

Indiana Department of Correction



Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility

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Steven H. Keever
Superintendent



About Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility



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History

The Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) was opened as restricted minimum-security facility for adult male offenders on January 13, 2006. This Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) facility was converted into the nation's first correctional facility dedicated to re-entry after serving as the Indiana Boy's School for over 100 years. IREF relocated to the city of Indianapolis on December 16, 2009 at the site of the former Indiana Women's Prison.

Goal

IREF continues to maintain public safety while providing residents the skills required for successful reintegration into the community, with the ultimate goal of reducing recidivism. In an effort to meet these goals, IREF attempts to deinstitutionalize its residents by providing them free movement inside a secured perimeter fence in a culture similar to civilian society.

IREF Mission

The mission of the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility is to maintain public safety in an environment where programming educates, trains, and inspires residents to be prepared for successful re-entry into the community; sustain a lifestyle consistent with our social and family values in order to continue to live as law-abiding citizens.



IREF At-a-Glance

- Maximum population: 544
- Since 2006, IREF has prepared thousands of residents for successful return to the community.
- In order to foster an environment conducive to civilian society and to deinstitutionalize the population. Offenders are referred to as “Residents”.
- Re-entry Specialists maintain low caseloads in order to provide individualized case-management services to residents.
- Residents are held to high standards of conduct; those who do not meet IREF standards for behavior, attitude, or participation are terminated from the program and returned to higher security level facilities.
- Residents who have completed the IREF program are released to all 92 counties in Indiana to better assist with transition and employment.
- Residents are allowed to and encouraged to wear civilian clothing (*per facility-specific rules and regulations*).

Programming

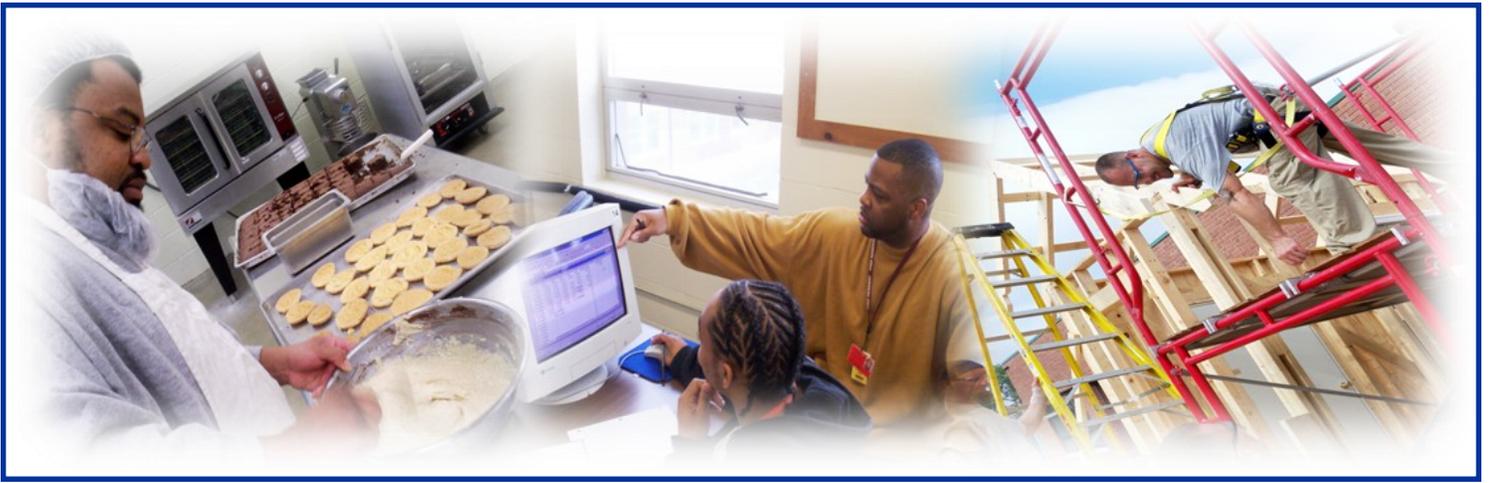
Vocational

Family Education

Community Service

Religious

Additional Programs



Ivy Tech Community College

In April 2011, Ivy Tech Community College partnered with the Indiana Department of Correction to provide adult educational services comprised of GED, literacy, and vocational programs to adult offenders statewide.

