

Charles Tanner
Cohort 8/Graduation Speech
To Be Given On: Sept. 7, 2011

Thank you. There are so many people to acknowledge and thank for their encouragement, motivation, and commitment to seeing us succeed in this program and in life. I would first start by thanking God for this day and this opportunity.

Chaplain Bonham, I would like to thank you, on behalf of our graduating class, for your hard work, sacrifice, and dedication to our success as well as the Life Connections Program. I still remember the day you stood before us all and gave a solemn oath, that you were going to do whatever it took to see this program succeed and thrive. Your commitment has given myself and many others the focus and drive to see this through and fight this fight of life the right way by all just and godly means.

I would also like to thank all those who were responsible for the Life Connections Program even coming to USP Terre Haute. I would like to thank our unit team for helping us with our issues and concerns. I would like to thank all those who work behind the scenes, not for recognition, but out of a commitment and belief in the change process.

A special thanks to our spiritual guides, mentors, contractors, volunteers, and Chaplain Bonham's LCP staff, mainly Mrs. Williams, our mentor-coordinator, and Mr. Blackstone, who keeps the gears moving and the program progressing. Thank you all, once again.

To my fellow graduates in Cohort 8, we did it! We made it! This is something to be proud of. We came through like Champions! Even though it is only a step, it is a step in the right direction. Congratulations to all you men, and may our lives prosper.

I am very grateful, and humbled to be given this chance to speak before you all today. You may hear me from time to time use the sport of boxing as a metaphor for many of the issues I face in life. I don't use the sport because of it's violence, but I use it as an example of the kind of discipline you need to condition and train your mind and body to go beyond what you thought you were capable of. The Life Connections Program has helped to show me how to apply this discipline to other areas of my life, especially those areas I need to change the most.

Today, however, I hope to use a different example. I would like to briefly show the similarities between issues faced among our graduating class, and those once faced by the Apostle Paul, who was formerly known as Saul. Saul, before his conversion, acted out of a sincere belief that he was right in what he was doing, mainly the persecution of those who followed Christ. Saul was not an evil man, yet in his zeal he caused many to be harmed.

One day, though, on his way to the city of Damascus, an amazing thing happens! Suddenly a light appears all around Saul, and he falls to the ground blinded by its brilliance. He hear a voice which calls, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Saul asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The voice from heaven said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." Saul now asks, "What shall I do, Lord?" Blinded, Saul is now given a series of commands that he obeys to the letter. He regains his sight, and though it isn't written, I can't help but wonder how his vision of the world changed because of this event. Paul, then carried the message of Christ to the Roman world, and went on to write 16 book of the New Testament.

So why Paul? And why would I use him as an example this day?

Well, our experiences up to this point had left us blinded from a standpoint of basic morals and ethics. Many of us truly believed we were just looking for a means to provide for ourselves and our loved ones, and we used what we thought were the only, and quickest, means available to us. Our intentions may have been pure, but the application of those intentions was at best, tainted.

We needed an experience in which we can be shown the error of our ways, but also be given a light to follow on the road to true change. That is what the Life Connections Program is. It is that light on the road we were taking, when we were doing what was right in our own eyes. Programs like this are important in a prison setting, or for the goal of rehabilitating someone for life on the street. I say this, not because the Life Connections Program fixes the problem, but it points the way to what can fix the problem. Even if one falls down on the road to change, he can get back up again as the song says.

The tools and components of this program enhance and encourage a spiritual connection, while at the same time enforcing a higher moral and ethical code in our lives. These things we must have, in order to function as righteous and productive members of society, let alone as inmates in changing prison climate. We learned in Cohort 8 that true change takes time, effort, and patience. By the way, just being able to wait is not patience, but to wait with a positive attitude. That is why we didn't just serve 18 months of time in this program, but we made the time serve us! That is the effort that Cohort 8 used for our blueprint!

So this graduation, is a formal celebration of what we have accomplished, and the work that is still just beginning? The beauty of Life Connections is that the new beginning actually starts after we graduate, when we are poised to put all these tools into practice. It is the beginning of our commitment to our Higher Power to work for all things good. That is my humble opinion.

I didn't have an experience like Saul, but metaphorically, I can use my incarceration as the way the Lord chose to stop my own destructive course, and open my eyes so that I am seeing more clearly. These 18 months made my life in Christ, and my faith more real. It has gone so much farther than religion, but to the core of how I treat and respect others.

My Spiritual guide class instructor, Rick May, has taught me so many useful and helpful tools for my spiritual growth. Most of all he showed our class and even this prison how to walk in love. He showed that godly love is not some abstract idea, but it is a heart of compassion for all people, to give according to need and not want. Rick May could not do all these things for me, but he was able to point me to One who could, and that is Jesus.

I have met a lot of good men from all walks of life, faith, and cultures. I have grown closer to my Creator, and have positioned myself to bring my life in harmony with His will. I am peaceful, and for the first time in my life I can say proudly and boldly that I am connected to something positive and greater than myself.

