

PRESS  
RELEASE



The New York City Department of Correction

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**DOC CEREMONY CELEBRATES NEW REENTRY PROGRAM FOR  
SENTENCED INMATES**

***GREEN TECHNOLOGY TRAINING SEEKS TO CUT INMATE RECIDIVISM BY UP TO 20 PERCENT***

East Elmhurst, NY – At a ceremony on Rikers Island Monday, a cohort of fifteen male inmates received certificates showing they successfully completed the in-custody portion of the Department of Correction’s new Green Technology re-entry program, “Working I.T. Out.” A second ceremony was held for the first cohort of female participants at the Rose M. Singer Center on Rikers Island last Tuesday.

Working I.T. Out, is an intensive, new re-entry program in New York City’s jails funded by a competitive grant from the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance. The program began in October and combines best practices from the field of prisoner reentry and innovative Green Technology training in an effort to reduce participant recidivism by as much as 20 percent. A total of 140 sentenced adult male and female inmates are expected to participate in the program over 12 months.

“The mission of all corrections agencies includes finding ways to help inmates develop law-abiding strategies for avoiding coming back into custody. For many inmates, acquiring practical vocational skills can make the difference between a life of repeat incarceration and one of gainful employment in the company of family, friends and community. Programming like Working I.T. Out is a key part of the New York City Department of Correction’s meaningful reform agenda and we are grateful for the BJA’s support for the program,” said DOC Commissioner Joe Ponte.

Working I.T. Out equips participants with essential skills to secure and maintain employment in the green technology sector. It does so by providing 80 medium- and high-risk male inmates at the Eric M. Taylor Center and 60 medium- and high-risk female inmates at the Rose M. Singer Center, both on Rikers Island, with three months of intensive pre-release programming followed by one month of programming in the community.

The in-custody services, which are being delivered in partnership with STRIVE International, a nonprofit workforce development agency located in East Harlem, the New York City Department of Education and Hostos Community College, a branch of the City University of New York located in the Bronx, focus on helping participants adjust negative attitudes, acquire foundational knowledge of green technology, and obtain essential computer literacy skills. STRIVE lead case management services and MRT-infused job readiness training, DOE staff facilitate digital learning, and faculty from Hostos provide instruction

on OSHA 10, a foundational course in the construction field, Weatherization and Energy Auditing, basic electricity, and an applied math course.

Following their release from DOC custody, participants enroll in a two-day Economic Stability Workshop, also provided by STRIVE International, and a month of community-based training where they can focus on either green energy or green construction, obtain work experience, and complete additional certification courses. Depending on the specific vocational track they choose—green technology or electricity—participants will work with either Dudley and Associates, an electrical contractor operating in all five Boroughs, or Evirolution, a nonprofit that integrates green industries and green energy into K-12 education, job training, and community outreach programs.

“Our mission is to transform the lives of at-risk populations by providing valuable training and support that lead to livable wage employment and societal reintegration,” STRIVE Program Coordinator Cecelia Hemingway told the graduates and guests. “Upon your release from this institution, we will strongly encourage you to come to STRIVE so that we can finish our work with you, which is a continuation of training, a job, some support workshops or classes and referring you to agencies we work with to access a support service.”

Working I.T. Out builds on the Department of Correction’s innovative the Individualized Correction Achievement Network (I-CAN) program, which was introduced in 2012 to provide re-entry services for high-risk inmates.

“The intensive employment training in Working I.T. Out is a great opportunity for those individuals who are ready for change, and we are very pleased to host this program,” said RMSC Warden Michelle Clifford.” Added EMTC Warden Victor Vazquez, “In addition to the obvious benefit of reducing recidivism, by engaging participating inmates in serious, life-advancing activity during their incarceration, Working I.T. Out has the added benefit of creating a more focused and peaceful overall environment.”

Working I.T. Out is funded by a “Second Chance Act Technology Career Training Grant.” The Bureau of Justice Assistance awards grants through a competitive application and review process. The Second Chance Act was designed to help communities develop and implement comprehensive and collaborative strategies that address the challenges posed by offender reentry and recidivism reduction.

### **About the New York City Department of Correction**

The New York City Department of Correction (DOC) manages the jail system for New York City. It operates Rikers Island, which houses 10 individual facilities, four borough-based jails and two hospital prison wards, as well as court pens in all five boroughs. In FY 2014, DOC had 77,141 admissions involving 56,218 individuals. Its Average Daily Population is approximately 11,400, over 80 percent of whom are housed on Rikers Island. Most of the inmates in DOC custody are being detained pending the resolution of charges against them; approximately 15 percent are city-sentenced inmates who are serving sentences of one year or less.

### **About the Bureau of Justice Assistance**

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Its mission is to provide leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to support local, state, and tribal justice strategies to achieve safer communities. BJA supports programs and initiatives in the areas of law enforcement, justice information

sharing, countering terrorism, managing offenders, combating drug crime and abuse, adjudication, advancing tribal justice, crime prevention, protecting vulnerable populations, and capacity building.

#### **About STRIVE**

Based in East Harlem, New York, STRIVE (<http://striveinternational.org>) is a leading workforce development agency that has transformed the lives of over 50,000 graduates since 1984 through comprehensive training and career development services. STRIVE serves the unemployed from high poverty communities including recovering addicts, ex-offenders, public assistance recipients, the working poor, and the homeless. STRIVE provides specialized training and services that help clients turn their lives around through stable employment and family-supportive wages.

#### **About HOSTOS Community College**

Located in the South Bronx, Hostos Community College was established to meet the higher educational needs of people who historically have been excluded from higher education. The College takes pride in its historical role in education students from diverse ethnic, racial, cultural and linguistic backgrounds. The mission of Eugenio María de Hostos Community College is to offer access to higher education leading to intellectual growth and socio-economic mobility through the development of linguistic, mathematical, technological, and critical thinking proficiencies needed for lifelong learning and for future success.

#### **About the New York City Department of Education**

The New York City Department of Education is dedicated to ensuring that all students are college-and-career ready by graduation. New York City schools strive to provide students with a culture of high expectations and the knowledge they need to become successful, lifelong learners. Furthermore, the NYCDOE offers adult educational and career training. They maintain deep connections to industry and higher education partners to support Career & Technical Education programs to align with current or projected employer demand in New York City.

#### **About Envirolution**

Envirolution™ is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to developing and scaling dynamic K-12 education, job training, leadership academy, and community outreach programs centered around green industries and green energy. They aim to drive the growth of the green economy, thus increasing the number of jobs available in green industries. Their community-based green economy solutions prepare the future and current workforce for green jobs while simultaneously increasing the public demand for green products and services.

#### **About Dudley and Associates**

Dudley & Associates Electrical Contractors, Inc., established in 2001, is an electrical contractor currently working in the 5 Boroughs and Westchester county of New York. Certified green installations, solar installations, computer integrated systems, sound and alarm systems are just some of the many services offered by this minority owned small business.