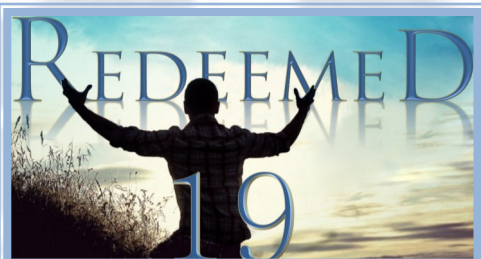




March 2019

# Redeemed '19 Graduation

The true meaning of redemption



Ten Driving Values

- Love
- Excellence
- Accountability
- Integrity
- Respect
- Service
- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Communication
- Perseverance

On a pleasant day in the month of March, through the craziness and pressure of preparing the class of Redeemed '19 for graduation, though overwhelming, there mingled in the air a sense of accomplishment. The feeling of celebration was electrifying deep within in the hearts of every soul involved in guiding this class to redemption. Of course many of these gentlemen set the example for being considered "Redeemed", and sure enough it was shown throughout these past nine months. New faces were introduced for the awards of Valedictorian, Mr. PEP and Business Plan Competition winner. Take a look and hope you enjoy this issue.

-Joshua Lara



BPC Four Finalists Awaiting Results

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Valedictorian:  
Samuel Duran



Mr. PEP:  
Dustin Ball

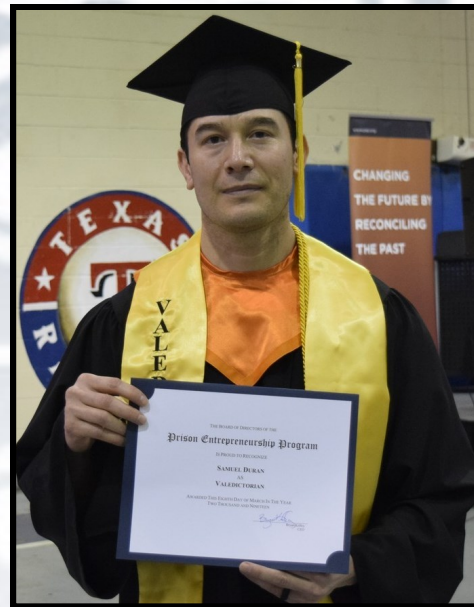


# Valedictorian Speech

The words of great accomplishment



Valedictorian Samuel Duran giving a speech full of encouraging words



"Nothing is more precious to a man than the love of his family" -Samuel Duran

Earning the distinction of Valedictorian for the Redeemed '19 class was Samuel Duran, with Jeffrey Dossey warranting Salutatorian honors. These two gentlemen endeavored from the outset of the class to pursue excellence, subsequently striving for Redeemed's highest marks in each of the 50 plus tests which covered a variety of subjects.

Mr. Duran addressed his fellow classmates, friends, families, and executive volunteers with a touching and heartfelt valedictory address. His speech was one of change, unity, and love. Not only did Samuel speak of the transformative power of change, but of how "we all have the obligation to change, to grow as human beings not only for ourselves, but for our friends and loved ones." His words challenged his class to use the trying circumstances which will occur in their lives to propel them forward and to drive them passed the plateaus of life while overcoming self-imposed limits and those imposed by society.



Salutatorian Jeffrey Dossey speaking on gratitude



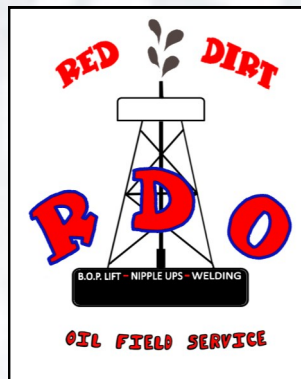
# Business Plan Competition

## The race to the top

The Business Plan Competition is the culmination of all the hard work and focus our participants put into Phase II of PEP. For the past six months, the participants started with an idea of their own and developed it into a viable business plan. They then presented it as a seven to twelve minute pitch to a panel of executive volunteers. Those volunteers compare each plan and pitch, ultimately deciding which one they would want to invest in. At graduation, in front of the participants friends and families, the top four plans are announced.



Winner: Dustin Ball  
MetroFlex Moving Solutions



Second Place: Jeffrey Barnett  
Red Dirt Oil Field Service



Third Place: Abraham Suarez  
Tito's Tamales



Fourth Place: Jeremy Bargerhuff  
Z Xtreme Carpet Cleaning & Home Services



# Awards and Accolades



Recognizing those who take it up a notch

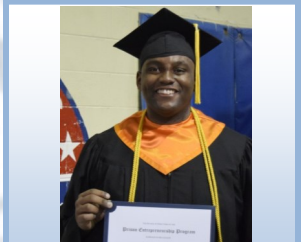


Throughout the program, each participant grows and changes in his own way. PEP is built on Ten Driving Values which are central to a well balanced and successful life. These men were honored at graduation for best exemplifying one of the driving values.



