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For Immediate Release...

Corrections News

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Offenders learn computer skills while saving Missouri school districts money

Offenders at Northeast Correctional Center (NECC) in Bowling Green recently refurbished and donated 50 computers to the Adrian R-III School District. Since the Computers for Schools Program started at NECC in 1999, the DOC has donated nearly 7,000 computers to Missouri public schools.

Adrian Superintendent Dr. Kirk Eidson said the computers are an added boost to his district.

“Any time we can get computers, it’s really a bonus for our school district. Fifteen of the computers will replace outdated ones. The remaining 35 will be distributed throughout the district. We are very appreciative for this opportunity,” said Eidson.

Eidson said the Computers for Schools Program is a great resource for districts to use to offset the cost of purchasing new computers.

Computers for the program are received from various donors, including businesses, local schools and government agencies. Approximately 20 offenders participate in the program at various stages of the refurbishing process. On average, it takes approximately six hours to refurbish a computer.

Department of Corrections Director George A. Lombardi said the Computers for Schools Program not only benefits Missouri school districts, but it also teaches offenders skills they can use after their release.

“We hope this effort continues and expands as time progresses so that more offenders learn this skill set and more school districts can take advantage of their work,” Lombardi said. “We are grateful to the donors who make this program possible by donating computers and other hardware.”

Offenders who participate in the program gain valuable hands on experience during the refurbishment process which consists of a complete tear down of a computer system, inspection and rebuild. Part of the process includes identifying components that are outdated or inoperable. For several of these offenders, the skills learned could lead to employment after release and a successful transition into becoming productive taxpayers.

Schools who recently received computers as a result of the program include: Hale R-I; Holden R-III; Otterville R-VI; Meadow Heights R-II; Braymer C-4; Avilla R-13; Alton R-IV; Gordon Parks Elementary School; Madison C-3; Winston R-VI; Glenwood R-8; Dent-Phelps R-III; De Soto; New Haven; Prairie Home R-V; Strasburg C-3; and Stockton School District. Currently, the program is working to fulfill requests from Hayti R-II; Bradleyville R-I; Van Buren R-1; Archie R-V; Scott City R-I; Craig R-III; and Ralls County R-II.