

Juvenile Justice-Involved Youth Make ‘Right Turn’ with IEL Initiative

WASHINGTON, DC, November 18, 2013 – The **Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL)**, announced the selection of five sites across the country—the **Right Turn Career-Focused Transition Initiative (Right Turn)**. The project will provide individualized education, exposure to career opportunities, career preparation, and work-based learning experiences for youth ages 14 and up who are involved in the juvenile corrections system and returning to or currently residing in high-poverty, high-crime communities. Following a competitive nationwide application process, IEL selected the following sites:

- **Goodwill Industries of Houston**, *Houston, TX*
- **KentuckianaWorks, the Greater Louisville Workforce Investment Board**, *Louisville, KY*
- **Oasis Center/Transitions Program**, *Nashville, TN*
- **Peckham, Inc.**, *Lansing, MI*
- **Playa Vista Job Opportunities and Business Services**, *Los Angeles, CA*

“We are excited about the possibilities this [initiative] would make... because the network of services we have outlined would have life-changing, long-term, positive impacts on the young adults we enroll in the initiative,” says Michael B. Gritton, Executive Director of Greater Louisville’s Workforce Investment Board. “By strengthening their self-esteem, social consciousness and educational/workforce readiness, probation youth and adults expand their ability to become involved with productive, pro-social activities,” adds Jerry Powers, Chief Probation Officer for the County of Los Angeles Probation Department, regarding the value of providing youth with “legitimate opportunit[ies] to make a positive contribution to society.”

Since 1991, IEL’s Center for Workforce Development (CWD) has helped public and private sector leaders promote career readiness and successful transitions to adulthood for all youth—with a special focus on youth with disabilities and other disconnected youth, including those involved in the juvenile justice system. As IEL president Marty Blank explains, “by addressing the developmental needs of youth in the juvenile justice system—with or without disabilities—we increase the likelihood that they will learn about, explore, and make informed career choices.”

Funded by the **U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration**, Right Turn is based on a number of IEL-created foundational materials, as well as IEL’s experience operating the youth career-focused mentoring model, the **Ready to Achieve Mentoring Program (RAMP)**.

To learn more or stay in touch with the Right Turn initiative, please check out the website: www.rightturn.iel.org.