



SUCCESS STORIES FROM MINNESOTA CORRECTIONAL FACILITY-RED WING (MCF-RW)

Cedric: Cedric completed the Manufacturing 101/OSHA 10 class in July of 2017. He continued at MCF-RW, completing his treatment work and working as a grounds keeper with staff until he was released. He was self-motivated and appreciated by his supervisor as a person who could complete tasks without much supervision. Cedric was released from the facility in mid-October, and one of his conditions of probation was to be gainfully employed. Cedric applied for several jobs and was immediately hired by Technical Die-Casting, Inc. in Stockholm, MN. He was paid \$15.00 an hour/starting and said that it was very helpful to be able to say in his interview that he had taken a Manufacturing Class and had an OSHA 10 certificate.

Gary: Gary completed the Manufacturing 101/OSHA 10 class in May of 2018. You did not have to ask Gary twice if he wanted to be in the class. He was fully on board a few minutes into our first meeting. If there was a way to get two college credits without paying for them, he was going to take the opportunity. Gary is a very bright young man who wants to be a Forensic Anthropologist. His family has very limited means. Gary understands that if he is to get a college education, he is going to have to make that happen on his own. He had a lot of questions about different programs, especially the College Board's College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) testing. He was very recently released and actually had a job interview set up at a store in a mall near his home. He does not have transportation, so he made a connection with Bike Cops for Kids which visits MCF-RW. They will make sure that he has a new bike when he is released. This is his transportation to work. He was referred to a Youth Counselor through the WorkForce Center in Alexandria. He had made an appointment with her before he left MCF-RW. He is hoping to be able to find some monies for more schooling. Gary was fun to work with, as he looks at everything as opportunities or possibilities to explore. I will continue to mentor Gary in the community, and he made sure that he would be able to stay in contact.

S. K.: S. K. began meeting with the Red Wing Bridge Mentor in September 2017. He had previously been enrolled in the Youth Build program in Rochester, MN when he was in the community. He enrolled in the Tri-City Bridges Program and began taking the Intro to Manufacturing class, which he enjoyed. He especially enjoyed the hands-on building part of the class. He discussed working in union carpentry with his mentor, and he was encouraged to attend the St. Paul Construction Trades Council class in January 2018. In February, he received an award for Metals class. In March 2018, he took a two-credit class through Minnesota State College Southeast – Health and Wellness for a total of five credits earned so far while he was incarcerated. He was released July 27th. He is living in Rochester, MN and is working at the Gingerbread Bakery. He has been referred to Workforce Development, Inc. (WDI) in Rochester and hopes to be able to continue training in the Trades.

*Submitted by: Kim Buysse
WDI Bridge Mentor*