In conclusion, I want all of us in attendance to rejoice in this day, the Lord has made, and in what this graduating class has accomplished. For those of us, where change was only a possibility,

look at how far we've come, and look at who we were when we started. For all of us, change has happened in us today, and we hold fast to the hope of a better future, not by doing what is easy, but by doing what is necessary. I was taught in boxing, that if you get knocked down, and can look up, then you can get up, and the true champion would! Well, to Cohort 8: We are true champions. To Cohorts 9, 10, and future, thank you for taking that step, and you got next! I leave you all in love honor, respect, and peace. Thank you, and God bless us all.

LIFE CONNECTIONS PROGRAM CERTIFICATE OF GRADUATION

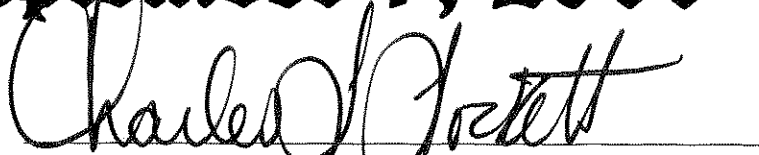
This document certifies that

Charles L. Tanner

has successfully completed this eighteen month, faith-based
program at the United States Penitentiary in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Wednesday, September 7, 2011


Scott P. Bonham, LCP Chaplain


Charles L. Lockett, Complex Warden

NO TURNING BACK

SEVEN CRUCIAL CHARACTERISTICS FOR FINISHING WELL

We sing the song, "I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back," but why is it that so many people do? There seems to be an epidemic of Christians who begin well but finish poorly. Let me share seven crucial characteristics that will help you to finish well.

1. INTIMACY WITH CHRIST

Our highest calling is to grow in our knowledge of Christ and to make Him known to others. Does our desire to know Christ exceed all other aspirations? If not, whatever is taking His place in the center of our affections must yield to Him if we are to know the joy of bearing spiritual fruit. A key secret of those who finish well is to focus more on loving Jesus than on avoiding sin. The more we love Jesus, the more we will learn to put our confidence in Him alone.

2. FIDELITY IN THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

Spiritual disciplines such as prayer, fellowship, study, worship, and submission are not ends in themselves, but means to the end of intimacy with Christ and spiritual formation. When left to itself, however, any one of these disciplines tends to decline and decay. An infusion of directed intentionality and effort is necessary to sustain order and growth and to bring repeated times of personal renewal.

3. A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE

Part of the purpose of our suffering and trials is to drive us to dependence on God alone. God responds by revealing more of Himself to us. This knowledge increases our faith and our capacity to trust His character and His promises through the times we do not understand His purposes and His ways. When we view our circumstances in light of God's character instead of God's character in light of our circumstances, we come to see that God is never indifferent to us, and that He uses suffering for our good so we will be more fully united to Christ.

4. A TEACHABLE, RESPONSIVE, HUMBLE, AND OBEDIENT SPIRIT

Those who finish well maintain an ongoing learning posture through the seasons of their lives. Humility and responsive obedience are the keys to maintaining a teachable spirit. Humility is the disposition in which we displace self through the enthronement of Christ in our lives and realize that all of life is about trust in God. Obedience is the application of biblical faith in that which is not seen, and that which is not yet. As we mature in Christ, we learn to trust God's character and promises in spite of ambiguity or trials.

5. A CLEAR SENSE OF PERSONAL PURPOSE AND CALLING

God has called each of us to a purposeful journey sustained by faithfulness and growing hope. This calling or vocation transcends our occupations and endures beyond the end of our careers. As we seek the Lord's guidance in developing a personal vision and clarity of mission, we move beyond the level of tasks and accomplishments to the level of the purpose for which we were created.

6. HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS WITH RESOURCEFUL PEOPLE

Relationships such as spiritual mentoring, servant leadership, and personal and group accountability are valuable resources that encourage, equip, and exhort. People who finish well do not do so without the caring support of other growing members of the body of Christ. These relationships help us to increase in intimacy with Christ, maintain the needed disciplines, clarify our long-term perspective, sustain a teachable attitude, and develop our purpose and calling.

7. ONGOING MINISTRY INVESTMENT IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS

Spirit-filled living requires us to discover and develop the spiritual gifts we have received and exercise them through the Spirit's power for the edification of others. Believers who finish well are marked by ongoing outreach and sacrificial ministry for the good of other people. Those who squander the resources, gifts, experiences, and hard-learned insights God has given them by no longer investing them in the lives of others soon wither and withdraw.

What does it take to finish well? How can we run in such a way that we can say with Paul, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith" (2 Tim. 4:7; Acts 20:24; 1 Cor. 9:24-27)? Taking to heart the above seven characteristics will help you finish well day by day, as you "run with endurance the race that is set before [you]" (Heb. 12:1).

