

Mr. Jeske,

I am a data entry clerk at the OCE Print Shop at OSCI.

I have worked for the Print Shop for several years now and am quite happy with my job.

In the years I have worked here I have had the opportunity to learn the trade extensively, from operating printing presses and bindery work to working with computers (design software as well as the database used to control the business side of the trade). Because of the training I have received I can now create the tickets used shop wide to fulfill all the steps it takes to complete the products that we provide the various state agencies in Oregon. And now I feel that I am very employable in many different careers that are available in society.

Another aspect of being employed with OCE Print Shop is that it keeps me aware of what it is like to work in an environment that is professional as well as respectful. I have also learned the ability to work productively with other AIC's and Staff, which is a blessing in the prison environment. With the staff here not only treating us respectfully and as an important part of the team we have created here has helped me to gain more respect and confidence in myself. I have been able to create more quality work than I ever thought I was capable of. And learn more about computers than I thought I was even intelligent enough to actually learn.

One of the best tools we have available to us to learn professionalism in the work place is the amount of experience the staff have and the ability and willingness to share that knowledge. Without all that experience teaching us we would not be the commercial quality shop we have become. My sincere thanks goes out to all of them.

As a result, computers have become so important to me that I try to learn all I can to utilize them in a business environment as well as put out professional quality work to enhance the company's reputation and growth. I think that it is every employee's responsibility to do the best job they can and to care about the work they do. It is my belief that if every employee works to that end there is nothing any business can't achieve.

OCE has also had the ability to teach me positive work ethics that I can take with me when I get out of prison. Before I started working for OCE my work ethic was very poor if it existed at all. The pride I take in my daily work is also something I have never really had, let alone pride in myself. I came to prison at the lowest part of my life and thanks to working with OCE I now have come to realize a hope of being the change in my life and life choices. If you can work well with others in this environment, imagine what can be possible in your relationships with others in society. Both friendships, fellow workers and family.

Although it would be helpful to get higher pay, some of us need to be self-reliant as we have no way of getting help from family or friends, and the cost of living from canteen items is raising, as it is out in society, I think that is a secondary concern. And we still get paid more than most jobs in DOC.

The benefits derived from working at OCE are extremely helpful for reintegration into society as we all are looking forward to. And I have decided to make printing, especially graphic design, my career choice for the remainder of my working life.

All in all I wish to say that without OCE I would not grow in here. I believe my life would just be stagnant and dull. That would be the type of person that would be released to society. And us being a positive part of society is one of the most important things that OCE does.

I can't stress enough, however, that OCE is a very integral part of AIC's being released into society as a positive and productive member of society. I am eternally grateful to OCE for the opportunity to become a better me than I was.