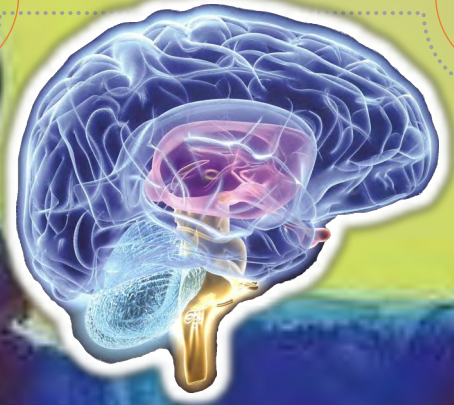


Prison Entrepreneurship Program

CHRONICLE



Think Tank Event

How much brainpower
can we handle?



Event Photos
Inside!



Mock Interviews

Who will get the job?

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Chief Content Officer

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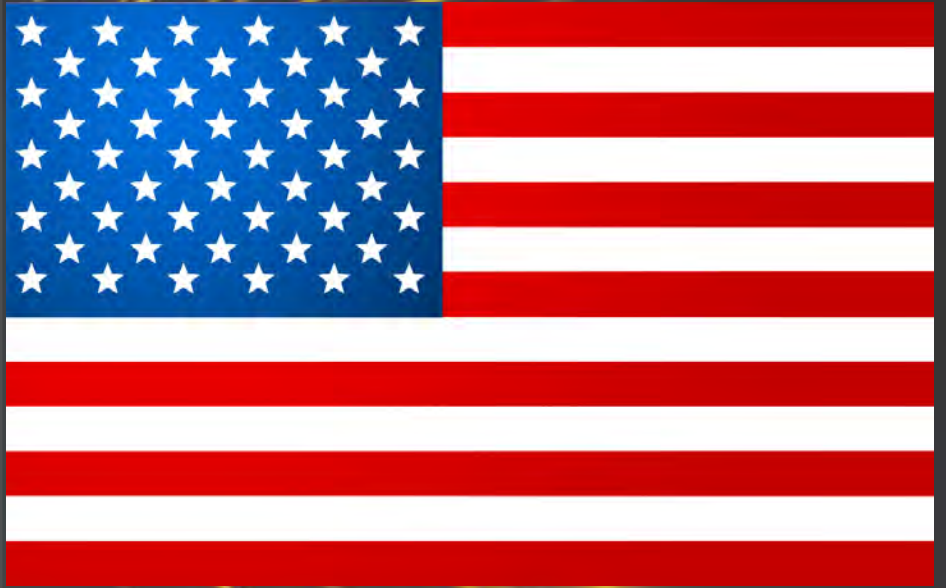
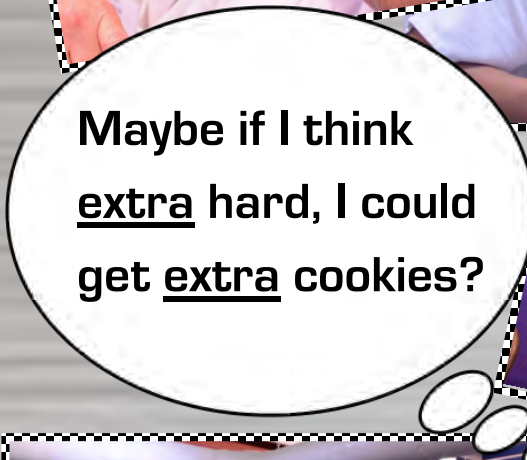


PHOTO BUCKET



PHOTO BUCKET



SERVANT-LEADER OF THE MONTH

A portrait of Marcus L. aka Vanilli, a Black man with short hair, wearing a white V-neck shirt and a name tag that says "Marcus L. aka Vanilli". He is looking slightly to the side with a neutral expression.

Marcus L. aka Vanilli

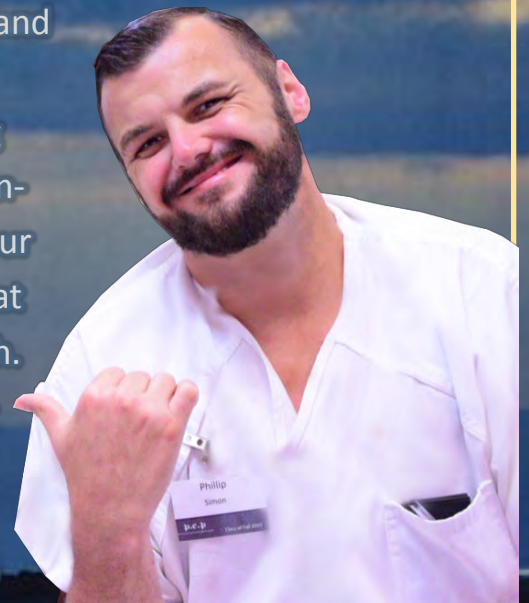
Servant-Leader Mentality

This month's servant leader is Marcus L. Marcus is a proud Spring 19' graduate. I asked Marcus, who is a very humble man, what being a servant-leader means to him. To him, a servant-leader is a person who places God first, others second and yourself last. Someone who gives back, not just in monetary, but in time, advice and wisdom. They do this be-

cause it's the right thing to do, not because they have to. When you delay gratification for the well-being of others, you become rich with a joy that has no monetary value. Jesus Christ is the very best example that I can think of. He delivered a message of hope, peace, and love.

