



**CORNHUSKER  
STATE  
INDUSTRIES**

Building Opportunities

# Some Assembly Required: The CSI Newsletter

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

**Congratulations CSI Staff on the ACA Accreditation!**



New Sitka Chairs in the CSI showroom - assembled in Shop 20



# Some Assembly Required: The CSI Newsletter

## Questions With a CSI Employee -Jeremy Elder, Deputy Director

1. What has been the toughest challenge in 2020 for CSI? In a word, COVID, has been the biggest challenge for nearly everyone this year. We've needed to live in the moment, as it has been nearly impossible to predict what challenge might pop up next.
2. What has been CSI's greatest achievement this year? CSI's response to COVID has been the greatest achievement. Responding to the pandemic has been an incredible opportunity for CSI to showcase our talents and capabilities. In a matter of 8 days we produced 2500 gallons of hand sanitizer and then supported hand sanitizer production at UNL. We've produced over 80,000 face coverings along with face shields and gowns. Our laundries have safely processed millions of pounds of linens and clothing providing an extremely important service to our customers. Our shops have responded to many requests from NDCS and external customers throughout the year and our warehouse has delivered critical supplies, often at a moment's notice. When we've had staffing shortages, CSI staff have volunteered to learn new responsibilities to continue serving our customers. When faced with raw material and supply shortages, purchasing has searched for new vendors and we've sought creative solutions including sourcing from other correctional industry programs. Through lots of uncertainty, one thing is certain, CSI is committed to contributing to help get through the pandemic. I could not be more proud to be part of this organization than I have been throughout 2020.
3. What is something you're looking forward to for CSI in 2021? I look forward to being able to celebrate the accomplishments of CSI staff and workers in 2021. Currently it has been very difficult to adequately recognize the achievements of so many throughout CSI. Once we have met one challenge we are frequently pushed to move on to the next issue without time to acknowledge the success we've attained. Normally in the middle of December, we would bring staff together to do a little training, celebrate our successes and enjoy some time together. Nothing can fully replace that time together. I definitely look forward to the opportunity in 2021 to bring staff together in person.
4. What message would you like to give to the CSI staff moving into 2021? 2021 promises to be a year of opportunity - opportunity to overcome the impact of the pandemic, opportunity to improve the capabilities of CSI and the opportunity to reconnect with each other. The sacrifices we have made and the challenges we have overcome during 2020 will make 2021 all that much more rewarding.
5. Is there a specific product or project that stands out to you over the years? Even though it has been several years, the Elmwood-Murdock schools project continues to stand out. CSI produced furnishings for two schools including millwork and case goods customized to each room and installed by the general contractor. The project required coordination between all CSI departments. A tight timeline made it necessary to split up the project between all four CSI wood shops. The metal shop and chair shop also produced a significant number of products and components. Late additions and changes from the architect made it even more challenging but the project was completed successfully on time. It is much like what we face today - a lot of people had to come together to accomplish the goal.



**CORNHUSKER  
STATE  
INDUSTRIES**  
Building Opportunities

# Some Assembly Required: The CSI Newsletter



**CORNHUSKER  
STATE  
INDUSTRIES**  
Building Opportunities

800 Pioneers Blvd | Lincoln, NE 68502  
Toll Free: 800-348-7537 | Web: [csi.nebraska.gov](http://csi.nebraska.gov)  
Email: [csi.salesandmarketing@nebraska.gov](mailto:csi.salesandmarketing@nebraska.gov)



**CORNHUSKER  
STATE  
INDUSTRIES**  
Building Opportunities

JANUARY 2021							FEBRUARY 2021							MARCH 2021						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28							28	29	30	31			
31																				

  

APRIL 2021							MAY 2021							JUNE 2021						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
							30	31												

  

JULY 2021							AUGUST 2021							SEPTEMBER 2021						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30		
							29	30	31											

  

OCTOBER 2021							NOVEMBER 2021							DECEMBER 2021						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	



## FALL/WINTER 2020 PRODUCTS AND SERVICES CATALOG

**[csi.nebraska.gov](http://csi.nebraska.gov)**

Visit to see more products, pictures, options and current prices

800 Pioneers Blvd., Lincoln, NE 68502 | Toll Free: 800-348-7537  
Web: [csi.nebraska.gov](http://csi.nebraska.gov) | Email: [csi.salesandmarketing@nebraska.gov](mailto:csi.salesandmarketing@nebraska.gov)

Fall 2020 Catalog is up on the website!  
Be sure to check it out!

CSI 2021 Calendars printed in Shop 23

Thank you CSI! - Epilepsy Awareness Month  
Thank you to everyone that participated in the  
November 19th Epilepsy Awareness Month! The  
CSI Staff raised \$320 for the DannyDid  
Foundation which was matched! To see more  
visit  
[www.dannydid.org](http://www.dannydid.org)  
See the donation on the right.

**\$350**

In recognition of Epilepsy Awareness  
Month and Nicholas A. Mantzios  
Cornhusker State Industries raised  
money to help those in need which we  
matched.

4 days ago

**\$320**

Contributions raised by the staff of  
Cornhusker State Industries, Nebraska  
Department of Correctional Services  
and given in memory of Nick Mantzios.

4 days ago



**CORNHUSKER  
STATE  
INDUSTRIES**  
Building Opportunities

# Some Assembly Required: The CSI Newsletter

## FROM THE BACK OFFICE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT By Brian Koch

Cornhusker State Industries is excited to announce our membership acceptance to the Lincoln Manufacturing Council and EmployLNK. EmployLNK is a collaboration of workforce development agencies in Lincoln including ResCare/American Job Center, Department of Labor, Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development/Prosper Lincoln, Lutheran Family Services, Catholic Social Services, Community Action, Vocational Rehabilitation, Center for People In Need, Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Veterans Affairs and more. In total, the agencies serve 5,000+ Lincoln residents.

Cornhusker State Industries will be actively pursuing connecting incarcerated individuals to manufacturing employers in the Lincoln area. CSI will be able to achieve this through the Manufacturing Tech program. CSI will have access to 10 Lincoln manufactures that are hiring in the community. The Manufacturing Tech program is a 6 week class that includes information about measurement, reading work orders, manufacturing workplace protocols and more. Be on the lookout for the first program to take place at the CSI Administration building in coming months.



## CSI Shop History

Did you know in 1936 our shops consisted of a New Furniture Factory, Rebuilt furniture factory, Mattress factory, Garment factory, and a Broom factory?

Our Broom factory would receive raw room corn in bulk and sorted into three types: Coarse, medium, and fine grain. The seeds that are contained in the raw broom corn are sorted out by being processed through a thresher before the broom corn is ready for final processing. The coarse straw was used in barn brooms, medium straw for house brooms, and fine straw for whisk brooms. This shop closed in 1968.

