The long-term goal of the Master Academy Project is to implement effective, evidence-based case planning and management knowledge, skills, and tools throughout all of IDOC’s adult correctional facilities. The purpose of the inaugural meeting of the Master Academy participants was to:

- Establish an effective, collaborative working relationship among the individuals selected to participate in the Academy,
- Review the structure, process, and schedule for meeting the Academy’s goals,
- Define project success in clear and specific terms, and
- Begin to identify the specific steps that will be taken to achieve success.

**Welcome SRR Grant Researchers, Dr. Eric Grommon & Dr. Brad Ray**

Dr. Eric Grommon comes to us from IUPUI and has been working in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs since 2012. He earned his undergraduate degree at Lewis University and his Masters and Doctorate in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University (Go Green!). Dr. Grommon's research areas include corrections, courts, and policing.

To learn more about Dr. Grommon, please feel free to check out his IUPUI directory profile and his professional social media accounts.

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/egrommon](https://www.facebook.com/egrommon)
Twitter: [https://twitter.com/egrommon](https://twitter.com/egrommon)

Dr. Brad Ray comes to us from IUPUI and has been working in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs since 2012. He earned his undergraduate degree at Northern Michigan University, his Masters degree in Sociology from DePaul University and his Doctorate in Sociology from North Carolina State University. Dr. Ray's research areas include criminology, corrections, courts, public policy, and urban affairs. Dr. Ray also serves as the Director of the Center for Criminal Justice Research.

To learn more about Dr. Ray please feel free to check out his IUPUI directory profile and his work for the Center for Criminal Justice Research.
NEW CASTLE ’BIN DONATING FOOD

Recently, the staff at the New Castle Correctional Facility gathered and weighed donations to God’s Grain Bin. The items had been donated in 2017 by staff and offenders to help those in need in the New Castle community. Their combined efforts yielded a total of 2824lbs of food.

The facility makes regular donations to them throughout the year, especially when their garden and green houses are in full bloom. There are food collection bins placed in each unit throughout the facility as well as at the facility entrance. The offenders donate what they want and/or can afford. In addition, some staff purchase food with their own money. God’s Grain Bin is a food pantry for those in need in New Castle.

IDOC PARTNERS WITH NORTHVIEW CHURCH

The Culinary Arts programs at four Indiana Department of Correction facilities recently partnered with Northview Church to produce and package 14,000 cookies for distribution this Christmas season.

Students at Heritage Trail, Indiana Women’s Prison, New Castle and Plainfield began baking both chocolate chip and sugar cookies on Monday, December 4. The cookies were then packaged in small tins and labeled with stickers explaining where the cookies were made, and inviting the recipient to attend a Christmas Eve service at Northview.

Volunteers from Northview picked up all 10,000 cookies by Thursday, December 7.

At the December 9 and 10 services, Northview members had the opportunity to pick up cookies tins for distribution to friends and neighbors. An additional 4000 cookie tins were ordered for the December 16 and 17 services.

There were two goals for the effort - to provide an easy way for members to invite friends and neighbors to a Christmas service, and to raise awareness of Northview’s God Behind Bars partnership with the Indiana Department of Correction.

Northview has adopted Miami Correctional and New Castle Correctional as satellite campuses, and will add Indiana Women’s Prison in early 2018.

Northview, in addition to its main Carmel campus, has multiple satellite locations in Central Indiana. More information at www.northviewchurch.us

Northview Church provided the tins and stickers, and paid Culinary Arts $1 for each cookie and to assemble the packages.
An offender who recently completed the New Beginnings Program at Goodwill post release, recently wrote the following letter:

Dear Goodwill Foundation:

Every morning on my walk to work at Goodwill I used to pray and ask God to please help a miracle happen and let my teeth be restored. I never dreamed that this prayer, this small wish, would ever come to fruition.

I have always struggled with low self-esteem and the loss of the majority of my teeth through life and the damage done through active addiction completely depleted the small number of teeth I did have. I felt that I was judged everywhere I went and was automatically labeled with different stereotypes. Most of all I judged myself. I felt I was an eyesore and no matter my personality or the skills I had to offer. I thought people would never be able to see past my smile or lack thereof. I was always cautious when I laughed or smiled and would always hold my hand in front of my face. This impacted my daily life in a negative way from work, to checking out at the grocery store to my personal life. I thought I would never be able to attain the type of work that I would like to make a career out of. I felt doomed all because I didn’t have a pleasant smile.

I am currently two weeks post-op and I cannot even begin to express the positive changes that have occurred in my life! My self-esteem and positive self-image is returning by leaps and bounds every day! I smile now. All of the time and at anyone. I don’t have to be cautious and only smile around family and close friends. I have taken a customer service position with Deering Dry Cleaners, because I have a new found self-confidence. I would have never had the courage to do so before, even though I have wanted to hold this kind of position for the past year. I feel confident that I can gain any type of employment that I desire and finally not only have the necessary skills, but look presentable as well.

You have given me one of the best gifts possible. The gift of a smile. It has also given me life. A new life that I am ready to jump into! The gratitude I have for you and the gift you have given me is truly unexplainable. There are not enough words in the English dictionary, I can assure you.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for this truly amazing gift that has allowed me to be myself and fully live again!

WEXFORD HEALTH—PAROLE LIAISONS ASSIST FOR SUPPORT

E. J., female, age 31, began parole in September 2016. Liaison met with client through the PD 2 orientation process in September of 2016. After completing the Parole Re-Entry Liaison Intake Form with the client, liaison referred client to the Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) through the RecoveryWorks program for a mental health and substance abuse evaluation. Client has a history of mental illness as well as cocaine use. The CMHC placed client in individual substance abuse therapy, case management, in addition to her mental health treatment. The client attended treatment and successfully completed her recommended substance abuse. Client has not had any positive drug screens through the parole office since her parole began.

J.Y. started his parole in May, 2017. His parole officer referred him to a parole liaison substance abuse assessment. J.Y. was recommended for substance abuse, attended treatment, and completed successfully. J.Y. obtained a sponsor, attended recovery support meetings, and has managed to maintain sobriety. J.Y. is currently working full-time and has his own apartment. J.Y. meets with his PO once a month and has remained in compliance.
**CASE MANAGEMENT TRAININGS**

**Indiana Risk Assessment System (IRAS) Training**
Enrollees: Mandatory for new Unit Team hires

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<th>Location</th>
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**Case Management 101**
Enrollees: Mandatory for new Unit Team hires

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* CM 101 is now two full days (with Classification 101 included).

**Supervisory Audit Training**
Enrollees: Mandatory for new supervisory staff who will be responsible for completing audits at your facility

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<td>WCC Computer Lab (limit 12 participants)</td>
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We encourage you, your family and your friends to follow the SRR grant program by friending/following the CONNECT Initiative on Facebook and Twitter. You can also stay connected by checking out our initiative’s IDOC CONNECT webpage.