



**STATE OF INDIANA
Department of Correction**

Indiana Government Center - South

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IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOSTS GRADUATION FOR COLCF OFFENDERS



Pictured: Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility's Warden Charles Bowen (far right) with recent graduates from Ivy Tech Community College's American Welding Society program (far left) Thomas Patton, Kodi Diemer, Samuel Krontz, Coley Cooper, David Rupert, Demetrius Sims, Joseph Johnson, Todd Vancamp, William Abbott, and Samuel Wright.

ALBION, IN – Recently, the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) joined its partner, Ivy Tech Community College - Fort Wayne, to celebrate the graduation of the third cohort of male offenders from Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility (COLCF).

The graduating cohort earned their nationally recognized American Welding Society (AWS) certifications indicating mastery in the basic skills of welding such as fusing two metal pieces together to form a solid (pictured). The program is part of Governor Holcomb's Next Level Agenda which challenges the State of Indiana to assist offenders in obtaining the skills necessary to obtain gainful employment upon release.

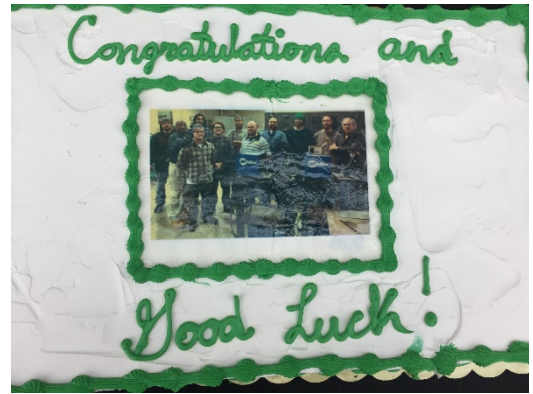
Scott Wilson, Workforce Development Consultant for Ivy Tech spoke on his experience teaching the Transition part of the class. Mr. Wilson stated, "These guys are here to win! I enjoyed working with a group of individuals who worked hard every day."

COLCF Warden Charles E. Bowen recognized IDOC Executive Director of Offender Employment Development Sherman Johnson for his dedication to this program by stating, "In the two years Mr. Johnson has been in his position, he hit the ground running. He is very involved in how the offenders are progressing in class and where they are placed in the community after graduation." Warden Bowen also spoke to the graduating class on ways to use the skills they learned in this cohort and combining them with good character, punctuality, and determination.

AWS Graduating Cohort of February 2019



Metal artwork by graduating class



Cake provided by Ivy Tech Community College

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Visit <https://www.in.gov/idoc/2400.htm> to learn more about Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility.