

# I.G.N.I.T.E.<sup>®</sup> INSIGHT



Bingham County, Idaho





## National Sheriffs' Association I.G.N.I.T.E. Mission Statement

I.G.N.I.T.E.'s dedicated mission is to transform the lives of those incarcerated in county jails by providing education and life skills, as well as instilling hope. We aim to cultivate a positive self-perception and reshape societal views, fostering a mindset shift. Prioritizing measurable results, I.G.N.I.T.E. is committed to disrupting the cycle of recidivism and empowering individuals within the system to envision a future of positive societal contribution. Concurrently, our goal is to enhance the safety of jails, communities, and correctional staff by creating an environment conducive to rehabilitation and personal growth.

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Eliminating generational incarceration through education, by restoring value, hope, and purpose to our incarcerated population.

*Sheriff Christopher R. Swanson,  
Genesee County, Michigan  
Founder of I.G.N.I.T.E.*

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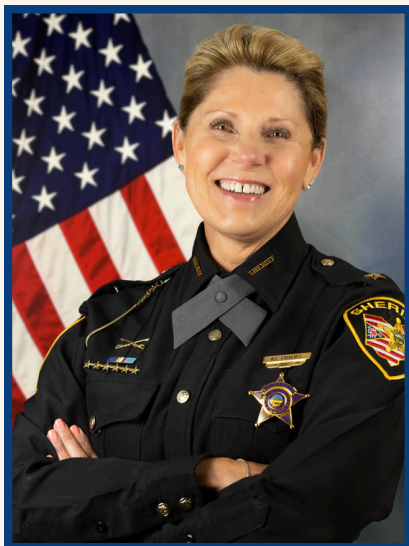
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## A SHERIFF'S JOURNEY

### SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO: SHERIFF KANDY FATHEREE



Sheriff Kandy Fatheree launched IGNITE in Summit County, Ohio, in January with the goal of extending law enforcement's impact beyond the jail and into the broader community. She viewed the initiative as a step toward breaking cycles of incarceration through a more proactive justice system.

Fatheree first encountered IGNITE at a National Sheriffs' Association conference and said she was inspired to bring it to Summit County after seeing the success other sheriffs reported in reducing recidivism.

IGNITE's launch drew strong support from both the community and jail staff.

"What surprised me was how many people in the community volunteered to help. I didn't expect that," Fatheree said.

She said staff members remained very excited, while the broader community response has been overwhelmingly positive. Early outcomes included increased community engagement and strong participation among incarcerated individuals.

Although IGNITE remains in its early stages, Fatheree said she had already observed a cultural shift within the facility.

"The main thing I noticed is how eager my staff are to work with IGNITE inmates," she said.

That shift extended to deputies working on the floor.

"The deputies realize the difference they're making in people's lives," Fatheree said.

Participants also embraced IGNITE.

"I can tell you the inmates are very excited about the entire program, and it's encouraging to see their enthusiasm," she said.

Fatheree said IGNITE's impact extended beyond the facility, with families expressing renewed optimism about the future.

"I've long believed we should be doing more. IGNITE is exactly what we need," she said.

Through offerings such as college preparation, trauma therapy, and resume development, IGNITE aims to redirect lives while improving public safety.

Her advice to other agencies considering IGNITE was straightforward: "Don't hesitate."

She emphasized the importance of assembling an organized and communicative team, noting that IGNITE did not need to be perfect at the outset and would improve over time.

Fatheree described IGNITE as "life-changing," saying it had the potential to transform not only participants, but also their families, communities and the broader justice system.

## A SHERIFF'S JOURNEY

### ADA COUNTY, IDAHO: SHERIFF MATT CLIFFORD



Ada County, Idaho, Sheriff Matt Clifford expanded the jail's existing education and rehabilitation efforts with the launch of IGNITE, marking the 35th site nationwide.

Clifford said he first learned about IGNITE from Bonneville County Sheriff Sam Hulse and recognized its potential to strengthen existing programming.

He said the initiative aligned with the county's focus on increasing educational opportunities and community involvement within the jail.

Clifford said many incarcerated individuals would eventually return to their communities, making access to programming and education critical to reducing repeat offenses.

The Ada County Sheriff's Office had already established a programming team that delivered classes focused on substance abuse, behavioral change, and personal development. Clifford said IGNITE enhanced those efforts rather than replacing them.

"Bringing IGNITE to the jail provides another resource for the team to utilize," he said, adding that the program helped connect community partners with individuals in custody.

He emphasized that combining internal programming with external partnerships strengthened reentry outcomes.

"Providing access to education and support resources can help inmates make more positive choices and improve their chances of securing stable employment and housing," Clifford said.

He also pointed to broader system benefits, noting that reducing recidivism lowered strain on jail staff and resources while decreasing costs for taxpayers.

Ada County took additional steps to expand opportunities by reintroducing GED and high school programs. Clifford said earning a diploma could improve employment prospects while building confidence and a sense of accomplishment.

By focusing on job readiness and community connections, the program aims to better prepare individuals for successful reentry.

Clifford said IGNITE was built on existing efforts and positioned the county to continue improving outcomes for both individuals and the community.

## RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF STAFF

### ALPENA COUNTY, MICHIGAN: SERGEANT CHRISTINA SUSZEK



Alpena County Jail Administrator Christina Suszek initially approached expanded programming with caution, citing security concerns related to increased movement and outside access within the facility.

Suszek said she was encouraged to reconsider after discussions with GED instructor Nicole Hatch, who advocated for enhancing educational opportunities through IGNITE.

“From a security standpoint, I was hesitant,” Suszek said.

Increasing services meant more risk, but after evaluating program options, the jail partnered with

Alpena Community College to expand offerings, including Integrated Education and Training programs.

Suszek said the impact extended beyond participants to staff as well who have been willing to adjust their days to support IGNITE.

“Our Corrections Deputies worked diligently to bring Hatch’s idea to fruition and has since continued to successfully facilitate IGNITE’s security standards. Deputies have been wonderful adjusting their day-to-day movements to assist with IGNITE programs nearly flawlessly. I can’t remember the last time we’ve had to cancel a program,” Suszek said.

She acknowledged operational challenges, noting that the facility was not designed to accommodate multiple classifications with limited shared space. Staff had to coordinate programming, recreation, and court movements within a single activity area.

Despite those constraints, Suszek said deputies adapted their routines to support programming efforts.

She recalled one individual who entered the facility with a history of behavioral issues but showed significant improvement through participation in IGNITE.

Initially disengaged, the individual later became an active participant, earned a GED, and completed multiple certificates. The individual also formally apologized to a staff member regarding a prior incident.

Suszek said that transformation highlighted the program’s potential.

“IGNITE isn’t just a ‘give me.’ The standard is much higher if an inmate wants to participate,” she said. “It’s a culture. It’s a path.”

She described IGNITE as a catalyst for change, providing individuals with resources while leaving the decision to engage up to them.

Seeing justice-impacted individuals find purpose has been extremely rewarding for Suszek.

## CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS

### MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA: I.G.N.I.T.E. RESIDENT

***I have learned to change my thinking and choices to a new mindset in life to avoid persons, places, and things that no longer serve my well-being.***

For one incarcerated individual at the Mecklenburg County Detention Center, time in custody became an opportunity for self-improvement rather than something to endure.

The individual, an Army Veteran and self-employed diesel mechanic, has been awaiting trial since August 2022. During that time, he turned to IGNITE to structure his days around education and personal development.

He first learned about available programming through the resident handbook and pod kiosks and sought enrollment to stay mentally engaged. He was later accepted into the Next Great 50 Program.

Through IGNITE, he completed courses including Substance Abuse 5700, Positive Mindset, and Dimensions of Wellness, all designed to promote behavioral change and personal growth.

“I proudly wear the uniform,” he said. “When general population inmates ask me about this nice uniform, I explain it’s a privilege of participating in programs.”

Participation in the program shifted his daily routine from passing time to focusing on growth.

The student said the coursework encouraged productivity and consistency, helping him work toward becoming a law-abiding, productive citizen after his release.

His accomplishments included serving as a mentor in a substance use program and completing a comprehensive business plan.

“I feel more confident about myself and my abilities to succeed,” he said.

He credited IGNITE with helping him develop interpersonal skills, emotional intelligence, and self-discipline, complementing his technical expertise in mechanics, welding, and hydraulics.

Summarizing IGNITE’s impact, he pointed to a guiding principle he adopted: “involvement of mind, development of character, improvement of self, achievement of goals.”

## CURRICULUM IN ACTION

### WOOD COUNTY, OHIO: CARPENTERS LOCAL 351



Wood County officials launched a trades training program in January in partnership with Carpenters Local 351, expanding educational opportunities for individuals in custody.

The program focuses on construction mathematics, basic carpentry skills, and an introduction to union membership and career pathways.

The partnership began after the union contacted the jail to offer support following its introduction to IGNITE.

Union representatives provided materials and instruction, with classes held for up to four hours each week.

The initiative was supported through donated materials and funding from Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison, a state-funded program that supports alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent offenders.

Instructor Persilla Zervos, who has worked with the Wood County Sheriff's Office for three years, developed a curriculum tailored to participants. Instruction included construction terminology, blueprint reading, tool use, and safety practices.

Students also developed soft skills, including resume writing, interview preparation, and public speaking.

Participation exceeded expectations, prompting the creation of a waiting list and the addition of both beginner and advanced classes.

Students demonstrated strong engagement, often collaborating to prepare for quizzes and exams.

Completion of the program positioned participants for potential acceptance into the union's Department of Labor-approved apprenticeship program, providing a pathway to stable employment after release.

"The long-term goal of the program is to equip students with enough foundational knowledge and skills so that, upon release, they may be able to transition directly into the union's apprenticeship program," Lt. Jamison Martinez said.

In one case, a program participant secured placement as a third-year apprentice after release and prepared to begin work on a local data center project.

# UTILIZING MERITOCRACY

## ULSTER COUNTY, NEW YORK



In Ulster County, a new IGNITE incentive is motivating those who are participating to achieve at the next level. Built on the principle that opportunity must be earned, the Ulster County Jail has introduced its highest level of meritocracy yet: the IGNITE Housing Unit, a structured environment where commitment to growth, responsibility, and compliance with rules is a way of life.