**Mr. Accountability**

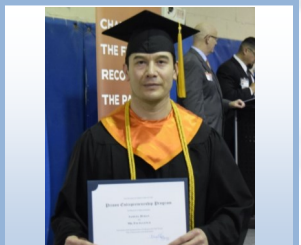
Felix Salazar



**Mr. Love**

Jonathan Dantzer

## Mr. PEP!

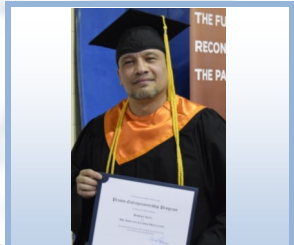


**Mr. Excellence**

Samuel Duran

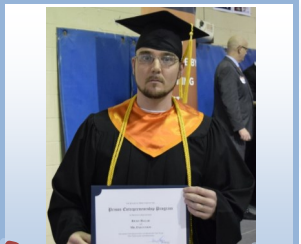


Dustin Ball



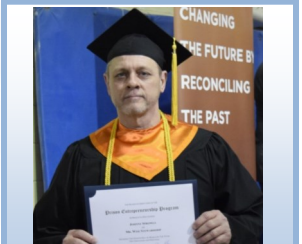
**Mr. Servant-Leader Mentality**

Robert Soto



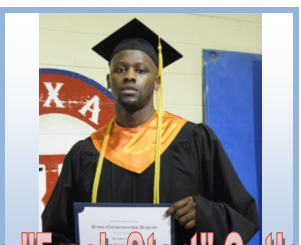
**Mr. Execution**

Ricky Hagar



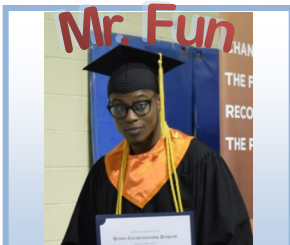
**Mr. Wise Stewardship**

Johnny Sprowls



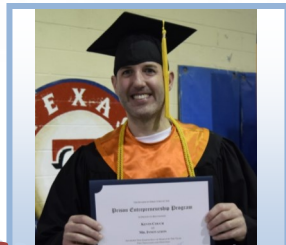
**Mr. "Fresh Start" Outlook**

Kendrick Curtis



**Mr. Fun**

Christopher Ramsey



**Mr. Innovation**

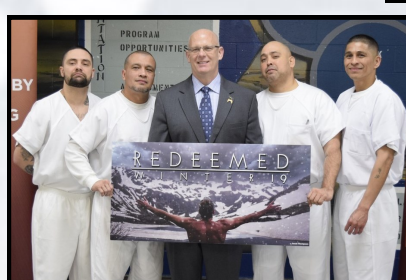
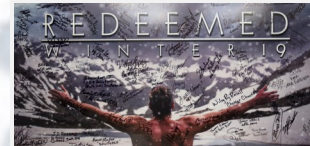
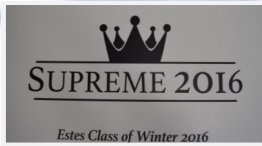
Kevin Couch



**Mr. Integrity**

Todd Cathey

**Congratulations Redeemed '19 Graduation Class!. The eighth graduating class at the Sanders Estes Unit. Welcome to the PEP Family.**



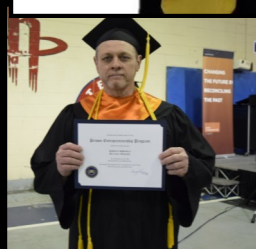
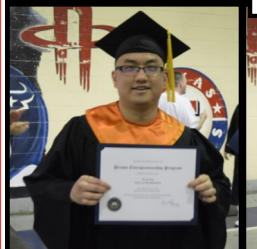
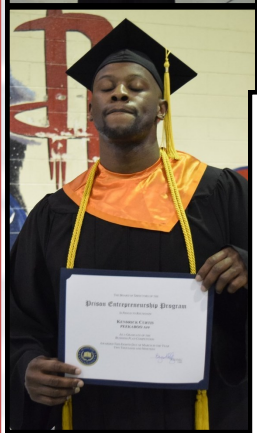


