The Evolution and Expansion of Michigan’s Vocational Village Programs
The Vocational Village is a first of its kind skilled trades training program that aims to provide a positive learning community for prisoners who are serious about completing career and technical education.
Vocational Village Basics

- Competitive admission process and extensive screening process
- Students are transferred from facilities across the state
- Live in specialized housing units
- Daily schedule replicates a standard workday
- Must maintain acceptable behavior and academic standards and are subject to removal for rule violations
• Incentives are offered within the housing units

• Tours are provided to employers that are interested in hiring our students

• Parole Board members are aware of student’s status when reviewing parole eligibility

• Students are assigned a Vocational Village Parole Agent
Vocational Village Programs

- Carpentry
- Auto Technology
- Heavy Duty Diesel
- Plumbing/Electrical
- Masonry/Concrete
- Commercial Truck Driving (CDL)
- Cosmetology
- 3D Printing
- Food Technology
- Horticulture
- CNC Machine Tool
- Welding
- Computer Coding
- Line Clearance/Tree Trimming
- Robotics
- Forklift
Timeline

- 2016 Richard Handlon Correctional Facility
- 2017 Parnall Correctional Facility Phase 1
- 2018 Parnall Correctional Facility Phase 2
- 2021 Womens Huron Valley Correctional Facility
- 2021 Richard Handlon Correctional Facility School House
- 2022 Parnall Correctional Facility Phase 3
Key Relationships

• Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights
• DTE
• Last Mile
• Michigan Restaurant Association
• Meijer
• FOX Motors
• Sweet Express
Employability Support

- Villagers complete an Employment Readiness Program
  - Digital Literacy
  - FDIC Money Smart
  - Resume Workshop
  - Virtual and Mock Interviewing
- Job Developers
  - Build relationships with prospective employers
  - Work with employers to facilitate job interviews and placement
  - Facilitate tools and safety equipment needed for employment
The Numbers

• 1340 students have graduated and paroled
• 681 have successfully discharged parole
• 67% of graduates on parole are employed
• 7.97% return to prison
  • 4.62% Parole Violation
  • 3.35% New Sentence