The IGNITE Housing Unit serves as a dedicated, structured space where participants engage in life skills training, rehabilitative programming,

and reentry planning. Through daily routines, peer support, and close staff collaboration, the unit promotes accountability, growth, and readiness for a successful life beyond incarceration. It is designed to reward those who have demonstrated sustained commitment to change—and to challenge them to go further.

Admission in the housing unit is not automatic. It must be earned.

“The IGNITE Housing Unit exemplifies that success is earned, not given. It rewards dedication, fosters learning,

and inspires residents to reach their full potential. It is through the collective work of a dedicated team that meaningful and lasting change is made possible. Success is rented, and the rent is due every day,” said Superintendent Anthony Maggio.

Open to male general population participants, the IGNITE Housing Unit is reserved for individuals who have demonstrated positive behavior and active engagement in programming.

To qualify, participants must be 60 days misconduct-free, attend at least one in-person program each week, complete assigned online coursework, and, once admitted, engage in a minimum of 16 hours per week of online learning through Edovo. They must also actively set and pursue personal goals while maintaining general custody classification.

Those who meet the standard gain access to a wide range of incentives designed to reinforce progress and support continued growth. Residents receive weekly support from a licensed clinical social worker for goal-setting and behavioral

## UTILIZING MERITOCRACY CONT.

### ULSTER COUNTY, NEW YORK

planning, along with guidance from dedicated IGNITE officers.

The unit offers expanded programming, access to laptops and printers, additional reentry resources, and individualized support.

Residents also benefit from improved living conditions, including enhanced furniture, personal storage, a navy blue mattress system, and access to educational and creative materials—from books and art supplies to puzzles and games. Even small details, like a shared coffee station and access to laundry facilities, contribute to a sense of normalcy and responsibility.

Achievements are recognized through graduation ceremonies that bring together family members, staff, and the broader community, demonstrating that progress inside the jail has reach far beyond its walls.

“Through structure, support, and clear expectations, residents are empowered to take ownership of their lives, build better habits, and achieve meaningful goals. It’s a collaborative effort driven by

dedicated staff and our community working together to create real opportunity. In this environment, individuals learn that their actions shape their future, and together, we turn commitment into achievement and potential into lasting transformation,” said IGNITE’s Program Manager, Sergeant Megan Ferri.

For residents, the impact is tangible—and deeply personal.

“IGNITE gave me a second chance and a powerful opportunity to rebuild my life. Through the program, I’ve earned my CPR certification, begun learning Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) skills, and am working toward my GED. More importantly, I’m learning how to cope with my trauma, grow as a person, and find peace within myself,” said Andrew Austin.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to be part of the IGNITE Housing Unit. Since joining, I’ve earned my GED, became CPR certified, and found the motivation to pursue college - something I never would have imagined for myself just two years ago,” said Jesse Cruise.

“After years of struggling, I finally found my way to IGNITE, which has helped rebuild me from the inside out. I’ve gained life skills, found balance, and for the first time in years, I have peace, purpose, and happiness. I’m truly grateful for this second chance,” said Joshua Bahl.

“IGNITE has shown me that change is always possible. I’ve discovered emotions I didn’t know I had and learned to stay open and honest with myself, knowing there is still hope for a better future,” said Gary Barnett.

“IGNITE has given me the opportunity to use my time in a meaningful and productive way while incarcerated, helping me focus on growth and positive change,” said Michael Odorisio.

In Ulster County, the IGNITE Housing Unit represents more than a new space. It represents the highest level of achievement inside the jail and prepares those who participate with the tools and confidence to reenter society.

# I.G.N.I.T.E. SITE UPDATES

## Butler County, PA

All of us here in I.G.N.I.T.E. just wanted to sincerely thank you for everything. All the time, effort and thought that you already have and continue to invest in all of us. And for giving us the chance to continue in this program. It means so much more than these words can accurately describe.

Butler County, PA

Butler County Prison recently celebrated their first graduation with thirteen individuals and launched a new session with fifteen students! The new session has expanded its offerings to include a Debate/English Class, Thinking for a Change, Financial Literacy 201 and First Aid/CPR, while continuing to build upon the core curriculum that serves as the foundation of the program.

## Fayette County, PA

Fayette County Jail began an exciting partnership with Westmoreland County Community College. Participants are enrolled in an introductory course on customer service and business basics and get a feel for the post-secondary classroom experience. In the future, the partnership is expected to lead to college enrollment and earned college credits.



## Bingham County, ID

In Bingham County, programming efforts continue to make a meaningful impact as the first group moved past the halfway point. As part of these efforts, staff introduced a creative initiative teaching incarcerated individuals how to make chunky knit blankets. Building on the success of the activity, the program expanded its focus toward community service. Participants are now creating blankets to donate to a local village center that supports foster children. This shift has added a deeper sense of purpose to the project, enabling individuals to give back in tangible, meaningful ways. Staff noted that participants have responded enthusiastically, often expressing how rewarding it feels to contribute to the well-being of children in their community.