# Redeemed '19 Graduates



Introducing the stars of the show

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Aron Adame        | Alfredo Noriega      |
| Reginald Austell  | Tyrone O'neil        |
| Rodney Baker      | Jo Anthony Ontiveros |
| Dustin Ball       | Anthony Owens        |
| Jeremy Bargerhuff | Deodrick Page        |
| Jamikal Barnes    | James Perez          |
| Jeffrey Barnett   | Kenneth Ramirez      |
| Jefferson Brooks  | Christopher Ramsey   |
| John Bullock      | Eric Rangel          |
| Angel Cabrera     | Cedric Reese         |
| Marlon Castile    | Kevin Rivers         |
| Raul Castorena    | Edgar Rodriguez      |
| Todd Cathey       | Joseph Rogers        |
| Rodolfo Chavera   | Wiley Russell        |
| Kevin Couch       | Jimmy Saenz          |
| Kendrick Curtis   | Felix Salazar        |
| Jonathan Dantzler | Terrick Scott        |
| Robert Dillard    | Bobby Sharp          |
| Jeffery Dossey    | Terry Shipman        |
| Samuel Duran      | Julius Smith         |
| Jose Esqueda      | Ryan Soria           |
| Jonathan Garcia   | Robert Soto          |
| Antonio Gonzales  | Joshua Spinks        |
| Jarrold Gonzales  | Johnny Sprowls       |
| Bryndan Griego    | Travion Stoot        |
| Ricky Hagar       | Abraham Suarez       |
| Justin Harlow     | Andrew Trentacoste   |
| Johnathan Hensley | Andrew Trowbridge    |
| Brandon Holt      | Levelle Vigne        |
| Thomas Hubbard    | Benjamin Vines       |
| Joshua Jones      | Brad Williams        |
| Tuan Le           | Jordan Williams      |
| Aaron Lopez       | Michael Williams     |
| Victor Lopez      | Shalimar Williams    |
| Michael Lozano    | Zachary Woods        |
| Mandy Maya        | Levert Young         |
| James Mitchell    |                      |



Bryan Kelley



David Flores



Victor Gutierrez

Gami Jasso

**Special Thanks To:**





# One Graduate's Experience



As my Redeemed '19 classmates and I progressed through the past several months towards graduation we pushed through long class hours, exams, lectures, presentations, pitch panels, peer character evaluations, and personal trials and tribulations. Each one of us had our very own unique brand of adversity to face and subsequently surpass upon the various paths that this program presented us with. All of these individually travelled roads shared a communal terminus on Friday, March 8, 2019 as we were joined by fellow PEP classmates and graduates, PEP brass, executive volunteers, friends, family, and loved ones.

I am unable to speak for all of my Redeemed brothers, but this day easily surpassed any other since I first stepped foot onboard one of those dirty white TDCJ Bluebirds nearly three years ago. It was an almost indescribably remarkable experience to be surrounded by my own family devoid

of a cold grey table between us, sharing our own tender and personal moments amongst ourselves, as the same scenario played out all around us with each of my Redeemed brothers and their loved ones. Being able to observe loving fathers reunite with their children, husbands hold their wives, and grown men joyfully embrace the parents that have watched them continually make poor choices their entire lives and now have a new reason to be prideful of their achievement was worth all the effort put forth over the past nine months.

Graduation is more than walking across a stage and receiving a certificate. It is a chance to show your family that you have the ability to persevere and to commit yourself to something valuable and sustaining. It is also an opportunity to gain insight from executives, those who have come before us, and to hear the wise words spoken in a well prepared and heartfelt valedictory address,

in our case given by Samuel Duran. It is the occasion to see classmates rise to the ultimate challenge of this program and succeed in the Business Plan Competition. We get to see what our brothers are like when the veils of stress and pretense fall away. There are beautiful experiences to be had all around you, and then there is the three day debauch of food and sweets -- they don't call me Colonel Sanders for nothing.

It was a true honor to be a small part of this celebration honoring the hard work of my classmates. Those that have been through the experience know how touching and rewarding it is. I can only encourage those participants in the next classes to continue pressing on through the difficult times in order to make it to this special day. It is well worth the effort.

-Terry Shipman, Journalist

## ***Some of the gentlemen in Redeemed '19 would like to say...***

"Champions are not those who never fail, they are those who never quit." -Samuel Duran

"No matter how many times you fall, always get back up" -Jonathan Garcia

"Believe none of what you hear, And half of what you see." -Michael Williams

"My Family is what has been holding me together." - Jeffrey Dossey

"Life is never the one to blame, as life is exactly what you make it." -Levelle Vigne

To the Volunteers: "Thank you for believing in us." -Felix Salazar

"Your mind is a garden. Your thoughts are seeds. You can grow roses, or you can grow weeds." -J.D. Rogers

"Create yourself instead of having to be stuck finding yourself." -Eric Rangel

"He that began a good work in us WILL complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. He is the author and the consumer of our faith, and yes- He is rewriting the story of our lives." -Victor Lopez

"Storms never last" -Brad Williams

### **PEP Chronicle Editors:**

Jason Johnson, Joshua Lara and Terry Shipman

**In Prison Management:** Gami Jasso and David Flores

### **Special thanks to:**

**Media Team:** George David Shipman, Mayo Sanchez

**Event Coordinators:** Manuel Alcala, Nicholas May, Stefen McDaniel and Adam Fuentes

