



Re-Entry Roundup

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
RE-ENTRY DIVISION

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Special points of interest:

- Re-Entry Success Story
- Training
- Learn more about CTP

Inside this issue:

Upcoming Case Management Trainings	2
Meet Commissioner Carter	2
Promotions	3
Former Inmate Leaves Her Past in the Dust cont.	3
Fun Facts About CTP	3
PLUS	4

Former Inmate Is Leaving Her Past in the Dust by Kara Burgess

As correctional employees, it is our dream to see those whose lives we have touched succeed when they go home. In Indiana, 29% of female offenders re-offend within 3 years. Knowing this, it is more important than ever that we provide them with the tools they are going to need in order to obtain and retain employment and function in a pro-social environment when they are released. A common phrase among DOC staff is, "Even if we help just one person, it will all have been worth it." Former Rockville Correctional Facility (RCF) resident Bridgette Condon was released from RCF in September of 2016, and she hasn't looked back since. Bridgette knew that the first thing she needed to do when she got out was to get a job in order to stay busy and stay clean. She got a hold of her HIRE (Hoosier Initiative for Re-Entry) coordinator, a program she introduced to while in a WorkINDiana program at RCF, and went to one of his interviewing workshops. "The very next day I went to an interview for Kirby (Kirby Vacuum) and got the job! I was up-front and honest with them from the start; I told them about my criminal past, and they were willing to believe in me and give me a shot." Bridgette was offered a sales position, and quickly rose in the ranks, being offered a promotion after only 30 days of employment. She is now a Department Product Specialist for Kirby, performing tasks such as hiring, recruiting, advertising, human resources, and new employee orientation and training.

Bridgette gives credit for her success in release to the programming she participated in while at RCF. "The PLUS program taught me how to interact with others, and how to be an effective communicator. I learned how to bring structure to my personal life, where before, it was very inconsistent and chaotic." Bridgette also participated in vocational Business Technology and Building Maintenance classes while at RCF. "Business Tech taught me how to maneuver around a computer with confidence, and taught me skills that I use in the office every day." Bridgette also works as a foreman for a construction company on the weekends.

"I enjoy the job because gives me the opportunity to help others who need a hand up. I can give them a job that can make all the difference in the world to them." (Story continued on Page 3)

Bridgette (right) during Building Trades class.



Upcoming Trainings



The next Case Management 101 and IRAS Certification trainings are fast approaching. The trainings are mandatory for new case management staff. We've also scheduled another Supervisory Audit Training, which is mandatory for new supervisors who will be responsible for auditing case management staff. These trainings will be held at the Correctional Training Institute in New Castle, IN. CTP Training is voluntary and will be held at the facilities below. Supervisors, please contact your facility's training coordinator to ensure your staff are enrolled.

Case Management 101 Training
March 14th

IRAS Training
March 15th & 16th

Supervisory Audit Training
June 22nd

CTP Training
March 29th @ISF, 8:30a-12:00p
April 10th @WCC, 8:30a-12:00p (CST)
April 17th @IYC, 8:30a-12:00p
April 20th @MCF, 11:30a-3:00p

Meet Commissioner Carter

Robert E. Carter, Jr., who goes by Rob, was appointed in 2017 as the Commissioner for the Department of Correction. Rob has held roles as a deputy sheriff, elected sheriff, DNR Director, and most recently Director of Security for Ivy Tech. He has an Associate of Science Degree in Criminal Justice, Bachelor of Science in Safety Management and will complete his Master's Degree in Public Administration on May 17, 2017.

Rob has been married to his wife Kim, a registered nurse and graduate of Indiana State University, for 25 years. Together they have two children Kade, an engineering student at ISU, and Ellie who is in the 8th grade. They also have two large house dogs—Millie a 13-year-old lab and Hank a seven-year-old Chesapeake Bay retriever.

His hobbies include fishing, hunting, grilling and cooking, and watching his daughter's softball (no golf or cards)."



Congratulations!

Congratulations to staff who promoted within the Re-Entry Division recently!

These promotions include:

Morgan Feeney-UTM IYC

Esther Hinton- UTM ISF

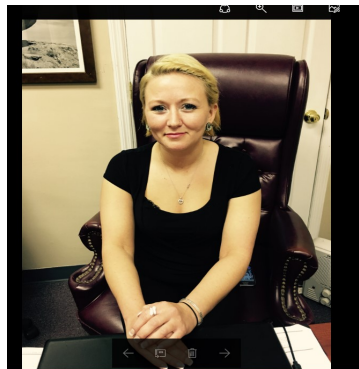
Lori Cardinal-CWM WVCF

Nathanael Angle -CWM MCF



Former Inmate Is Leaving Her Past in the Dust cont.

When asked what advice Bridgette would give to other offenders preparing for release, she said, "Never underestimate yourself, or what you can do, and don't let your past influence the person you can become." Ms. Condon also spoke of the importance of building a strong support system, and learning to speak up and ask for help when you need it. "Keep a constant reminder of where you've been, because you don't want to forget that. But don't let it define the rest of your life."



Bridgette (right)

Department Product Specialist for Kirby

Fun Facts About CTP by Leslie Jackson

\$4 million dollars is allotted for CTP a year

Murder/Sex Offenses CAN participate if they meet other requirements.

Juveniles CAN participate if they meet other requirements.

500-600 individuals are in CTP at any given time

89 counties participate

If individual has active sentences out of multiple counties, if one denies, the offender is denied by the other counties as well.

Have a question about CTP???
Contact Leslie Jackson at LJackson@idoc.in.gov



“We are all tools created to help the next person, place or thing reach its full potential.”
- Shron Rucker

PLUS by Ann Hubbard

PLUS, or Purposeful Living Units Serve, assists in rehabilitating and enable offenders to embody the change that the name projects, according to Offender Shron Rucker. Rucker was selected among his peers to give the graduation speech at the recent PLUS graduation. He told the audience that he felt, “the operative word in this acronym is “serves” because I believe we are all tools created to help the next person, place or thing reach its full potential.” Rucker was one of 114 graduates of the program this year. Many were able to participate in the graduation ceremony celebrating their accomplishment of completing the 16-month program.

Miami Correctional Facility is one of the leading facilities in the state when it comes to the PLUS Program. PLUS programs throughout the state also have proved significant when it comes to recidivism rates. While those being released from general population have more than a 35 percent chance of returning to prison, the offenders who have completed the PLUS program have a less than 30 percent chance. The PLUS program was named the Program of the Year by the American Correctional Chaplain’s Association in 2009. The program provides an opportunity for offenders to explore and choose alternatives to criminal thinking and behavior through an emphasis on spiritual, moral, and character development, life-skills training, and intentional preparation for living as law-abiding citizens who contribute to the well-being of their community. Other parts of the curriculum include: employment skills and vocations, addiction treatment, responsibility to Right the Wrong (to victims, family, community, and self), basic life skills, and much more.

Each participant is also required to donate 320 hours to community service. The unit has donated more than \$35,000 to local and state charities and donated thousands of hours of community service. Because of the PLUS Program’s success the facility started a second PLUS Graduate Program (PGP) Unit in K-Unit. The first PGP unit was started in I-Unit, which is located next to H-Unit, the current PLUS Unit.



Supt. Griffin addresses the PLUS graduates at the Miami Correctional Facility

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If you have any re-entry success stories, please email them to Maranda Sparks, MaSparks@idoc.IN.gov, to possibly be included in future publications.