# I.G.N.I.T.E. SITE UPDATES



Shelby County, AL

## Shelby County, AL

IGNITE participation in Shelby County remains strong, and engagement is evident among individuals committed to personal growth, accountability, and successful reentry. Shelby County shared that the curriculum has been expanded to better equip participants with real-world tools, adding financial literacy, job skills development, and interview preparation to the core programming. These additions strengthen IGNITE's mission by addressing one of the most significant barriers to reentry: economic instability. By equipping participants with financial knowledge and employability skills, Shelby County is not only supporting individuals' success but also contributing to safer neighborhoods and a stronger community.

## Ulster County, NY

The Ulster County Sheriff's Office proudly hosted their third IGNITE graduation ceremony in December 2025, honoring twelve individuals for their achievements in education, workforce readiness, and personal development. Family members, staff, instructors, volunteers, and community leaders, including County Executive Jen Metzger, attended the ceremony to honor the graduates' dedication and success, celebrating together with food, fellowship, and the joy of community. The Sheriff's Office opened the first-ever IGNITE Housing Unit, providing structured programming, rehabilitation support, and a pathway to successful reentry. Correction Officers stepped into leadership positions within the housing unit to provide mentorship, guidance, and structure for residents. The new Community Corrections Specialist position, supports residents' successful reentry by coordinating services, monitoring progress, and providing guidance and resources to complement IGNITE programming while in custody, as well as facilitating ongoing support and access to resources after release. Five individuals who recently took the GED test all passed, joining two graduates from November 2025. Residents in the IGNITE Housing Unit have access to laptops to practice typing skills, type up resumes, complete coursework assignments, draft letters to courts in support of their cases, and create poems or personal letters, supporting their educational and personal development.



Ulster County, NY

## Jefferson County, AL

Sheriff Mark Pettway continues to prioritize expanding workforce training opportunities for individuals housed in Jefferson County Sheriff's Office jails. The Jefferson County Jail launched the Jefferson County Workforce Expansion Initiative to strengthen services and resources for students enrolled in IGNITE. The initiative focuses on enhancing reentry services, reducing recidivism, and helping meet the county's growing labor demands. Its core objective is to increase Jefferson County's workforce training capacity by providing industry-recognized credentials and clearly defined pathways to employment after release.



Jefferson County, AL

# I.G.N.I.T.E. SITE UPDATES

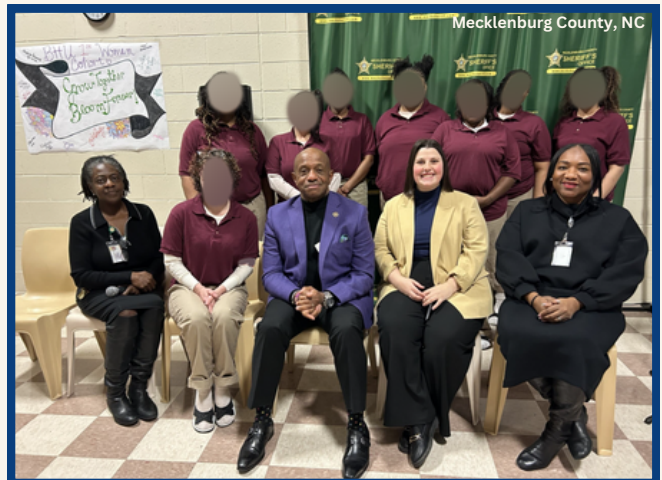


## Wayne County, PA

The Wayne County Correctional Facility celebrated its first-quarter IGNITE graduation with the general population female unit, followed by a general population male graduation at the end of February. Through its partnership with Johnson College, the facility now offers basic electrical training, a hands-on certificate course that allows incarcerated individuals to build an electrical board as part of their instruction. Johnson College has also certified approximately 30 individuals in OSHA safety training, and its continued support has helped prepare participants to be job-ready upon release. In addition, the college provides customer service training to further strengthen workforce skills. This spring, the facility will reintroduce the Seed to Supper Program, a hands-on gardening initiative that enables IGNITE participants to start seedlings for the facility's garden.

## Mecklenburg County, NC

Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office celebrated the graduation of 28 residents who successfully launched their own LLCs, taking significant steps toward entrepreneurship and financial independence. In addition, six residents earned their HiSET (high school equivalency diplomas), strengthening their educational foundation for workforce and postsecondary opportunities. Thirteen male residents completed an artificial intelligence course, gaining practical knowledge about what AI is, its capabilities, major platforms, and how to use AI tools responsibly and effectively for productivity, business development, and problem-solving. The Post Release Resource Center (PRRC) served sixty visitors seeking reentry support services to help navigate their transition after release from custody. The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office launched the MCSO Reentry House. The residence will accommodate up to ten participants in the COSSUP Substance Use Grant program, providing structured support, accountability, and continued reentry services as they reintegrate into the community.



## Fayette County, OH



In Fayette County, the General Educational Development (GED) program has experienced significant growth, with participation increasing as more individuals pursue their educational goals. Substance abuse classes within the facility are currently at full capacity, reflecting a strong demand for recovery and support services. In addition, Fayette County is in the process of revamping its life skills and reentry programming to ensure that all incarcerated individuals have the opportunity to complete program sessions and earn certificates. These efforts are aimed at strengthening preparation for successful reintegration into the community.

