

October 3, 2015

Dear Charles,

At the age of 19, I decided to make a poor decision and ended up being incarcerated for 10 years in the Federal Bureau of Prisons system.



As an adolescent teen I had no thought or drive for the direction of my life. Even while being imprisoned for the first two years of my sentence, my drive was lower than ever. That is until one day I decided to attend a class about floor care provided by Cleaning Management Institute (CMI).

The program was proctored by some of the prison staff and I made it my goal to finish all of the

provided 'hands on' courses, through to the completion of the Supervisors program. For years I studied, worked and taught classes of conventional custodial maintenance methods.

By this time, I finally had a direction in my life and felt great that I started a career which I enjoyed. After the completion of all the offered courses, I took my training to the next level and mastered the art of industrial floor epoxy systems, covering asbestos tiled floors and wrote a chapter explaining this system within my book entitled - *Hygienic Milieux: Sanitation of the Environment*.

With many more years left on my sentence and a shortage of programs, I came across a certificate from Green Clean Institute (GCI) on microfiber. Intrigued, and wanting to further my experience and drive in this professional career, I began organizing ways to work with GCI and their provided courses.

Instantly with my first course, GCI Technician 101 & 102 I was hooked. The material spoke to me and gave me a new purpose and drive in the custodial field. I began researching products and breaking down the MSDS sheets and cross referencing chemicals such as harmful nonylphenols, xylenes or zinc.

Each course I took from GCI, I became more entwined and adamant about the green movement and cleaning for health. For many years in my incarceration I practiced, preached and studied a broader range of the "Green" industry. GCI fueled and sparked my green interest and upon release, it was the time of truth to find a job in this field.

At the age of 28 and back in society in a city I did not grow up in and having no family,

friends or contacts, I began exploring the job market devoted to green initiatives. Most of what I found lacked the depth of what it means to be "Green", beyond environmentally safe products.

Eventually, I found a job as a dishwasher in the only 100% local, gluten free restaurant in the world named Vinland, in Portland, Maine. As a dishwasher, I recycle and compost everything and use environmentally safe products, practices and procedures. The depth of responsible actions at this restaurant is vast and deep.

Understanding that this job position was not the career choice I set out for, I chose to look for a second job and found one at Worlds Gym as a detail cleaner. The gym needed a revamp and I was a perfect fit for the organization.

To this day I work both jobs, at about 70 hours a week and use ergonomic equipment, such as the chemical saving Rubbermaid Hygen, double-sided microfiber, flat mopping and double bucket system.

I would like to thank and credit GCI, as well as all the other schools and companies, who provided me with the necessary information to help me reform and succeed.

Primarily; Green Clean Institute, Cleaning Management Institute, Coastal Pines Technical College, Spartan Chemical Company, Inc., and The Janitorial Store.

Thank you,
Tennyson Marceau

The above was submitted by Larry Canty, Workforce Director for GCI, who works with the recidification programs in numerous Federal Bureau of Prisons locations throughout the U.S.