

Testimonials: Why We Do What We Do

Arizona Correctional Industries was instrumental in maintaining my mental well being while incarcerated. I started the program on the cotton crew and moved into a position in the Information Technology department. Working at ACI afforded me the opportunity to learn valuable new skills and share the skills I already knew with others. ACI demanded no less than a professional attitude which helped ease the transition back into the working environment. The staff at ACI was supportive of my training and challenged me to learn as much as possible. I have taken the skills I learned at ACI and applied them towards a career. I was released from prison two years ago and can proudly say that as a direct result of the skills I learned working for Arizona Correctional Industries while incarcerated, I am successfully supporting myself and my two children.

Audrey M.

Arizona Correctional Industries provided me with the opportunity to practice my job skills, learn new ones, find confidence in my work abilities by achieving goals and daily tasks, and to live a structured routine. I was able to take all of this with me and implement it into my new life, and I have four years of continued success. The ACI work program and its staff provided an invaluable resource and helped me to achieve success and for that I will always be grateful.

Thanks to all,

Mary R.

My name is Richard J. and I am an ex-offender. I served 8.5 years in the Arizona Department of Corrections. During my incarceration I was assigned to the Lewis complex, being housed at the Barchey, Bachman and Sunrise Units. I was very fortunate to gain employment within the ACI work program starting in 2005 while at the Barchey Unit. I worked at Swift where I was a mechanic. In 2007 I transferred to Bachman Unit where I continued my employment with CME.

In 2008 I was granted outside clearance and was moved to Sunrise Unit where I was immediately assigned to work at Hickman's for 2½ years as a member of the maintenance team in the Pullet and Lay Houses until my release in January 2011.

Very simply stated, the opportunity to hold an ACI job during my incarceration has given me the opportunity for future success in my life. I learned new marketable skills while keeping busy using knowledge and expertise I had from work before prison. The money I earned, that was set aside on my retention fund, was there for me to get the items necessary for successful reintegration to society once I was released.

In the 2½ years I worked at Hickman's I earned the respect of my supervisors, which led to my being offered a full time position with the company upon my release. I am now 7 months into my career with Hickman's as a civilian. I have a place to live, a job that I truly enjoy that I go to 5 days a week, good friends, and an unlimited future.

Richard J.

To all the staff of Arizona Correctional Industries:

I would like to take this time to thank all of you for the skills I learned while at ACI during my incarceration. In addition, it is the confidence and encouragement that I received while working at ACI that I continue to feel empowered with. I am pleased to say that I am now a successful woman working and contributing to society. Without my participation in the ACI program, I do not think I would be where I am today. I hope this program continues to prosper and help others as it helped me.

Jody E.

Just a quick note to let you know that I am doing well and staying very busy. I have a job that I love that comes very easy to me thanks to all of the training that I received at ACI. I can't tell you how grateful I am for having been a part of this program where I could learn the skills that I am now using on a daily basis. Thanks to ACI I have the confidence to meet the challenges that I face every day, and know that without this opportunity none of it would have been possible. I thank the staff of ACI for sharing their skill, time, and patience with me and hope that the program continues to provide opportunities for other inmates.

Sincerely,

Lori M.