# I.G.N.I.T.E. SITE UPDATES



## Roanoke City, VA

Roanoke City Sheriff's Office has introduced several new programs, including Mindfulness, Healing Trauma, Transforming Mindsets, Music Therapy, Yoga Therapy, and Dog Therapy, all aimed at supporting personal growth and rehabilitation for residents. The county also celebrated an exciting educational success. One resident recently earned her GED after advancing a total of twelve grade levels across the four GED subject areas: Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. In addition, Roanoke City is currently in the process of converting an entire floor of its detention center into a dedicated programming floor, where all housing units will focus exclusively on structured programs and educational opportunities. Over the past several months, more than 30 residents have also graduated from a variety of programs, reflecting the county's continued commitment to rehabilitation and educational advancement.

## Washington County, OH

In Washington County, a new partnership with the Appalachian Ohio Manufacturers' Coalition is in its early stages, bringing in four VR machines, a virtual welding simulator, and a mobile welding trailer. These resources will enhance hands-on technical training and provide participants with modern manufacturing and welding experience. In addition, Washington County partnered with the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades to offer Hydro Blasting Boot Camps, along with floor finishing and drywall finishing classes. These training opportunities will allow participants to gain practical skills that are directly applicable to in-demand trades. IGNITE participants completed five ServSafe trainings, earning nationally recognized food safety certifications. Together, these partnerships continue to strengthen workforce development pathways for individuals in Washington County, helping prepare participants for successful employment opportunities upon re-entry into the community.



## Bonneville County, ID

Bonneville County recently launched another cohort of fifteen participants in The Solution Program, with the goal of supporting as many graduates as possible through the program. In addition, the county hosted a General Educational Development (GED) graduation ceremony and recognized five individuals who achieved their goal of earning their GED. With these new graduates, Bonneville County has reached a total of 74 GED graduates over the past two years, reflecting continued progress in educational achievement and reentry preparation for program participants.



# I.G.N.I.T.E. SITE UPDATES

## Kalamazoo County, MI

Kalamazoo County celebrated its fifth IGNITE cohort on January 29, 2026. Eight participants successfully completed the 12-week program and received certificates recognizing their achievements. Cohort 6 began in February and includes expanded programming opportunities. A new four-week job-readiness program is being offered in partnership with the Michigan Workforce Development Institute. This initiative was specifically designed to educate and prepare individuals for successful reentry, with a focus on creating pathways into careers in skilled trades. In addition, participants now have access to a Healthy Living Skills class. The county is also in ongoing discussions with Kalsee Credit Union to implement a financial wellness segment within the program. Kalsee Credit Union already partners with the county to provide staff education, and community education is one of the organization's core values.



Kalamazoo County, MI

## Pennington County, SD

Pennington County Jail closed out 2025 with a series of celebrations highlighting the growth and dedication of individuals in their care. The Reconnecting Families Through Reading program, offered in partnership with the Rapid City Public Library and the Friends of the Library, gave incarcerated individuals the opportunity to record themselves reading a children's book, with the audio file and a copy of the book gifted to their family. I Am Legacy, a long-standing programming partner, held a certificate ceremony recognizing 14 individuals on one cellblock who completed the Touch the Cloud curriculum, a Native culture-based program adaptable to any gender, age, or background. I Am Legacy continues to offer programming two days a week at the jail and six days a week in the community, welcoming all participants to continue upon release. The year concluded with a GED graduation ceremony honoring a male resident who began his studies in July 2025, passed his Social Studies and Science exams in August, and completed his Language Arts and Math exams in December.



Pennington County, SD

## Genesee County, MI

Genesee County Jail implemented a peer-to-peer literacy program. Tiny Ivy, a research-based literacy methodology specifically designed for struggling and emerging readers of all ages, has empowered participants to gain the confidence to help others. Students completed a training course designed to teach them how to instruct their peers in reading, resulting in notable progress: one student improved from a 2nd-grade reading level to a 5th-grade level. Additionally, the program now has a new IGNITE website through Airtable to track attendance, classes, and student progress, improving data management and program oversight.



Genesee County, MI

# I.G.N.I.T.E. SITE UPDATES



## Hennepin County, MN

Hennepin County Sheriff's Office HOPE Program celebrated its most recent General Educational Development (GED) graduate at the start of the new year. The graduate's family and friends were able to join the celebration via Zoom to offer their congratulations. During the celebration, the graduate encouraged classmates to remain focused and continue working hard, sharing that success is possible even while incarcerated. He also shared his plans to continue his education and personal development after leaving the facility. The HOPE Program recognizes that turnover rates are often high in short-term facilities such as the county jail. As a result, program leaders are working to build strategic partnerships with the Hennepin County Adult Correctional Facility to ensure that individuals transitioning from the jail to the workhouse can seamlessly continue pursuing their GED. To date, the HOPE Program in Hennepin County has celebrated a total of eleven GED graduates and looks forward to supporting many more participants in achieving this milestone.

