

Prison Entrepreneurship Program

CHRONICLE

June Edition

Congratulations
Conquerors of
Spring 2019!!!

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Out of this world...



BPC Winner/ Valedictorian/ Mr. PEP

If only I could 'unknow' all the untrue things that I've accepted as my reality...". This idea came to me years ago as I was dealing with the shame and grief of being incarcerated a second time. My world was getting smaller. I was breaking down mentally and physically. I gave up faith in God. A bottle and a rope were the only images that stirred any feelings of hope inside me. It couldn't really have been so bad, right? Of course not. Things are rarely as bad as they seem. But I *believed* they were bad. However, with that thought, I was on to something. On the one hand, yes, I was a little cracked, but on the other, I *knew* I was being irrational. This gave me something to focus on: first, identify the "untrue things," or limiting beliefs, that were holding me back. Second, replace them with empowering beliefs. Self-help gurus suggest myriad ways to accomplish this. However, the constructive experience I needed to prove these theories can be hard to come by in prison. That's where PEP came in. A few months into the program, I realized I was still waiting for a life-changing experience to be placed into my open hands. Sensing that was a position of limited potential, I began to notice that I already possessed all the tools necessary to take action and *create* a life-changing experience.

PEP isn't just a classroom in which to gain knowledge, but also one develops proficiency. A testing ground, a place to put beliefs about yourself and the world on trial.

My world was opening up again. For the first time in years, I relationships with like-minded men who played a huge role in mation. We questioned old ways of thinking. We challenged intellectually and spiritually. And, of course, we competed against one another, often surprising ourselves with the results we produced.

Any limiting belief structure currently dominating your life will crumble under the weight of the new experiences of success you will create in PEP. You have only to open your mind to the possibility of a new reality and take the action necessary to make it manifest.

a lab where
your be-
developed
my transfor-
each other



John G. aka Johnny Bravo

PEP'S 10 DRIVING VALUES AWARD WINNERS

Mr. Wise Stewardship



I was honored to be named exemplary spring '19 graduate for the driving value, Wise Stewardship. The Bible warns, "Cast but a glance at riches and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky." Wise stewards must accordingly protect assets entrusted them from this proclivity to "fly off." I liken it to parenthood, where one would willingly put themselves in harm's way to protect a child. Putting others' interests before your own is the essence of wise

Paul A. aka Life Alert

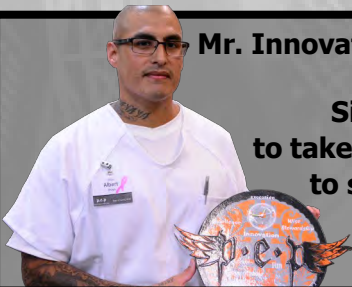
Mr. Servant-Leader Mentality

Servant-Leader Mentality means to me simply being able to have the desire to help people. Honestly, I get satisfaction from helping others succeed in anything and everything that I can help them with. I do it simply because it's the right thing to do. I was raised by a woman that would tirelessly and selflessly work herself to the bone to make sure that our family had everything we possibly needed in order to succeed in life and I would like to think that those same qualities rubbed off of me. I thoroughly like being of service to people and will continue to welcome anyone I come in contact with to do the same. Not everything deserves a thank you or a pat on the back. My mother is up in heaven and is proud of the man she raised.



Jeremiah J. aka J.G. Wentworth

Mr. Innovation



Since I can remember, I have always loved to build things. My mother used to hate to take me to Wal-Mart with her because I would run directly to the model cars section to see the new paint or cars I could get. At the age of 11, my friend and I built a go-cart out of a broken riding lawnmower. Now, when I see a picture of a piece of wood, I want to build and create a work of art. My vision is my passion that will help seal my future because I am innovation.

Albert A. aka Shania Twain

Mr. Fun

FUN BEGINS WITH A HEART STARTING WITH A DESIRE TO CREATE HAPPINESS BUILT TO LAST AND MANIFEST THROUGH ALL THINGS, SITUATIONS & CIRCUMSTANCES.....

FUN IS ATTACHED TO LOVE, LIFE AND LONGEVITY.....

THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER PROBLEMS IN THIS WORLD, SO MUCH HURT LEAVING SO MANY PEOPLE LEFT IN THE SHADOWS OF LIFE.....

FUN ALLOWS US TO BE THANKFUL FOR WHAT WE DO HAVE IN LIFE AND IN GOD, BELIEVING IN HIM.....



Johnny H. aka Mr. Ed

Mr. Love



Receiving the Mr. Love award is great. It shows that I have been living out the way I want to live life, which is with love. Living life with love brings positive vibes. I want my son to see, through my walk, that love is the greatest.

