



Some Assembly Required: The CSI Newsletter

June 2021

Welcome to the Twelfth Edition of *Some Assembly Required!*



Above: OEI products installed in the NEMA office in Lincoln. Products were assembled and delivered by Kent Hanika and George Jackson. Shop 39 (Wood Shop @ LCC) and Shop 20 (Wood/Chair Shop @ NSP) also helped build items for his project.



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3 Questions With a CSI Employee - Mike Martin, Business Manager

1. How much has your position evolved throughout the years? I have loved working at CSI in large part because my job has indeed “evolved”, which implies a beneficial change. Science evolves too... oftentimes from being flat wrong, to what is now the “not so experts” current understanding.... just depends on where we are on the timeline!

My timeline at CSI is much longer than I anticipated. Because I’m old, I used to **think** our mission is very well-conceived. However, in more recent years, I’ve evolved to **feel** our mission is very well-conceived. Despite what I think or feel, the **reality** is I am an Accountant/Financial Analyst, and it’s really all about the **bottom line**.

CSI remains win-win-win scenario. We advantage the custody force by taking inmates off the yard and help them be productive. We sell inmate productivity at a discount to advantage our customers. We advantage the taxpayer by being self-funding.

CSI adds a tremendous amount of value and stability to the Correctional culture through our daily work operations, investment, and vision.

CSI is the best place to work in Corrections because we offer quality, value, and service to a customer base within, and beyond, the prison walls.

CSI trains both staff and inmates better than any other venue in State government, because of our unique business model.

Showing up every day, doing the hard work, making quality products, and follow through on quality services never goes out of style. We model and implement the American work ethic.

Made in America remains a good idea, especially in prison. Outsourcing anything to China was/is a bad idea.

2. What is the most exciting part of your job? I love to see motivated people (young or mature) that have worked for me, move on and get promoted. Outsourcing former CSI staff to any other workforce is also a good idea! I also get excited about measurement charts that tell a performance story. (The charts that show improvement are a lot more exciting than those that don’t!)

3. You’re favorite memory while working at CSI. Always the people. There is no favorite because they all are priceless in the value they bring to my life! My favorite memories are usually in the form of humorous stories, but like Jimmy Durante, “I got a million of em”. (if you are <65, you will have to Google him). Under Construction is a newsletter, my memories would turn into a saga.



Left: Take a look at Shop 16 (Sewing Shop @ OCC) latest Gym Pads for Grand Island Central Catholic. Pictured are Jose, Atlee, and Matthew who worked on this project.



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Shop 14 Finishes Mastering Soft Skills Class

Congratulations to all the participants who completed the Mastering Soft Skills Class! Sixteen workers from the Sewing Shop located at NCCW completed the program on Friday, May 28th. The three instructors were Diane Good-Collins, Marji Voorvart, and Glenn Flenorl from the 180 Re-Entry Assistance Program with Metro Community College. Throughout the course, participants took the Gallup Strength Finder test, evaluated their results, then worked through communication exercises using their new skills. Congratulations again to all the participants!





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Helping out Iowa Prison Industries!

Over the last few months Shop 28 (Sign Shop at NSP) has been helping out our friends at Iowa Prison Industries. A special shout out to Jessie Ball (Operations Manager), Bruce Sejkora (Sign Shop Supervisor), Greg Cudaback (Sign Shop Operator), and all of the workers in Shop 28 for putting in the extra hours to complete our orders as well as Iowa's orders.

Great Job!



Congratulations on the New Position!

Sam Palin - Inventory Control Warehouse Operator

Congratulations Supervisor of the Quarter!

Jessie Ball- Operations Manager - LCC

Congratulations on 20 Years of Service!

Mike Martin - Business Manager



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Above: 100-year-old table refurnished for the Masonic Temple in Lincoln. Refurnished in Shop 20. (Wood Shop @ NSP)



Above: Take a look at some of the new equipment at Shop 61 (Wood Shop @ TSCI). New spray pumps and guns in their stain room. A new HVAC unit for the stain room will help the quality of their finishes, and make it a safer environment for their workers. Also, a new forklift!