

Correctional Industries' dedication to Roots of Success

by SPP Network Manager, Joslyn Rose Trivett

Roots of Success is an environmental literacy curriculum that was first brought to our attention by SPP-Ohio. In Washington state, SPP and Correctional Industries (CI) saw the program as a way to expand offerings to offenders preparing for release. CI employs incarcerated men and women in WA to build, manufacture, ship and receive products for use in corrections and other state institutions. They also offer training & education programming throughout the term of employment with the goal of post-release success. In 2013, CI funded Roots of Success (Roots) at four facilities: CI's warehouse, Washington State Penitentiary, and Cedar Creek and Stafford Creek Corrections Centers. The trial run has been very successful, and in 2014 we are considering training for instructors at several more WA prisons, and for two of our own Master Trainers!

One of the Master Trainers would likely be CI's Lucienne Banning (see photo); she and Mike Colwell, Assistant Director for CI, have been champions of the program. Lucienne and I co-supervise a student-staff coordinator for Roots, and planning, delivering, tracking, and improving the program is an ongoing collaboration between CI and the SPP offices at Evergreen.

Special thanks to many others from WA corrections who have made the Roots program successful: Chris Idso, Robert Aleksinski, Robert Branscum, and Superintendents Cole, Glebe, and Sinclair. Thank you also to the many inmate instructors and students who have contributed to the program's success.

I am excited to see where we can take Roots of Success. At the same time that we are expanding the offering in WA, Oregon's SPP has a similar plan. SPP staff in the two states hope to learn from each other how to make the most of the curriculum and spread the benefits of environmental literacy far and wide!



CI's Offender Workforce Development Manager Lucienne Banning has been central to offering Roots of Success in WA state. She is also an Evergreen Masters of Environmental Studies graduate!



Roots' graduating classes at Cedar Creek and Stafford Creek Correction Centers: staff, instructors, and students alike expressed satisfaction with the program and pride in their many achievements. All photos by Joslyn Rose Trivett.