	0
Voluntary Discharge	0
Other	34
TOTAL	100

Removals from the program have decreased over the last fiscal year by a total of 7.0%. However, the total of admissions for the last fiscal year decreased by a total of 10.5%. WEC staff continues to develop in effectively dealing with disruptive behavior. There do continue to be some referrals from the courts that have been deemed inappropriate referrals, as with some NDCS referrals. Many removals deal with the inappropriate conduct that comes with housing males and females together.

PROBATION RELEASE DECISION MAKING

Probation offenders are ordered to complete the WEC program as a condition of Probation, decision-making centers on the ability of an offender to finish the program in 180 days successfully completing all recommended substance abuse classes and other programming classes. By statute (83-4,143, paragraph 2) an offender may not be kept longer than 180 days; however, the program can be completed in 154 days if the offender progresses through the program with little difficulty.

PAROLE RELEASE AND CLASSIFICATION DECISION MAKING

Some inmates transferred to WEC have been paroled pending successful completion of the recommended programming 180-day program. Inmates may not be released until they have reached their Parole Eligibility Date. Other inmates transferred to WEC will be promoted in custody to community corrections upon successful completion of the program. Inmates receiving serious misconduct reports may be transferred to DEC. The Parole Board will be notified of such incidents for those who are pending parole.

COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION

Because probation offenders are sent to the WEC as a condition of ISP, following their discharge from the facility they are on supervised probation for an extended period of time. Initially, offenders are supervised by a CBI Officer who makes contact with them several times per week, both in the office and in the field, and regular random drug testing is required. As the offender obtains employment and complies with probation conditions that supervision may be relaxed over the course of his/her probation until eventually he/she is rolled over to traditional probation, or given a successful discharge. NDCS inmates successfully discharged from WEC and released on parole are supervised in the community by the Adult Parole Administration. Conditions of parole are set by the Parole Board. WEC staff prepares a discharge summary for CBI and Parole Officers outlining the progress the offender/inmate made while at the WEC. Issues are identified that the offender/inmate needs to continue to work on, and the steps the offender/inmate needs to

take immediately upon his/her discharge from the WEC are outlined. NDCS inmates successfully discharged from WEC and promoted in custody are transferred to a community corrections center. The discharge certificate is still prepared and forwarded to community corrections staff for follow-up and pending discharge from NDCS.

IMPACT ON PRISON COST

The WEC cost approximately \$6.7 million to build, has 70 appropriated staff, and the facility operates on a \$4.6 million annual budget. The NDCS Central Office funded staff and two Probation Case Managers bring the total on-site WEC resources to 82.5 full-time employees for the reporting period. The average daily population for WEC in fiscal year 2013 was 136.

The data in Table 1.6 – WEC Admissions July 2012 to June 2013 shows the number of offenders/inmates sentenced to the Work Ethic Camp per month during fiscal year 2013.

Table 1.6 – WEC Admissions July 2012 to June 2013

<u>Admission Month</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Admission Month</u>	<u>Number</u>
July 2012	43	January 2013	37
August 2012	41	February 2013	37
September 2012	39	March 2013	23
October 2012	28	April 2013	26
November 2012	29	May 2013	46
December 2012	66	June 2013	36
TOTAL			451

During the same time period, there were a total of 475 offenders/inmates released from the Work Ethic Camp. As Table 1.7 – Work Ethic Camp Releases July 2012 to June 2013 shows, 78.9% or 475 offenders were released successfully.

Table 1.7 – Work Ethic Camp Releases July 2012 to June 2013

<u>Release Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Successful	375	78.9
Program Failure	57	12
Medical/Mental Health	9	1.89
Abscond / Walk Away	0	0
Voluntary Discharge	0	0
Other	34	7.21
TOTAL	475	100

Table 1.7 also indicates that there were 57 offenders/inmates, or 12%, who could be considered program failures. Nine offenders/inmates (1.89%) left the program for medical/mental health reasons, and 34 offenders/inmates (7.21%) were removed from the program for other reasons.