## Ada County, ID

In February, Ada County launched as the 35th IGNITE site. The county already offered strong programming for individuals in custody, and the addition of IGNITE will complement these efforts by expanding educational and personal development opportunities. This expansion is expected to further support rehabilitation efforts, helping participants build valuable skills and better prepare for successful reentry into the community.



## Sandusky County, OH

In Sandusky County, progress was made in connecting to services since Cassendra Tucker came on board. In addition to her work with reentry, she teaches substance abuse education and a program that encourages participants to examine their thought process. Two groups have been conducted with the females, and one with the males, focused on hope, value, purpose, changing habits, and setting goals, ending with a vision board project. AA facilitation also began for the females.

# I.G.N.I.T.E. SITE UPDATES

## Stearns County, MN

Stearns County welcomed its new IGNITE Officer, Mason Stadther, who began his role in February. He is currently getting acclimated to the Mimbus Virtual Reality system for career exploration and is helping prepare for the launch of Vehicles for Change VR training. In addition, he has been actively learning existing programs to better support and lead future initiatives. SCSO also secured funding to implement programming with Scott Wisenbaker of The Solution Program. This new offering is expected to significantly enhance treatment services within the jail, addressing a critical need for higher-quality programming in a correctional setting. To support positive engagement, the facility hosted a Super Bowl viewing party in the gym and group meeting room, where select participants enjoyed pizza and refreshments. Additionally, another group of participants graduated from the Circle of Security classes. These sessions continue to receive strong feedback, as they provide practical parenting strategies while helping individuals better understand how past trauma can influence their parenting styles.



Stearns County, MN

## Chautauqua County, NY

Despite operational pauses in 2025 that delayed key partnerships, Chautauqua County IGNITE is entering 2026 with a robust expansion plan. The facility is targeting a late spring launch for its Industrial Maintenance Technician Program and is working to reestablish its Fatherhood Program. New summer curriculum additions include a 40-hour Introduction to Plumbing Skills course in July and a series of "pop-up" life skills classes in August covering banking and communication. To support this growth, program staff are pursuing advanced professional development through the National Command & Staff College and state education conferences to ensure high-level expertise in rehabilitation.

## Rogers County, OK

In Rogers County, the detention facility is making significant progress in implementing new tablets. Facility staff plans to begin a gradual launch of the tablets and start introducing them to incarcerated individuals. This phased approach will allow staff to ensure the system is functioning properly while helping residents become familiar with the new technology.

## Collin County, TX

The Collin County Detention Facility has launched the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program in partnership with The University of Texas at Dallas. This international educational initiative brings together college students ("outside" students) and incarcerated individuals ("inside" students) for semester-long, accredited courses held inside correctional facilities. The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program focuses on crime, justice, and social issues through books about studies and dialogue-based learning. Students learn alongside one another, engaging in open discussion and critical thinking. Inside-Out fosters empathy, expands perspectives, and supports rehabilitation efforts, with research showing it can help reduce recidivism while strengthening educational outcomes for all participants.

## I.G.N.I.T.E. SITE UPDATES

### Cass County, ND

The Cass County Sheriff's Office held a GED graduation this past December for one graduate, and they currently have seven students enrolled. They now have their own specific classroom just for the GED program. The ND Job Service Program recently introduced virtual reality headsets for both men and women. They have been able to increase programming options and have had the Beyond the Barriers Program add additional classes for all students. The Elevate program returned for ten weeks for both the men and the women. They currently have seventy-eight volunteers and numerous guest speakers.

### Iron County, UT

Iron County has remained highly active in expanding its programming and educational opportunities. Staff have been working diligently to keep up with a growing number of initiatives while preparing a new facility that will provide additional space for programming. Current programs such as Hustle 2.0 and One Solution continue to see strong participation. A new initiative, "From the Yard to 100K," has recently launched and is already underway. In addition, Inside Out Dad, GED, and SmartSteps remain active, contributing to a full schedule of educational and personal development opportunities. Welding programming is currently on pause, with plans to resume in the near future. Overall, Iron County continues to stay actively engaged, offering a wide range of programming while preparing for continued growth.

### Grayson County, TX

Grayson County Jail continues to make strides in supporting recovery and personal growth among its population. In February, the facility celebrated two additional graduates from The Solution Program, marking another step forward in helping participants overcome substance use challenges. A graduation ceremony was held, honoring several participants who were incarcerated at the time, as well as two individuals who successfully completed the program following their release. In addition to these milestones, Grayson County Jail is actively exploring new programs to expand its offerings and provide even more opportunities for rehabilitation and personal development. These efforts reflect the facility's ongoing commitment to supporting participants in making lasting positive changes in their lives.

### Summit County, OH

Summit County is expanding its programs and daily activities for students, with the schedule quickly filling up. The county has partnered with Aramark, local community groups, Summit Psychological, and others to provide a variety of opportunities. A painting project and logo mural are anticipated to be completed within the next few weeks. Progress has been substantial, and organizers are enthusiastic about the developments.