Christopher T. aka Big Yellow Jello

Thank you!

PEP'S 10 DRIVING VALUES AWARD WINNERS



Mr. Integrity

When I was presented with the integrity award at the Spring '19 graduation, I only then realized how full circle I've come with regards to this word. You see, I have struggled with integrity most of my life. Growing up on the streets of Dallas, Texas, there simply wasn't anything to be honest about since honesty meant starving in a world where dishonesty put food on the table. As a convicted man, I thought integrity would never be my reality. Now I know why it is. I simply couldn't imagine a world without it now. If conviction is the flame that burned the forest down, integrity is the seed that gives the forest re-growth. I am now excited about my future due to the fact that integrity is a huge part of who I am today. I accept this award with honor.

David E. aka Mr. Rogers

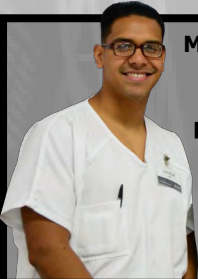
Mr. Execution

Even though each and every one of the 10 Driving Values are of equal importance and have such weight by themselves, Execution has been my favorite since the beginning. Big thoughts don't matter if they aren't turned into action. Action is worth more to me than a thousand words. I am a person who is satisfied by facts, by the ability to get things done. Dreams and goals cannot be obtained without action.

At the beginning of my journey in PEP, I saw this new challenge as if I was to cross a river with a strong flow. To get to the other side, it was necessary for me to take an action. Swimming without stopping until I have reached the other side of the river was what was required to reach my goal. My thanks are to God that with well-executed action it took me to accomplish my goals.



Salvador M. aka Pedro



Mr. Excellence

For me, receiving the award of Mr. Excellence was a high honor. In order for your peers to elect you to receive that particular award—whatever that may be—it means that they consistently see something about you and your character that is in line with that driving value. However, you don't need to be given an award to live out the 10 Driving Values. Excellence means that you consistently put out and turn in your best work, no matter what the job or assignment may be. Excellence doesn't mean that your work has to be perfect. In fact, perfection is often unattainable. Instead, we should progress in, not only our work, but in ourselves as close to perfection as we possibly can, given our experience, resources and skill sets. Always remember that anyone can live out the driving value of excellence because excellence is not something that anyone is born with. Excellence is a state.

Nicholas R. aka Aladdin

Mr. Accountability

Upon receiving my award of Accountability by my peers, I know that they have witnessed me exemplifying this characteristic at one time or another throughout our journey to become PEP graduates. To be noticed as one who displays accountability is truly an honor. By receiving this award, I truly know that I am rejecting passivity and moving on a positive course to achieve the greater reward.



Jonathan R. aka Barack Obama



Mr. "Fresh-start" Outlook

There is no future beyond these walls worth living without a strong fresh-start outlook. There is no guarantee that anything will change in your world if you don't change the way you see it. In reality, it's virtually guaranteed that nothing will change until that point. No one can say that they are about a brighter future without first shining a light on their past. I try to think outside of the box every day. And by the box, of course, I mean prison.

Joshua B. aka McLovin

EXPRESS YOURSELF



P.E.P. restored my confidence. The

TDCJ experience broke my confidence

down to an all-time low. Honestly, when I

was accepted into the program I was more inter-

ested in the business side and the air conditioned

unit. I was blessed to learn that there were many

layers to P.E.P. Toastmasters stood out to me the

most. I have a speech impediment, and speaking publicly was one task that I

really hated. It was dreadful in the beginning, but like most acts done in repe-

tition, improvement occurred. I have to admit, I had a lot of fumbles and sput-

ters along the way in public speaking. With the con-

tinuance of speaking in Toastmasters, I have seen growth.

I learned prepared me for the Venture Capital Panel

ness Plan Competition. In both VCP and BPC, I

achieved some outstanding personal results. Now,

as I look back on the experience, my confi-

dence and public speaking skills have ele-

vated. By persevering through Toastmas-

ters, I developed skills I will use in my life.