Finally, as can be seen in Table 1.8 Average Cost Savings to the State for Each Offender Sentenced to the Work Ethic Camp, the basic concept behind the construction of the WEC continues to pay dividends for Nebraska. The WEC was established as an alternative to prison, to free up bed space in Nebraska’s prisons for violent offenders. To that end, the WEC continues to meet its objective.

Given that the judge must make a finding that absent the Work Ethic Camp the probation offender would go to prison, the State has, since WEC opened in April 30, 2001, successfully diverted 2,242 offenders from prison. In today’s dollars that would equal the following overall savings in Table 1.8:

Table 1.8 – Average Cost Savings to the State for Each Offender Sentenced to the Work Ethic Camp

<u>Fiscal Year 2013</u>	<u>Average Cost</u>
Average Cost per Offender in State Prison (Incarcerated)	\$37,461
Average Cost per Offender at WEC (Based on # of Admissions per Year)	\$17,173
TOTAL COST SAVINGS PER OFFENDER	\$20, 288

Using the data from Table 1.8, the 60 offenders successfully discharged from the Work Ethic Camp during FY 2013 and thus diverted from prison, have saved Nebraska taxpayers a total of \$1,217,280. Another way to look at the impact of the Work Ethic Camp is to measure how it is impacting prison population. As of June 30, 2013, the State prisons held 4878 inmates in space designed to hold 3175. This represents a crowding index 153.6% of design capacity. Had all 451 offenders and inmates who were admitted to WEC in fiscal year 2013 been housed in other NDCS facilities instead of WEC, the current prison population would be 5457 and the crowding index would be 171.9% of design capacity. Diversion of these offenders has worked effectively to help reduce crowded state prisons.

ISSUES

The number of Probation offenders admitted to WEC continues to decrease. IN FY 2011, Probation offenders were 45.92% of the admissions to WEC. In FY 2012 they were 34.44% of the admissions. In FY 2013, Probation offenders were 3.99% of the admissions. To date in the present FY, there have been a total of 3 Probation offender admissions, representing 2.5% of WEC admissions.

Based on these numbers and the drastic downward trend in Probation offender admissions, it will be beneficial to reconsider how to best meet the interests/needs of the Probation Administration and the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services, which would require a legislative change.

Due to the increase in the total population numbers and the physical layout of the housing units, the housing of both males and females at the WEC is often a distraction and is detrimental to successful completion of the program. This distraction prevents inmates from focusing on their

program needs. In April 2012 it was determined female inmates would no longer be transferred to WEC and would receive program offering through other department avenues. It would be beneficial to reconsider for the best for the needs of female probationers given this change. This would require legislative change.

The WEC is continually exploring avenues to expand its vocational and recreation opportunities for its population. Increasing both opportunities contribute greatly to occupational opportunities upon release and more constructive use of free time while at the WEC.

The WEC is in its twelfth year of operation. Through preventive maintenance and creativity, equipment and fixtures that have reached their maximum years of service are still in operation. This will continue to increase basic maintenance and replacement costs. It will be necessary to establish a replacement schedule based on priority needs basis as funds become available.

SUMMARY

Due to the changing makeup of the WEC population as reflected in the lower numbers of Probation offenders admitted to the WEC, and the implementation of LB 83 and LB 274, the original concept is evolving. The focus and goal of the Work Ethic Camp remains to reduce prison crowding and to provide quality programming.

At this time, the Work Ethic Camp is a vital component in the sentencing continuum available to the Courts of Nebraska and within the Department of Corrections for treatment. Because of the recent emphasis on community-based corrections, this type of program is more necessary than ever. It provides structure and programs necessary for offenders and inmates to gain the tools needed to lead a law-abiding life and to establish and maintain steady and legal employment. It is expected that the WEC will continue to provide significant cost savings to the taxpayers of the State of Nebraska.