

For Immediate Release

IDOC to Partner with Ivy Tech to Improve Adult Educational Services

Indianapolis, Indiana (January 12, 2010) – The Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) has completed a thorough review of the manner by which education is provided to adult offenders in Indiana, and as a result, the Department has decided to restructure educational services for adult offenders by partnering with Ivy Tech Community College as the educational provider.

In a plan that will be rolled out in phases by regions of the state, Ivy Tech has committed to begin delivering adult educational services comprised of GED, literacy, and vocational programs to adult offenders statewide. The IDOC chose Ivy Tech to better serve the re-entry needs of offenders. Indeed, around 80% of offenders are released to areas in Indiana within 40 miles of an Ivy Tech campus, and offenders may finish their education at Ivy Tech upon their release from prison. Moreover, with Ivy Tech providing the basic educational services at all adult correctional facilities, the standardization of services will be optimal throughout the state.

The IDOC will require Ivy Tech to offer interview opportunities to all of the IDOC's current teachers during its transition as the sole provider of Literacy, GED, and vocational education to adult offenders. Overall, the initiative will result in savings for the state of approximately \$7 million a year. The savings would also be realized by realigning the educational structure, moving services where most needed, and using offender mentors. Education at the juvenile correctional facilities will not be affected by the changes, and current college degree programs will remain in place.

Not only does improving the delivery of educational services reduce recidivism by giving offenders skills to be more productive members of society, it also helps manage prison populations by allowing the IDOC to continue to award earned credit time required by law to offenders who successfully complete rehabilitative educational programs.

“Ivy Tech is proud to join the Indiana Department of Correction in its endeavor to provide adult educational services in a more efficient, cost-effective way. This partnership is good for the offenders and the State of Indiana,” said Thomas J. Snyder, Ivy Tech President.

“The IDOC understands that educational services are an important component to offender rehabilitation and re-entry. In partnering with Ivy Tech to provide this service, the IDOC has found a way to better provide education with a respected Indiana institution,” said IDOC Commissioner Edwin G. Buss.

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