Nearly 90 percent of all IDOC offenders are released within 30 minutes of an Ivy Tech campus. Residents who enroll in and pass Ivy Tech classes while incarcerated will be fully enrolled Ivy Tech students. Upon their release from prison and subsequent enrollment at a local Ivy Tech Campus, they will receive prior learning assessment credit toward certificate or degree programs and will have the option to finish their education.

At IREF, Ivy Tech offers Culinary Arts, Business Technology and Building Maintenance vocational programs, as well as an academic program leading to a General Equivalence Degree (G.E.D.).





Culinary Arts



This program provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary for entry-level positions in the food industry. Students learn food safety, through the ServeSafe Certification Program, and preparation skills and use them to prepare and serve various types of meals.

Students enrolled in the IREF Culinary Arts Program, taught by Ivy Tech instructor, Dennis Brady, undergo a rigorous application admissions process and months of classroom instruction that will earn them valuable skills needed in the hospitality industry. The skills learned in the Ivy Tech course increases the likelihood of participants finding viable employment upon release from incarceration, therefore decreasing recidivism.



Business Technology



Provides students with the fundamentals of keyboarding using the touch method. This program emphasizes mastery of the keyboard, developing and applying formatting skills, and improving speed and accuracy on a personal computer using up-to-date software. As well, it introduces the concepts of word processing systems, offering hands-on experience in the operation of a specific word processing software package. Emphasis is placed on applying communication and language arts skills, and developing document production techniques. Students will achieve the ability to utilize email components, including managing schedules, folders and contacts, organizing words using tasks and notes, and customizing email features. Students will gain an in-depth understanding of worksheet design, charting, what-if-analysis, worksheet database creation and manipulation, and OLE. Knowledge and use of a spreadsheet will be applied to various business applications, including spreadsheet integration.

Building Maintenance

This program introduces students to the basics of building maintenance. Students will cycle through all aspects of building maintenance and put that knowledge to use in facility related projects with the goal of returning to the workforce in a related area following release.





Community Services

Commercial Drivers License (CDL)

A six week course which provides residents with information on the trucking industry and prepares residents to take the Commercial Drivers License (CDL) exam.

Communication 101

Communication skills are a valuable resource in interviewing, relationships, and daily interactions with others. This class teaches basic communication skills such as listening techniques, visual cues, and speech enhancement.

Conversational Spanish

Creates a strong foundation for future learning. Introductions, emergencies, numbers, time, seasons, present verb forms, family, places, and directions are covered. A combination of conversations, activities, and homework assignments is given.

Dress for Re-entry

Assists residents in attaining regular “street clothes” to wear while living at IREF. Donations are made through businesses, individuals, churches, civic groups, etc. The perception given and received makes a tremendous difference with both self esteem and the impression made to our visitors. Many residents have commented on the difference they feel wearing “normal clothes” as opposed to State issued uniforms.





Financial Awareness Training by National City (Getting Smart about Credit)

National City Bank executives teach residents how to manage money, create a budget, read a credit report, etc.

Healthy @ Re-Entry

This program offers the resident information on sexually transmitted diseases, safer sex practices and healthier living choices.

IUPUI Inside-Out Prison Exchange

Built around the premise that incarcerated individuals and college students might benefit from studying crime, justice and related issues together as peers, this program meets for six weeks inside IREF and focuses on social justice and the importance of collective action for change.

Living Violence Free

This class addresses issues related to various types of violence. It provides basic information regarding types of abuse, cycles of abuse, and contributing factors. It provides information regarding healthy choices, taking responsibility, and respect. This class is designed to empower participants to advocate their own needs through healthy communication and healthy relationships.

Mentoring Sessions

Prepares participants for re-entry. Mentors act as a role models and as extensions of the community. These mentors give insight, experiences, and impart wisdom to those wanting to break the cycle of recidivism.

Plan A

This life skills group focuses on four main areas that contribute to a successful re-entry. These include the motivations behind the decision we make, how to assert our values when pressured by others, setting and achieving goals, and managing stress. These four areas are crucial to making healthy decisions on the outside.

Prison SMART

Sponsored by the Art of Living Foundation, this seven-day stress management reduction course provides instructions on deep breathing and meditation exercises. Stress Management and Rehabilitation Training (**SMART**) teaches Skills that reduce stress, heal trauma, and provides practical knowledge of how to handle negative emotions in order to live to one's highest potential and contribute to society in a positive way.

Purpose Driven Life

Based on the book written by Rick Warren to answer the question "Why do I exist and what is my purpose?" This biblically-based program enhances the search for the inner self, serves as a guide to life, and provides direction for the future.