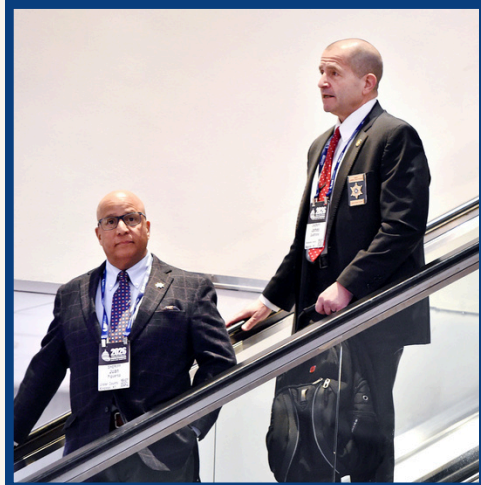
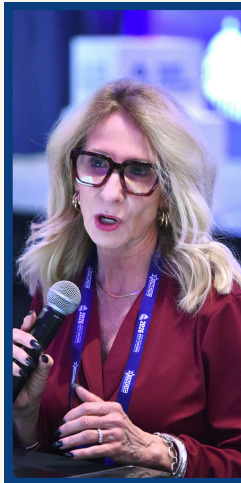
### Montgomery County, AL

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office partnered with Montgomery Public Schools to provide educational services to its juvenile population. By integrating education into daily programming, the facility aims to equip juveniles with the knowledge and skills needed to successfully reintegrate into their communities. This initiative is a game-changing step in reducing recidivism, offering young individuals a second chance through education and support.

### Alpena County, MI

Since the Alpena County Sheriff's Department launched IGNITE in partnership with Iosco RESA, the program has not only met its goals but exceeded them. Since its launch last January, IGNITE has enrolled 113 participants. These individuals have moved beyond the traditional jail experience, choosing instead to prepare for a successful reintegration into the community. Over the course of its first year, participants have completed more than 8,000 hours of combined classroom and digital learning and have earned 604 industry-recognized certifications. Dedicated instructors provide essential life-skills training in areas such as workforce readiness, financial empowerment, personal growth, and clinical support. Through Orijin tablets, participants have access to high-level vocational training in HVAC, engineering, plumbing, and electrical trades, as well as GED and diploma coursework. These tablets also serve as a lifeline for recovery, offering supportive services such as AA and restorative programs like The Master Plan.

# I.G.N.I.T.E. PAPARAZZI: NSA WINTER CONFERENCE 2026

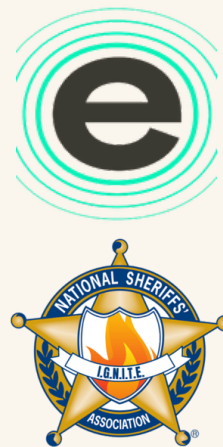
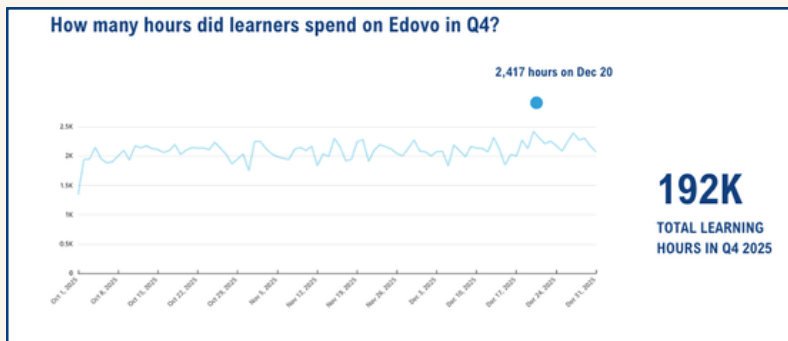


# EDOVO QUARTERLY REPORT

Edovo, a leading corrections programming application, offers an unmatched reputation and programming catalog, built specifically for incarcerated individuals. Partnering with major tablet providers, Edovo delivers over 25,000 hours of content, directly supporting I.G.N.I.T.E.'s mission of providing comprehensive education, job certification, and post-incarceration opportunities.

This report showcases Edovo learner engagement data from I.G.N.I.T.E. facilities, demonstrating significant progress by incarcerated individuals towards achieving their full potential through active platform participation.

## Hours Spent Learning in Edovo in Q4



## I.G.N.I.T.E. SITES USING

### edovo

- Roanoke City, VA
- Iron County, UT
- Grayson County, TX
- Wayne County, PA
- Fayette County, PA
- Sandusky County, OH
- Cass County, ND
- Chautauqua County, NY
- Kalamazoo County, MI
- Genesee County, MI
- Bonneville County, ID
- Montgomery County, AL
- Eddy County, NM
- Ulster County, NY
- Collin County, TX
- Mecklenburg County, NC
- Washington County, OH
- Richland County, ND
- Summit County, OH
- Bingham County, ID
- Stearns County, MN

## TOP 10 COURSES

1. Critical Thinking
2. Rising Strong: A Substance Use Recovery Course
3. Michael G. Santos: Straight-A Guide
4. Brandon McMillan Teaches Dog Training
5. Bill Nye Teaches Science & Problem-Solving
6. Parenting While Incarcerated
7. CEWD Energy Industry Fundamentals 2.0
8. Healing Through Creative Practice: Creation Story
9. Thinking for the Future - CBT
10. Learn Your Strengths from Shining Light

## TOTAL NUMBERS

These figures represent the combined efforts of learners across all 21 I.G.N.I.T.E. Edovo sites since the program's inception. If you're interested in joining this impactful mission and bringing Edovo's transformative learning opportunities to your facility, we invite you to connect with our technology partner for a conversation.



