



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY - PHOTOGRAPHER REQUESTED
MAYOR JOINS WITH COLLEGES TO ANNOUNCE UNIQUE
SOLUTION FOR E- WASTE & RE-ENTRY PROGRAM

The latest developments in a program that so far boasts an impressive success rate keeping ex-offenders from violating parole and returning to prison will be discussed by Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson at 1 :30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15, at the Sherman Park headquarters of Recycle Force, LLC, a division of the nonprofit Workforce, Inc. 754 North Sherman Drive.

Indiana Department of Corrections Superintendent Michael Lloyd and state legislators Rep. Greg Porter (D-Indianapolis) and Sen. Allen Paul (R-Richmond) also will take part in the press conference, along with representatives of Indiana's higher education community headed by Hans Giesecke, president of Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI).

Since January, some two dozen past felony offenders have successfully re-entered society and the employment ranks through the "Work, Responsibility and Reward" program at RecycleForce. The transitional jobs project is sponsored locally by Mayor Peterson through the National League of Cities, which he currently serves as President.

None of the former prisoners currently involved in or successfully completing the six-month program has been returned to jail for violating parole, as compared to a roughly 40 percent recidivism rate for ex-felony offenders statewide.

While helping to keep previous inmates from returning to prison, the project has the added benefit of preventing tons of hazardous electronic waste from entering regional landfills - by employing recent parolees in the environmentally-critical "de-manufacturing" of used computer hardware.

New contributions by Earlham College, of Richmond and the promise that other independent colleges and universities in the state will soon become likewise involved, foretell a potentially significant expansion of the program.

<http://www.earlham.edu/publicaffairs/content/pressroom/archives/2006/10/october/061030f-recycle.php>

Workforce, Inc. a 501 (c)(3) established in 2003 is the project leader for the Indianapolis Transitional Jobs Initiative, which founder Gregg Keesling insists is part of a new paradigm responsible community leaders must look at as a substitute for the incarcerate-confine-and release prison systems found in most states.

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