



Brandon Pierce: A Fulcrum Success Story

My story begins on December 17, 2011. This is the day I got arrested on several property crimes. It was a real eye opener for me, as I just got released from prison in August 2011. As I sat there in county jail for 15 months, I realized that something had to change for me and my life. I knew that I couldn't keep going back to the same town and keep doing the same things, so I told myself I was going to go somewhere else when I got done with my time in prison.

I finally got sentenced to prison in April 2013, for 43 months. After going to county for 2 months for classification, they sent me to Coyote Ridge Correction Center. There I would stay until July 3, 2014; that would be my release day. I started talking with my counselor and told her that I didn't want to go back to Othello. So she put me in for a work release program at Brownstone in Spokane. As I sat there in prison, my counselor told me I got 55 days of good time, and this would put me out in April 2014.

I got to work release on January 8, 2014. There I found out about several programs to help ex-cons get a positive start in society. I first went to SNAP where they helped me pay for my driver's license, CPR card, and Forklift certification. I also was the first person to pass the welding test from Oxarc, paid by SNAP. "After 3 months of beating the streets by applying with hundreds of employers, I started going to Fulcrum Institute to help me get a job. The BRT program really helped by setting up interviews for me. The BRT coordinator communicated with HR departments of several companies to set up interviews. One interview they set me up with was Spokane Industries. I got hired on with that company, and continue to work there.

It's been 3 months since my release from Brownstone. I have raised my credit score from 590 to 750. I also bought a 2005 Ford Ranger 4x4 pick-up and joined the local union at work. My life is finally going in the right direction for good. Thank you so much SNAP and Fulcrum Institute, you made all the difference."

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Brandon Pierce (pictured) visits the Fulcrum offices to meet with the Director of Mentoring, Mari Luna.

CURRENT PROGRAM STATISTICS

Geiger Classes:

410 Students attending 1 or more
classes

Business Roundtable:

82% of Clients Employed

Mentoring:

70 Trained Mentors



Business Roundtable Program (BRT)

The BRT program continues to grow, with new partnerships occurring daily with companies throughout the Spokane area. Several companies have agreed to work with Fulcrum to get our clients employed. They understand the barriers some of our clients face, and are willing to give them a chance. BRT currently has over 200 contacts. We appreciate their willingness to work with us and our clients.

DSHS BFET PROGRAM

The mission of Washington State's BFET (Basic Food Employment & Training) program is to assist basic food recipients who are not already on TANF's Work First program to find a job.

Fulcrum provides:

- * Case management
- * Job skills training
- * Education classes
- * Job search assistance with access to our business round table
- * Application & resume writing
- * Support in addressing barriers to finding and maintaining a job.

Clients say:

~ "I really appreciate the help you provided for me in finding a job and the skills I learned in the job class. I never thought I'd be asked all the questions I was asked at the interviews." ~ Mike R.

~ "Fulcrum's staff has gone out of their way to help with employment training and finding gainful employment. They are extremely knowledgeable and courteous. I would strongly recommend their program to anyone and have done so." ~ Michael P.

