



BUREAU OF CORRECTIONAL ENTERPRISES

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Wisconsin wins 2023 National Correctional Industries Award
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Wisconsin's Bureau of Correctional Enterprises (BCE) has received the National Correctional Industries Association (NCIA) 2023 Performance Excellence Award. This national award recognizes exemplary performance in at least three components of NCIA's Correctional Industries Guide to Reentry-Focused Performance Excellence.

BCE operates at a high level through the work done by employees and persons in its care on teams in agriculture, industries, and logistics, along with employees on its Transition team. During the past three years, BCE has focused on the following programmatic changes that align with the NCIA's Correctional Industries Guide to Reentry-Focused Performance Excellence. BCE achievements in three parts of that guide are described below.

Maintain Financial Stability - BCE continues to improve its financial stability through better business practices. Two examples include changing its products and services to meet customers' needs and changing prices in-step with changing costs. These and other changes have contributed to BCE's improved financial stability, which allows BCE to cover standard operating expenses such as employee and worker compensation, facilities, raw materials, and equipment that allow BCE teams to contribute to Wisconsin's Department of Corrections (DOC) more fully meeting its mission.

Engage Stakeholders - BCE has increased its engagement with four key stakeholder groups. Those include employees, persons in DOC care working as part of BCE teams, customers, and employers. BCE's customer and employer outreach campaigns emphasize how customers help BCE workers succeed when purchasing BCE products, and how employers hiring former BCE workers win with a stronger workforce and communities.

Post Release Employment Services – The BCE Transition team has been in place since 2001, but made a programmatic change in 2021 that bolstered the percent of BCE incarcerated workers receiving this team's services. Since 2021, BCE has changed the timing requirements to enable a number of BCE workers to more quickly be eligible for BCE Transition. BCE has also worked to increase the frequency of the BCE Transition team's engagement with BCE workers. This has contributed to a greater rate of BCE worker enrollment. BCE believes this has also contributed to former BCE workers achieving a 90% rate of employment and a 75% rate of not coming back to DOC custody.

BCE is glad to have made the changes that brought this award to Wisconsin and positively affect persons in DOC care, their families, and employers and communities across Wisconsin. BCE believes the NCIA Performance Excellence Award indicates the value of BCE as a whole is greater than the sum of its parts. The award is a testament to the great work BCE employees and workers do together, in partnership with the correctional facilities in which they work, to more fully meet BCE's mission of creating opportunity and a safer Wisconsin.