**7,201 K**  
ACTIVE LEARNERS



**26.74 HRS**  
HOURS PER LEARNER



**17,438 K**  
COURSE COMPLETIONS



**191,910 K**  
TOTAL LEARNING HOURS

“ Great course. I really learned a lot in this course, and will continue to review in the future. I will be continually using this to advance myself. Thank you so much

Christopher at Washington County, OH  
on Building Resilience



# MEET I.G.N.I.T.E. PARTNERS



I, COMIC is a non-profit organization with the mission of fostering engagement with comics, art, literacy, mastery, and emotional regulation skills among incarcerated and other justice-impacted individuals. The first volume of the I, COMIC book was published in May 2025 and features original art contributed by various artists, including those formerly and currently incarcerated; art tutorials; drawing prompts; blank and paneled pages; tips for developing emotional regulation skills; art and comic history; and more. I, COMIC now has a presence in correctional facilities all over the U.S., and the second volume will be published in May 2026.



The Solution Program is a robust re-entry program to reintegrate men and women recovering from addiction back into the community. For over 20 years Founder Scott Wisenbaker ran Solutions of North Texas, a nonprofit substance abuse treatment center, accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), licensed as a Chemical Dependency Treatment Center by the State of Texas, and partnered with IGNITE to provide nationwide addiction and reintegration programming. As of 2025, SONTX has provided direction and/or directly worked with over 20,000 individuals.



Vehicles for Change-VR (VFC-VR) was founded with the goal of expanding the success of the Full Circle Auto Repair and Training Center's internship program to a wider audience. This program has helped many individuals facing multiple barriers to employment find jobs in the auto industry. VFC-VR uses virtual reality technology to train individuals on entry-level auto technician basics so they can enter the workforce as tire and lube technicians. By doing so, VFC-VR is helping to create opportunities for individuals who may not have had them otherwise.



America's Credit Union is excited to collaborate with IGNITE to expand to more counties nationwide. As a national partner, we look forward to collaborating with sheriffs and their staff to connect them with credit unions in their local areas to provide financial literacy education as part of I.G.N.I.T.E. The credit union philosophy is "people helping people" and creating financial well-being for all Americans regardless of their background.



The National Association of Counties (NACo) represents the interests of America's counties, serving as a powerful voice in federal policymaking and a vital part of our nation's intergovernmental system. With a membership of thousands of county elected and professional officials, NACo brings together leaders from across the country to shape national policies, share best practices and strengthen counties for a stronger America.



THANK YOU TO OUR I.G.N.I.T.E. SPONSORS



*We are deeply grateful to the sponsors who make I.G.N.I.T.E. possible. As a fully sponsor-funded initiative, every class, site, and success story exists because of their belief in the power of education and rehabilitation.*

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST SPONSOR: SECURUS

We are proud to support the National Sheriffs' Association's I.G.N.I.T.E. Initiative, a movement that reflects what is possible when public safety, education, and opportunity are aligned. At Securus, we work alongside correctional leaders every day and see firsthand how access to education and skill-building during incarceration creates pathways to stability and reduces recidivism. I.G.N.I.T.E.'s sheriff-led model brings this to life in a way that is both practical and results-driven, supporting safer facilities while preparing individuals for successful reentry. Our sponsorship reflects a shared commitment to solutions that deliver real outcomes for the individuals participating in the program, for the agencies leading this work, and for the communities they serve. We are honored to stand alongside you in advancing the continued growth and impact of I.G.N.I.T.E.



## NEWS, WEBINARS, & LINKS

### I.G.N.I.T.E. IN THE NEWS

- “Urban Alliance honored as Criminal Justice Advocate of the Year” (award presented for IGNITE work) ...[read more](#)
- “I.G.N.I.T.E. introduces new Tiny Ivy program at Genesee County Jail”...[read more](#)
- “Summit County Sheriff’s Office launches I.G.N.I.T.E. program at county jail” ..[read more](#)
- "Inmates learn life skills in Butler County Prison's new IGNITE program" ...[read more](#)
- "Securus Technologies Supports Expansion of Sheriff-Led NSA I.G.N.I.T.E. Initiative" ...[read more](#)
- "Scaling What Works: How Secure Infrastructure Supports Safer Jails and Stronger Reentry Outcomes" ...[read more](#)
- “‘Gives you a purpose’: Wood County Jail graduates first IGNITE class” ...[read more](#)
- “New IGNITE program at Ada County Jail focuses on education, reentry and lowering recidivism” ...[read more](#)

### PARTNER AND SPONSOR LINKS

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[Aramark](#)

[NCIC](#)

[Securus](#)

[America’s Credit Union](#)

[The Solution Program](#)

[National Association of Counties](#)

[Edovo](#)

[Vehicles for Change](#)

[I, COMIC](#)