One of Marcus' favorite scriptures is Matthew 23:26, "first clean the inside of the cup and dish, then the outside of them be cleaned also."

I also asked him what he has learned from his time in PEP. He replied, "You have to be patient, always looking at the positive in things and keep focused on what is important. Yeah, some days are harder than others, but when you strive, you overcome. Start by setting small goals and growing upwards from there. Once you've accomplished them, set bigger ones. It isn't the fact that we have set our goals too high and miss them that really hurts us. It's the fact that we aim our goals too low and reach them. That is the harsh truth. So set your goals and don't be afraid of success. We have an opportunity in our lives to start fresh, to clean the inside of our cup per say. I have to start being a servant-leader today if I plan to carry that mentality on the outside; to live as Christ would; to lead with hope of a better life, peace, and love."



Written by,

Phillip S. aka Chris Pratt

Entrepreneur of the Month:

Miguel M. Aka El Guapo



First and foremost, I would like to give thanks to our Lord and Savior for giving me this opportunity of being accepted into PEP along with my brothers: Class of Fall 2019 . I am from the Rio Grande Valley, born and raised in Velasco, Texas. My family and friends would say that I am a very humble, outgoing and caring person. I have always been drawn into playing sports such as basketball, football, soccer, etc. Growing up, my passion was music and one thing you might not have known about me is that I know how to play the drums.

Arriving here at the PEP program, I didn't know what to expect. As we began first phase and Men's Fraternity, I realized that the man I was before was harming my children, family and friends. I have now made the most powerful and productive decision to change my old ways and become a successful entrepreneur. As founder of Lone Star Wi-Fi towers, I plan to launch my business within a year of my release. With the help of family and friends, my business will be affiliated with 5-star Wi-Fi internet and established in Pachuca De Soto Hidalgo, Mexico. Founded by Wesley Wilhite, my headquarters will be in Weslaco, Texas, but it will also service the whole Lone Star State, as well as Monterrey, Mexico, Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico and Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. I will use all of my skills and knowledge that PEP is offering to become a successful entrepreneur.

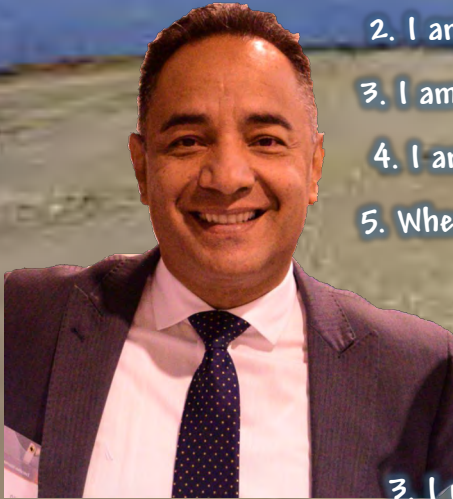
We are midway through our journey for success and to becoming conquerors and graduates of Fall 2019. My favorite quote is by Benjamin Franklin and it goes like this, "Energy and persistence can conquer all things." But I also say this, "When you achieve your goals, your dreams come true."

5 Things You Didn't Know About Me

(executive edition)

Alfonso

1. I am a family counselor.
2. I am Columbian.
3. I am a Christian.
4. I am a father of four and grandfather of 3!
5. Where you are, I have been. Where I am at, you could be!



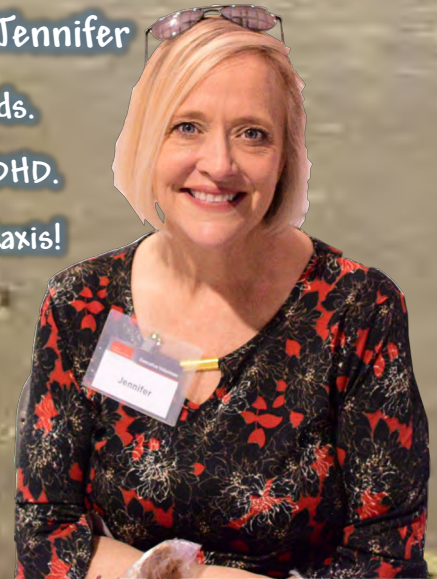
Jennifer

1. I used to weigh 300 pounds.
2. I have severe ADHD.
3. I used to sing in a rock band in high school...Axis!

4. I am an LGBT activist, I am a proud sister of two gay brothers!

5. I didn't go to college, but I've always been an entrepreneur.

It was an honor and privilege to be here and I plan on coming back every time!!!



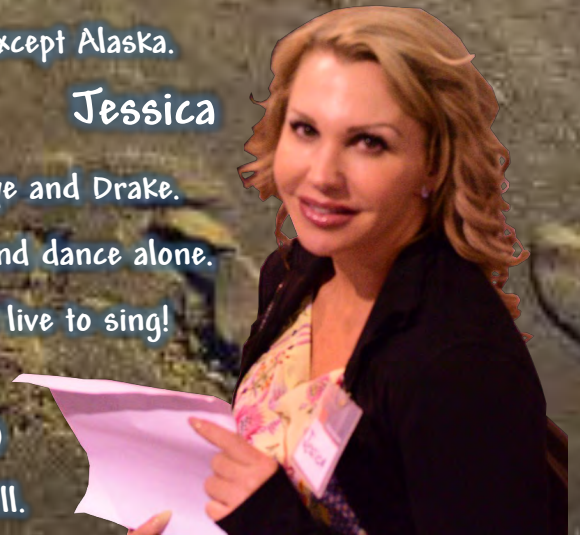
Albert

1. I live in a household with six dogs and five cats. (Most of them get along)
2. I've lived all over the country. Texas is my favorite!
3. I owned a red Mazda Miata. It was stored for so long that mice ate at the wiring.
4. I have been involved with PEP for five years, and the reason why is because it works!
5. I've been to every State except Alaska.



Jessica

1. My dogs are my life, my children! I have two Pomeranians, Kanye and Drake.
2. I like to work out and dance alone.
3. I am a terrible singer but I live to sing!
4. I spend too much money on Starbucks. (Quad espresso, double cappuccino w/ heavy cream.)
5. I cannot stand sitting still.



perspectives

What does freedom mean to you?

The smell of granny's fried chicken, mac & cheese with the biggest bowl of homemade banana-pudding made from scratch. The big rain drop tears from the inexplicable bottled-up joy that only freedom can produce. Freedom is what we feel when we shake-off the old ideas and ways of thinking. We're feeling the closest thing to freedom when we're in thoughts and prayers. Love is on this side of this letter and when it's being read; it's love there too...



Ta'Mundray W. aka DeeBo



Kevin W. aka Neo

Freedom can mean many things to many people. Freedom to come and go as one pleases, financial freedom or freedom of choice. Freedom is to live in peace and to be given opportunity to work, love, and grow old as I choose. A freedom that was hard won by dedication and sacrifice.

While some may criticize the injustices in our society, one cannot deny that our way of life is second to none and how many less fortunate envy the freedom we have.

As a veteran, freedom means a lot to me. Freedom for one is not free! Freedom was built on the sacrifice of many man and women who fought to protect it. Freedom is the ability to express your religious beliefs, follow your dreams, and drive what you want and making choices without pressure from the government. Freedom could also be peace of mind or released from prison.



William J. aka Caveman



Ledarion H. aka Reese's Pieces

Freedom to me isn't the physical aspect of my situation, but simply the mental and spiritual aspect. Once you limit your horizon, you have lost the race. Once you have conquered your emotions you will be able to set yourself free from your mind, body and soul. Don't limit yourself!

Freedom is not a physical location or situation but merely a state of mind. Freedom is to "free the dome" from all restrictions and constraints, seeing life for what it is instead of how it appears. Freedom means to become enlightened, realizing that the decisions I made yesterday determine where I am today, and the decisions I make today will determine my tomorrow.



Giante W. aka Malcolm X



Daniel M. aka Shark Bait

I feel torn at times. It would seem like my native Americanism is at odds with my patriotism. I suppose that to truly understand what freedom means, I must look to the inside of self where a part of the one who created me resides. Problems as a nation? Many people are punished for expressing anything other than what they are allowed. In this crazy, sometimes misguided country of ours, people died so that I can openly proclaim that I am a Christian. I am proud to be Native American and blessed to be in America. That's freedom.

EXECUTIVE OF THE MONTH

Tell us about yourself?

- 1.Originally from Portland, Oregon
2. Child of a serial entrepreneur.
- 3.Lived and worked on an organic farm on Hawaii.

Zella



Why do you choose to give your time to PEP?

This is the most rewarding thing I've ever done.

What inspires you to push yourself every day?

I'm driven by my purpose which comes from God. I'm here to be a teacher, healer and connector.

What is one thing that you have learned today?

I've learned the power of being transparent and vulnerable to access the best version of oneself.

Will you continue to come back to PEP?

It is my pleasure to continue to attend as much as possible.

Any words of wisdom that you would like to share with us?

The men of PEP inspire me to live my purpose, to keep daring and to never give up. Every time I visit, I leave fired up to do my best and help others.
Thank You!



Rookie of the Month



Tell us about yourself:

I'm a very energetic guy and I talk a lot. I can't help it, I like interacting with people. I'm very outgoing and open. I like to read and I'm always striving for self-improvement. Oh yeah, and I love to laugh!

Why did you choose to come to PEP?

I wanted to change. I'd finally come to the realization that I was the source of all my problems, not the world. Life is hard on everyone, not just me, and it's my responsibility as a man to stand up and take control of my life, and I believed that PEP would be able to provide me with the tools I needed to grow.

What's your sweet name and describe how you own in?

My name is Avery W. aka Swizz Beatz "SWIZZY! PEP oh you fancy huh?" Then I do a little dance.

What's the best moment you've had in PEP so far? And tell us why.

Graduating from Quest for Authentic Manhood. I've never graduated from anything other than the 8th grade, so in a sense, I felt like I really accomplished something, and that was an awesome feeling.

Name a few PEP brothers who have been a positive influence throughout your journey in PEP:

Cornell L., Pete P., Randy M., Joseph M. and so many others.

What pushes you to keep going forward?

My faith. I have an overwhelming feeling that transcends words, logic and reason, that God has a definite purpose for my life, and that the only way for me to learn what my purpose is, is to put forth the effort that it's going to take to unveil it.

Any words of encouragement for you and your classmates?

"You can gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the thing which you think you can't do."

—Eleanor Roosevelt

Avery Wilkins Aka Swiss Beats

SPECIAL DEDICATIONS

Today, I would just like to say thank you to my family for loving me so perfectly and unconditionally. Even after all the disappointment and pain I've caused, you all have never given up on me or left my side. Regardless of all the mistakes I've made the love you all show me keeps me motivated to stay on the right path. I love you all with all my heart and I am beyond so grateful to have been blessed by God to have such an awesome family.



Lorenzo T. aka DJ Khaled



William W. aka Chester Cheetah

Today, I am aware of those in my life who matter most; my father, who exhibits the qualities and character I admire most. Judy, who still calls me her "better-half". Sandy, DJ, Charlotte, Steve, Benny. Thank you all for being a part of my journey.

I want to give a shout out to my brothers, my sons, my daughter, and to my sons' mother. This program is allowing me to evolve as a brother, a father, and most importantly, a man. I am committed to being the change I need to see. Your support is encouraging me to continue my journey towards victory.



Cory P. aka Nino Brown



Jason H. aka Forest Gump

I would like to thank my family for all that they do. My brother and his wife for their financial and moral support that they share with me. My oldest daughter Ashley for allowing me to amend our father-daughter relationship. My son Jeremy, I love you. My daughter Kasey for letting me be a part of her and my granddaughter, Renesme's life and her moral support throughout this journey. To my youngest daughter Emily, I love you and I think about you every day. Thank you all and God bless you.

I would like to thank my mother and sister and everyone who believes in me. I'm so thankful for all your support. I would like to dedicate my success to you for giving me another chance and not turning your back on me. I'm in a much better position to improve my life and become a better member of society. Thank you for believing in me.



Joe G. aka Almond Joy

EXPRESS YOURSELF

"The Worst Part"

I'm not the bricks, bars, or attitudes, being told when to shower, eat or sleep. Working for free or even sharing a bathroom with another man. The worst part is what you can't see: children growing without your guidance, love, shame, guilt, and self-hate, while sitting in a cage as your family ages. And when someone dies, you can't comfort them. Your plans for holding a newborn for the first time. Are these the dreams you had as a child? I'm guilty of getting lost in the past; stagnant and self-destructive, even of losing the will to live.

I'm also guilty of proving this is not all I am, that in a dark world it's easy to be swallowed by a decision made to combat all but imprisonment. Our families have heard it all before. Right now, it's not about what I can tell them. I want them to see. I want them to know we're in the most intense and beneficial program prison offers. Required to maintain excellent conduct, early and long classroom hours, weekly speech presentations and to keep up with a high velocity of homework and testing which has proven daunting at times and we've not all made it. The committed refuse to quit. It's all we can do to show dedication to change.

Our trials and this training can perfectly form us to be the best men for ourselves and our families. We know we love them. We can tell them we love them, but they have no idea how much. Effectively utilize this time and show them. I can never take back these years. All I've taken is what my sons and family deserved. That's the worst part, but what were doing right now, this is as good as it gets.

"It's not all about how you started, it's how you decided to finish, but if you focus on the end, you'll miss the journey."

—Aristotle

Michael P. aka Nacho Libre

