

## **Work Ethic Camp Population Reaches 100**

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The Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Work Ethic Camp offender population exceeded 100 Wednesday, and is expected to grow to the capacity of 130 probation offenders and inmates pending parole by the end of the year. Offender numbers had briefly spiked to 100 previously, but quickly dropped off. For the first time since the facility accepted offenders in April 2001, NDCS staff project numbers will remain above the century mark.

The original capacity of WEC was 100 probation offenders, who completed a 4 to 6 month program. At that time, the drug and alcohol treatment level was classified as intensive outpatient. Currently, the program is 5 to 6 months to accommodate the higher requirements of the short-term residential treatment level. Parole candidates currently account for approximately one-third of the facility's population.

Offenders participating in the Work Ethic Camp program follow an individualized treatment plan, developed to address the offender's demonstrated criminogenic needs. Major areas addressed include criminal history, education/ employment, family/ marital, companions, alcohol/ drug problem, pro-criminal attitude/ orientation and antisocial pattern.

The staff uses evidence-based practices to offer the most effective programming possible. While at the camp, offenders are offered courses in GED, parenting, victim awareness, cognitive restructuring and employment skills, in addition to drug and alcohol treatment. Offenders are also assigned to work individually with treatment staff to identify and address core personal issues.

Upon completion of the Work Ethic Camp program, offenders are returned to their respective communities under the supervision of probation or parole officers. WEC staff works with others in the community to assist the offenders with continuing drug or alcohol treatment, education, securing employment, and other conditions of community release.

Since 2001, approximately 1700 offenders have been given the opportunity to participate in treatment and rehabilitation at the facility.

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