

Forging Your Future

Today, William Vaskie is featured on billboards in Lancaster County. Two years ago, he was in state prison.


Like many adults exiting prison, Bill was not sure of his next steps. “I just wanted to have a normal life. I wanted to have a house, a family, and a career—something I never had before.” A conversation with his parole officer led Bill to Lancaster’s PA CareerLink where he earned his GED through IU13 Community Education’s Improved Reentry Education (IRE) program just three weeks later.

Next, he enrolled as a full-time student in Lancaster County Career and Technology Center’s (LCCTC) welding program where his tuition was funded by the IU’s IRE grant. After one month of school, he was offered a co-op—he works as a welder in a manufacturing company every day and goes to school for five hours twice a week after work.


In the meantime, Bill became a celebrity when LCCTC photographed him while in training and used the picture on billboards to advertise their welding program.

With just a few months remaining in his training, Bill reflects on his past and advises folks who face re-entry: “I felt like nothing was going to change. And it wasn’t easy. But you have to go out and get it. Your past is behind you. You gotta live for now.”

Bill is a testimony to learning about the possibilities and pursuing them. “I love my job and I’m looking forward to finishing school! Go with your heart and passion. Anything is possible!”



FORGE YOUR FUTURE.
BECOME A WELDER
ENROLL TODAY!

 **LANCASTER COUNTY**
CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER