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IDOC Holds Virtual Job Fair for Offenders

Indianapolis, Ind. – Indiana Department of Correction and Hoosier Initiative for Re-Entry (HIRE) are proud to announce the completion of the Virtual Job Fair for 280 offenders who are soon-to-be released in the Indianapolis area. The mission of the Virtual Job Fair is to place offenders in meaningful employment opportunities before they are released back to their communities.

Six central Indiana employers participated in the Virtual Job Fair, including representatives from Indiana Construction Roundtable, Lithko Contracting, and employers in the following industries: contracting, manufacturing, distribution and warehouse, and plastics. The webinar provided employers the opportunity to discuss their hiring needs to a room full of returning citizens. HIRE coordinators will then assist in connecting interested, qualified candidates with these employers with the goal of securing employment opportunities prior to their release.

“Over 90% of the 27,000 offenders in the Indiana Department of Correction will return to our communities,” stated HIRE Director Carrie Heck. “Those who don’t have meaningful employment upon release are up-to 78% more likely to re-offend; it’s critical to connect offenders to employers *prior* to release.”

Approximately 280 offenders participated in a Virtual Job Fair. The offenders represented 16 facilities state-wide and tuned into a moderated webinar from assigned their facility. During the presentations a facility moderator fielded from the offenders to participating employers. All participants are within 90 days from their release date, with priority given to those offenders who have been certified in high demand fields while incarcerated. These offenders will be released to the Indianapolis area.

If you’re an employer interested in participating in a future Virtual Job Fair, visit www.in.gov/idoc/3585 or contact HIRE Director Carrie Heck at Check1@idoc.in.gov for more information.

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Pictured: Offenders participating in the Virtual Job Fair from their assigned facility.