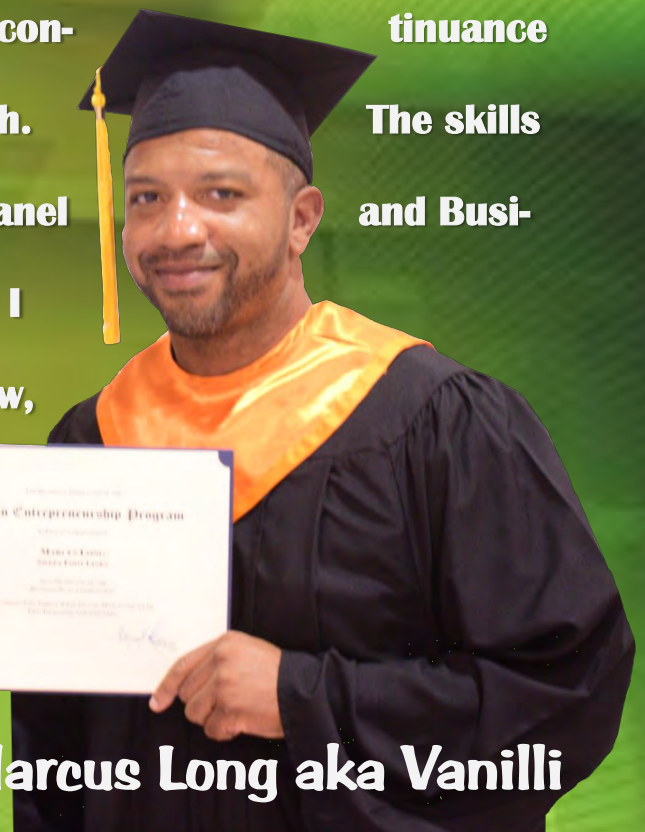
tinuance

The skills

and Busi-



Marcus Long aka Vanilli



HOMERUN!

INNOVATION

I can

not be more thankful for the day that I received that orange postcard in the mail. In the beginning, I was a little hesitant to buy into the program due to it being a little redundant on some things I had already done while incarcerated. My hesitation came from my past life experiences in the military/corporate world that, in a way, made me feel "too good" for the program and finding myself thinking "this is just another prison program that makes money from the state." Come to find out, I was just ignorant and blind to see the reality and potential of what the program could offer its participants.

My turning point came when one day I prayed to the good Lord asking for a way, a path that He wanted me to take and show me what He wants me to do while I am here. My prayer was answered in meeting with one of the executives and being given insight on what can be achieved instead of wishing for what could have been. I broke myself down to nothing and started my rebuilding process. In my experience throughout this journey, PEP showed me it's ok to have failed in life, it's just a matter of what you are going to do when you get the chance to succeed. This incarceration is not who I am, it's going to be who I want to be when I walk out of these doors.

My experience throughout this entire event has been rewarding. Developing a brotherhood; connecting with some really good people and building some great opportunities when I walk out of here has been a blessing. I am proud of the person I have become! I enjoy the helping those in need and stepping back for the first time to see others succeed instead of just stepping forward to see one person succeed, ME. Humility and love are just some of the words that have molded me into who I am.



Anthony B. aka Boomhauer

Photo Album

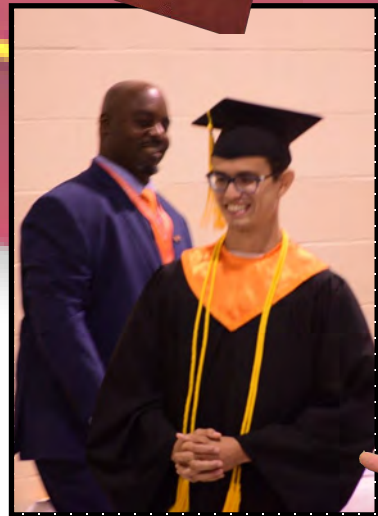




Photo Album



Executive of the Month

Richard aka "Jack the Lad"

Tell us about yourself?

My name is Richard. I'm an Englishman and a builder.

Why do you choose to give your time to PEP?

I find it a very positive experience meeting with such gifted residents.

What is one thing that you have learned at today's event?

Never judge a book by its cover.

What inspires you to push yourself every day?