Quiet Strength

This 12-week panel of discussion focuses on the six guiding principles outlined in Coach Tony Dungy's book "Quiet Strength." Each week will focus on a key principle and specific passages from the Bible that support those guiding principles.

Relapse Prevention

Works on helping residents recognize triggers that lead to substance abuse and come up with plans to prevent future relapse. The discussion is on the misuse and abuse of substances.

Resume Workshop

Provides detailed explanations, as well as a step-by-step process, for creating an effective resume.

Toastmasters

The door to success involves interaction with others. Communication is the key to open the door to a world of unlimited opportunities. Toastmasters teaches proper speech etiquette and techniques, and communication skills to give residents the edge in business and personal matters.

UCOMMON

Based on Tony Dungy's book, *Uncommon*, this class encourages the resident to examine his life and aspire to a truly uncommon life of integrity, influence, honor, and faith.



Religious Programs

During certain services for each DOC recognized Religious groups, family members of residents are invited and encouraged to come into the facility and take part in the worship services with their loved ones; if certain criteria are met — Up to two adults and four children who are on the resident's approved visit list.

All DOC-recognized faith groups are allowed programming at IREF.

Some examples of current religious services offered by IREF include:

Buddhist Studies and Meditation

These studies and times of meditation are available to those wishing to practice and explore Buddhism, peace, and balance. Discussions about basic Buddhist practice along with chanting and meditation.

Catholic Services

Tuesday (every week) @ 7:00 P.M. in the chapel.

Christian Worship Services

On the first Sunday of every month, residents have the opportunity for their family to come into the facility to take part in the worship service with them. Residents must attend three services within the month in order to qualify for family participation.

Islamic Services

On the fourth Friday of every month during Jumm'ah service, residents have the opportunity for their family to come into the facility to take part in the service with them. Residents must attend three services within the month in order to qualify for family participation.

Jewish Services

The Jewish community meets 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month.

Moorish Science Temple Services

On the third Friday of every month, residents have the opportunity for their family to come into the facility to take part in the service with them. Residents must attend three services within the month to qualify for family participation.

Native American Services

This service is provided for all those residents who walk the Red Road, or are interested in Native American spirituality. Outside volunteers assist in traditional smudging, the singing of songs, and prayers. On the third Monday of every month residents have the opportunity for their family to come into the facility to take part in the service with them. Residents must attend three services within the month to qualify for family participation.

Wiccan Services

This service is provided for those residents who follow earth-based religions. Residents must attend three services within the month to qualify for family participation.

Character Counts

This study involves various Christian books that are gone through and studied as a group.

Empowering Men

This Bible study involves outside volunteers sharing with residents from the scriptures and their personal lives.

Pastor Bumphus Bible Study

Pastor William Bumphus from the Jesus House Ministry leads a Bible discussion in the chapel.

Prison Fellowship The class, facilitated by outside volunteers, researches and studies various concepts from the Bible.

Dorm Community

Volunteers support for each dorm. The volunteers offer “sharing and caring” for their particular dorm. A short Bible Study towards the end of the visit may be provided if desired by the residents. The volunteers serve as an extension of communities reaching out to the residents.

All religious services and programs are open-attendance unless otherwise stated



Family Education Programs

Inside Out Dads

A 12-session program created for incarcerated men promoting healthy, physical, emotional, and social development. A goal of this program is to assist the men in honing their parenting skills. This is conducted through the Parenting Department.

Quenching the Fathers Thirst – Developing a Dad

Instructs residents on how to become responsible fathers and father-figures that love and lead their children to success. This theory-based curriculum is useful for guiding programming interventions with factors such as understanding the role of a father, and providing training in specific skills to become the father his child needs.

Reading With Dad and Me

This is a reading program that allows Fathers to read a book to their children on a quarterly basis. The book and DVD are mailed to the child. The prerequisite for this class is successful completion of the Inside Out Dad's class.

CHILDREN'S VISITATION CENTER

A program geared towards helping rebuild relationships between incarcerated fathers and their children





Additional Programs

Department of Labor Apprenticeship

DOL Apprenticeships provide related and on the job training for eight occupational titles at IREF, including Office Management, Building Maintenance Repair, Database Technician, Housekeeping, Landscape Management, Water Treatment, and Teachers Aid 1. Residents who complete the program are recognized by the Department of Labor with a certificate.

Indiana Department of Transportation-INDOT

Provides on-the job training to residents who qualify based on a strict criteria. Residents apply for, interview with, and are selected by INDOT supervisors.