

Career Bridge Update

Presentation to: Seattle City Council
Public Safety, Civil Rights and Technology Committee

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History of Career Bridge

- ❑ In 2012, HSD and OED were charged with collaborating to address community violence
- ❑ Focus was addressing the needs of those high barriers to employment and education
- ❑ Career Bridge builds on a rich history
 - ❑ Black Prisoner's Caucus founded in 1972 by Black men incarcerated at Washington State Reformatory
 - ❑ Ongoing and focused work on re-entry assistance for people returning home from incarceration
 - ❑ "Investing for No Return" is a documentary produced by King County



Career Bridge Service Model

- ❑ Career Bridge is an integrated, cohort-based model that includes
 - ❑ Workforce training
 - ❑ Social and wrap services
 - ❑ Grassroots community support networks

- ❑ Focus is to assist participants achieve economic and personal stability

- ❑ Participants benefit from mutual motivation, encouragement and collaborative learning



Accomplishments

- ❑ 16 cohorts completed since 2013 – 160 men served to date
- ❑ Model expansion that includes 80 hours of training, life skills, financial education
- ❑ Partnership with South Seattle college includes three days computer lab work
- ❑ Participants have access to wrap supports (i.e. drug treatment, domestic violence services, etc.)
- ❑ Participants receive a \$75 stipend to support participation in training
- ❑ Current job placement rate for Career Bridge participants is 80%



Community Engagement & Partnerships

Legacy Partners:

- Village of Hope
- Truevine Missionary Baptist Church
- Guiding Academic Motivation for Excellence (G.A.M.E)
- Damascus Baptist Church
- South Seattle College

Newer Partners:

- Men's Warehouse
- Life Enrichment Bookstore
- The Breakfast Group
- Starbucks



Impact on Community Safety & Wellbeing

- ❑ “Prison-to-jobs” pipeline training has engaged more than 50 incarcerated men
 - ❑ Washington State Reformatory and Cedar Creek Correctional Complex

- ❑ Partnership with three state work release programs to connect men to training immediately upon release

- ❑ Working with Seattle Police Department’s community engagement program to improve community relations

- ❑ Department of Corrections recognizes Career Bridge as an effective workforce development program



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Questions and Comments

