

For Immediate Release

Governor Daniels Celebrates National Award for Department of Correction Program

Rockville, Indiana (February 5, 2009) -- In 2005, Governor Mitch Daniels proposed an aggressive new approach entitled "Meth Free Indiana" to address Indiana's meth problem. The Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) responded to his challenge by creating intensive substance abuse treatment programs for incarcerated methamphetamine abusers. Now that program, Clean Lifestyle is Freedom Forever (CLIFF), has won a national award for its innovation and success.

Today, Governor Daniels was on hand at Rockville Correctional Facility for the presentation of the American Correctional Association's (ACA) Exemplary Offender Program Award to the CLIFF program.

Daniels praised the program and its success by saying, "The CLIFF program is one of our biggest accomplishments because it is a homegrown program that is being copied around America and awarded today as the best of its kind. There is not much we do that turns lives completely around, and I've had now hundreds of men and women struggling to turn their life around. Every one of those successes to me is unforgettable."



Governor Daniels talks with Rockville offenders currently in the CLIFF program.

The national award is only given to one outstanding correctional program each year and was presented to the IDOC at an ACA Conference in January. Indeed, ACA Executive Director,

James A. Gondles, Jr. said, “ACA’s Exemplary Offender Program Award recognizes efforts to reintegrate offenders into society. The goal is for them to become productive citizens. Commissioner Buss and the Indiana Department of Correction stand out in this effort, and ACA is proud of their success.”

At today’s ceremony, IDOC Commissioner Edwin G. Buss spoke about how methamphetamine use has impacted Indiana in recent years, yet, under Governor Daniels’ leadership, Indiana is seeing progress in dealing with its meth problem, through programs such as CLIFF.

Buss expressed, “I am very proud that the CLIFF program has been successful in keeping meth abusers from returning to prison and has now been nationally recognized. Nevertheless, the success stems from the hard work and dedication of offenders who want to improve their lives and the staff who guide them in that journey.”



Former CLIFF offender Dustin Lehman speaks about how the CLIFF program prepared him to be successful upon his release from prison.

In addition, a former offender who graduated from the Miami Correctional Facility in 2006 spoke at the ceremony about how the program greatly helped him succeed since his release from prison. Dustin Lehman shared his story and thanked the CLIFF program and its staff for being the main reason he has remained out of prison for more than three years.

The CLIFF program launched in 2005, and it is currently active at Miami Correctional Facility, Wabash Valley Correctional Facility, Rockville Correctional Facility, and Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility.



Commissioner Buss and Superintendents pose with the ACA Exemplary Offender Program Award.

From left to right: IDOC Commissioner Edwin G. Buss, Rockville Correctional Facility Superintendent Julie Stout, Miami Correctional Facility Superintendent Mark Sevier, Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility Superintendent Lori Harshbarger, and Wabash Valley Correctional Superintendent Alan Finnan

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