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Project Summary

20,000 inmates are released from Ohio prisons each year. Studies show that ex-offenders who obtain employment are less likely to re-offend and prison recidivism rates decrease.

Employment also strengthens families and in turn local communities. Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) offers a large number of vocational, apprenticeship and certification programs available to inmates. We need to assist the inmates who take advantage of these programs find jobs in the community.

Project Goals

Our primary goal is to create marketing tools to educate potential employers that there is a pool of skilled workers coming out of prison who are willing and able to work. In fact most ex-offenders are very appreciative of jobs and many employers who have experience in hiring ex-offenders have had positive results.

We created a sample booklet to utilize as a marketing tool as well as a sample script if ODRC should choose to create a short marketing video for prospective employers. Recommendations were a large part of our project and were based primarily through interviews with ODRC inmates and staff members.

Project Methodology

We researched the historical perspective of employers hiring ex-offenders, benchmarked what other states are doing to link ex-offenders with jobs and detailed what ODRC programs are available that assist in making offenders viable candidates for employment once released. We visited prisons and interviewed inmates and staff members, contractors and volunteers. We observed a class called Prison to Paycheck as well as the Ridge Program which is volunteer led program to assist the inmates in evaluating past choices and improving their lives.

Project Team

For more information about this project, contact team members:

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