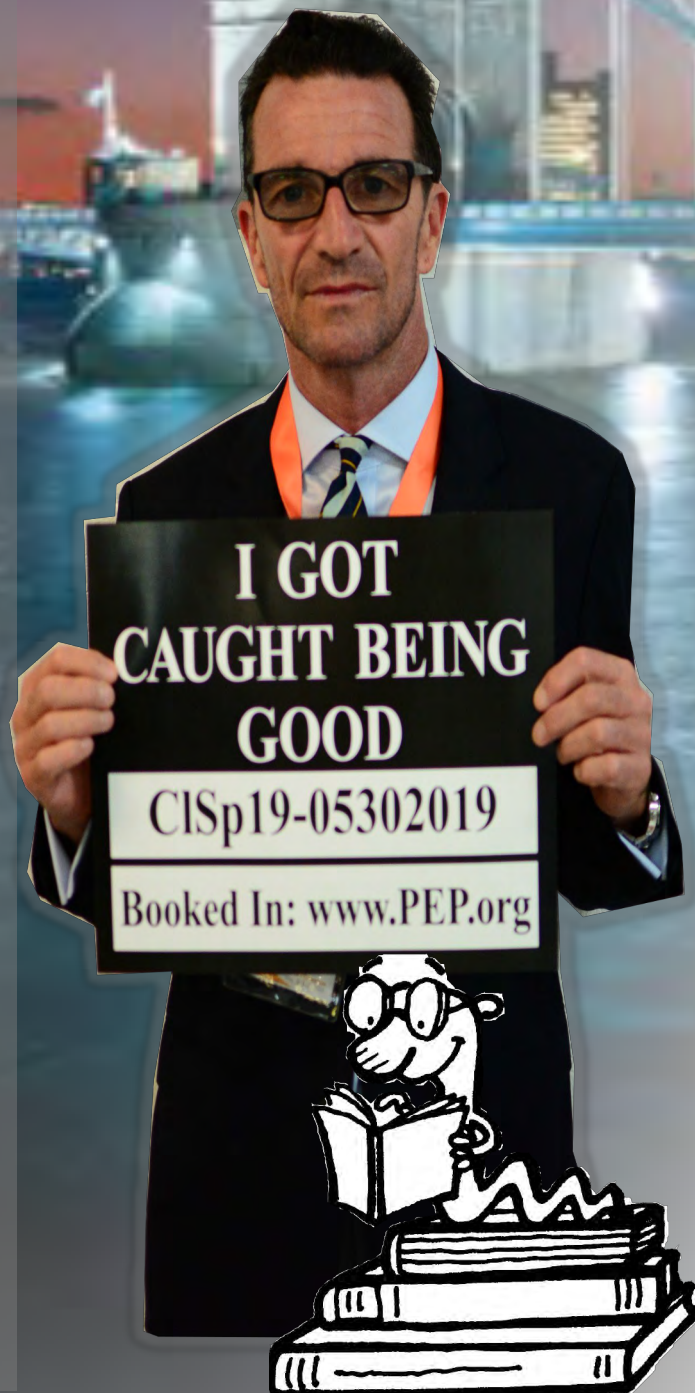
I like to stay busy. A lazy mind is an uninspiring mind.

Will you continue to come back to PEP?

Yes!

Any words of wisdom that you would like to share?

Better late than never.



5 THINGS YOU DIDNT



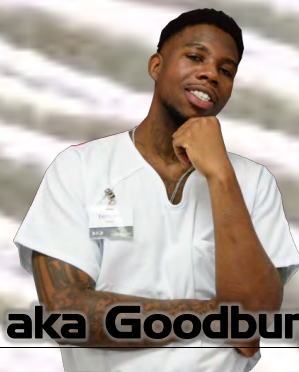
Ryan C. aka Chicken Little

- I speak decent German.
- I play the guitar.
- I am a commercial brick layer.
- I have a four year old daughter.
- I am a huge fan of the Dallas Cowboys, Texas Rangers, and Dallas Mavericks.



Abel R. aka Mickey Mouse

- I took Tae Kwan Doe as a child.
- My favorite type of music is oldies but goodies.
- I have four kids—three boys and one girl.
- My mom and dad were born and raised in Mexico.
- I still don't know how to speak Spanish.



Kenneth C. aka Goodburger

- I have an 8 year old daughter.
- I've been married before.
- I am a certified HVAC technician.
- I have never had a driver's license, but I have always had a car.
- I like all genres of music.



Donald B. aka Don Cornelious

- I easily get lost in the beauty of nature. I can spend hours outside just taking in everything. Creation is amazing to me.
- I'm an animal lover, with the exception of flies and mosquitos.
- I grew up with my mom and dad, but I'm still a "momma's boy".
- I'm a fun individual - I love fun—you just have to get to know me... And to get to know me, you must be true to yourself and others, and be positive.
- I'm country —"dirt road, backwoods country".



Clauton A. aka Mr. Macky

- I received the "Best Dressed" award my senior year in high school.
- Nolan Ryan is married into my family on my mom's side.
- My dad caught me coming out of my mom's womb instead of a doctor or nurse.
- When I was a young kid I had bleach blonde hair naturally.
- I really enjoy going to the beautiful place of Destin Beach, Florida.

KNOW ABOUT ME!!

THE FINALE FOUR

Nicholas R. aka Aladdin

Paul A. aka Life Alert



Albert A. aka Shania Twain

John G. aka Johnny Bravo

**“Every human has four endowments-
self awareness, conscience, independent
will and creative imagination. These give
us the ultimate human freedom...The
power to choose, to respond, to change.”**