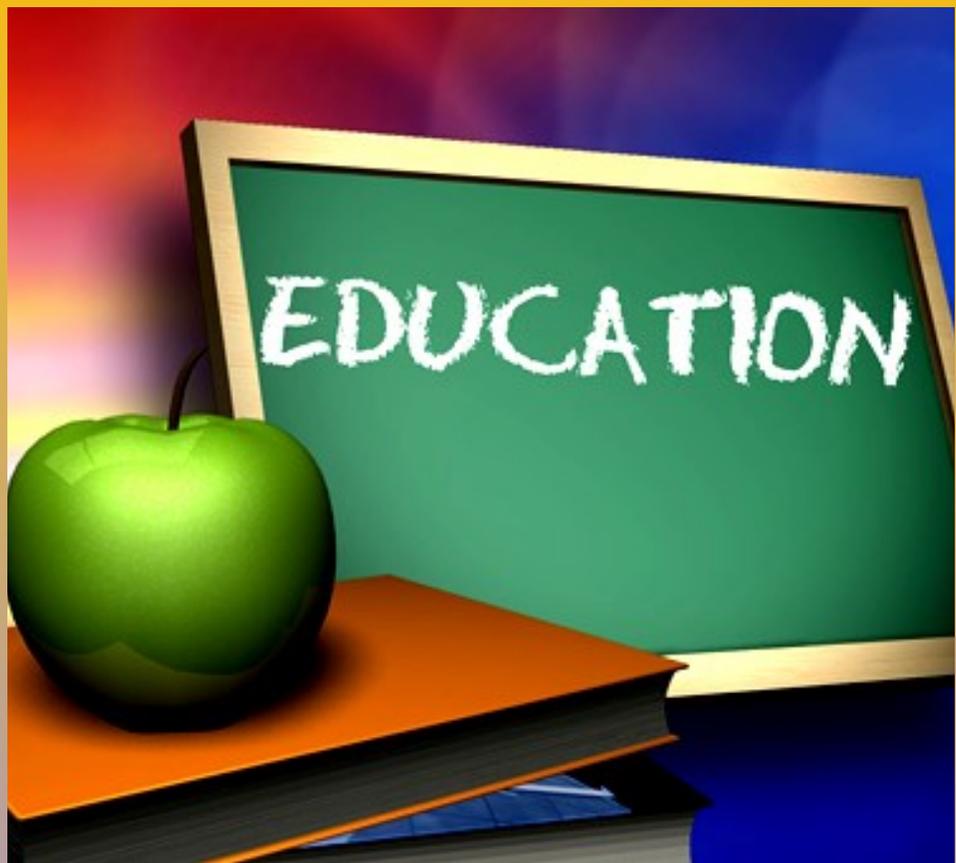


Students Say:

~ "Thank you, Fulcrum, for giving me a leg up on my new journey"

~ "I really liked the 60 second commercial in job skills because it let me put all my skills and qualifications together in one spot."

~ "The anger management log really helps me not get so angry with others."



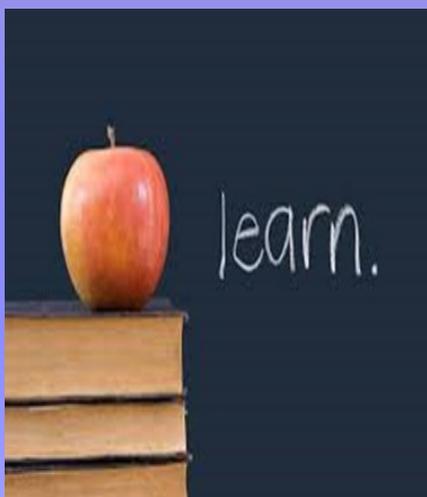
Education Department

New classes have started at Geiger and the attendance is up. Over the last quarter, we had 67 certificates for 33 inmates. With moving the Job skills class to 2 ½ weeks, we are able to allow more inmates to graduate the class. Too many were releasing before they could finish their class.

In Session 18, there were 7 Fulcrum students that had completed 3 or more classes and were able to attend the evening Breaking Barriers graduation.

Job Skills shared top honors for graduations with Parenting this quarter. In session 17, Parenting had a graduation rate of 40%. In session 18, Job Skills had a graduation rate of 30%. Effective Communication had the highest number, 84 students, enrolled throughout the quarter. Job Skills was a very close 2nd with 76 enrolled. Many students were able to graduate from Job skills because of the 2 ½ week formatting. Anger Management had 67 enrolled, which was the next highest enrollment.

MRT is expanding and we are opening both DV MRT and MRT slots on the schedule. We have already got a new referral from the City of Cheney. We have a new brochure explaining what classes we offer for compliance in the courts. This will be sent out to all local Parole and Probation offices in the area.



Re-Start C-P-R Mentoring Program

The Re-Start C-P-R Mentoring Program was developed in 2012, by the Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic in conjunction with SNAP and Work Source. The program was part of a multi-million dollar grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). The task of Fulcrum was to research, design, recruit and train volunteer mentors and implement a mentoring program for ex-offenders to successfully re-enter the community and reduce recidivism.

Of the 18 cities who received funding from the DOL, including Boston, Philadelphia, Long Island, and New Orleans, Fulcrum's program has been consistently recognized as the number one mentoring program nationally. After two years Fulcrum has recruited and trained 70 mentors and made over 240 mentor-mentee matches. Furthermore, Fulcrum has developed a three-hour training course, educating mentors on the vision of the program, how to communicate effectively, the stages of mentoring, appropriate activities, and how to overcome obstacles that may arise in the mentoring relationship. To ensure that the mentoring relationship is a valuable one, Fulcrum also requires mentors and mentees to complete interest surveys so that they are matched based on shared interests and background checks are completed for each mentor before they have contact with their mentee.

This valuable program is in the process of winding down and will conclude in September. In the meantime Fulcrum, Work Source, and SNAP have put forth great effort to reconnect with past clients and collect paystubs from all participants in the program. As Jay MacPherson from SNAP explained, "it has been greatly rewarding to see the excitement from clients who have recently come by his office to share that they have been promoted at work". Although no immediate funds to continue the program are available, Work Source, SNAP, and Fulcrum still hope to secure funds and continue this program into the future.

"A mentor empowers a person to see a possible future, and believe it can be obtained."

~ Shawn Hitchcock



Contact Us

Write to us or give us a call for more information about any of our services or programs:

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or

Visit us on the web at
www.fulcrumdispute.com