Thanks for finishing well my good friend. (Proverbs 18:24)

I love you man!
Rev. May (R)

Life Connections Program Graduation Requirements

Chaplain Comments and Feedback

Cadre: #8

226

Projected LCP Completion: **AUGUST 2011**

LCP Participant:

TANNER, CHARLES
08020-027, LCP Cohort 8

Community Service

Through completion of the LCP Community Service Component, the participant will demonstrate:

- a basic understanding and responsibility for healthy community citizenship
- a willingness to take responsibility to right the wrong's that criminal behavior has placed upon the community;

#	Task	Date Completed	Chaplain's Signature
	<i>Video skit 100+ hours</i>		
1.	Participant <u>will</u> have Completed 500 Hours of Community Service. (e.g. Happy Hats full participation) *	<i>9/6/2011 Excellent</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
2.	Participant <u>will</u> have led at least 6 Community Connections Meetings. (e.g. Word of the Day presentations) 90% 83%	<i>9/6/2011</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
3.	Participant <u>will</u> regularly participate in Community Connections Meetings. (e.g. Word of the Day attendance and attention)	<i>9/6/2011</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
4.	Participant <u>will</u> share in a structured group activity (e.g. skit, creative writing presentation, etc) which demonstrates the integration of a key concept in the Life Connections Program. This presentation will be made by an established LCP cohort to a new LCP cohort during their initial orientation into LCP.	<i>9/6/2011</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>



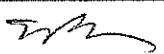
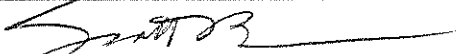
Chaplain Comments:

Victim Impact

Through completion of the LCP Victim Impact Component, the participant will demonstrate:

- the ability to identify victims of crime
- an understanding of how one's own criminal behavior has caused harm to self
- responsibility in repairing the wrong caused by one's own criminal behavior

#	Task	Date Completed	Chaplain's Signature
1.	Participant <u>will</u> satisfactorily complete 3 Victim Impact Programs and related assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearing Victim Stories • Identification of Victims • Repairing the Wrong <i>Rev Snider</i>	<i>7/4/2011</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>

<p>7.</p> <p>✓</p> <p>*</p>	<p>Participant <u>will</u> have identified five prospective employment opportunities at their release destination, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name • Address • Contact Person • Job Requirements 	<p>7/5/2011</p>	
<p>8.</p> <p>✓</p> <p>*</p>	<p>Participant <u>will</u> have developed a realistic release plan and budget based on financial resources available at the time of release, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Options • Food • Employment • Clothing • Transportation • Child Support 	<p>7/5/2011</p>	
<p>9.</p> <p>✓</p> <p>*</p>	<p>Participant <u>will</u> have 3 SMART (LCP Model) re-entry goals to include at least one separate goal for three of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure Time • Family Ties • Worship • Making Amends • Employment 	<p>7/5/2011</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Participant <u>will</u> have had a minimum of 5 personal goal follow-up meetings with spiritual guide or mentors and at least 4 sessions with the Chaplain.</p>		
<p>Community Liaison Visit Date:</p> <p>Community Liaison Identified Sponsor:</p>		<p>Community Location:</p>	
<p>Spiritual Life Assessment Survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Pre-LCP) Completed: _____ • (Post LCP) Completed: _____ 			
<p>Chaplain Comments:</p>			
<p>Chaplain's Overall Appraisal of LCP Program Participation:</p> <p>Mr. Tanner was exceptional in the LCP! He is truly a Servant leader. I am proud of him. I wish him all blessings on his future.</p>			
<p>Chaplain's Signature: </p>		<p>Date: 7/6/2011</p>	

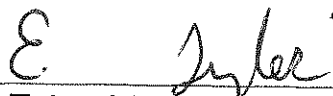
CERTIFICATE OF **COMPLETION**

Charles Tanner

9/3/2014

Has successfully met all of the
requirements for completion of the

**“V.T. Computer
Applications”**


E. Tyler, V.T. Instructor

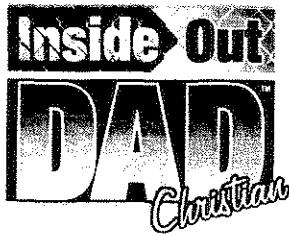
Certificate of Completion

This certifies that

Charles Tanner

has successfully completed the

InsideOut Dad™ Christian Training Institute



Conducted on

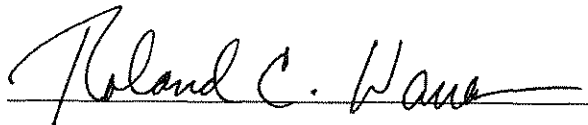
Tuesday, June 1-August 24, 2010

in LCP Unit by

Tom Holt, Jim Owen, Doug Shaffer & Larry Swan



**National
Fatherhood
Initiative®**



Roland C. Warren

President

NATIONAL FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE





Christopher A. Brown

Senior Vice President of National Programming

NATIONAL FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE



Certificate of Completion

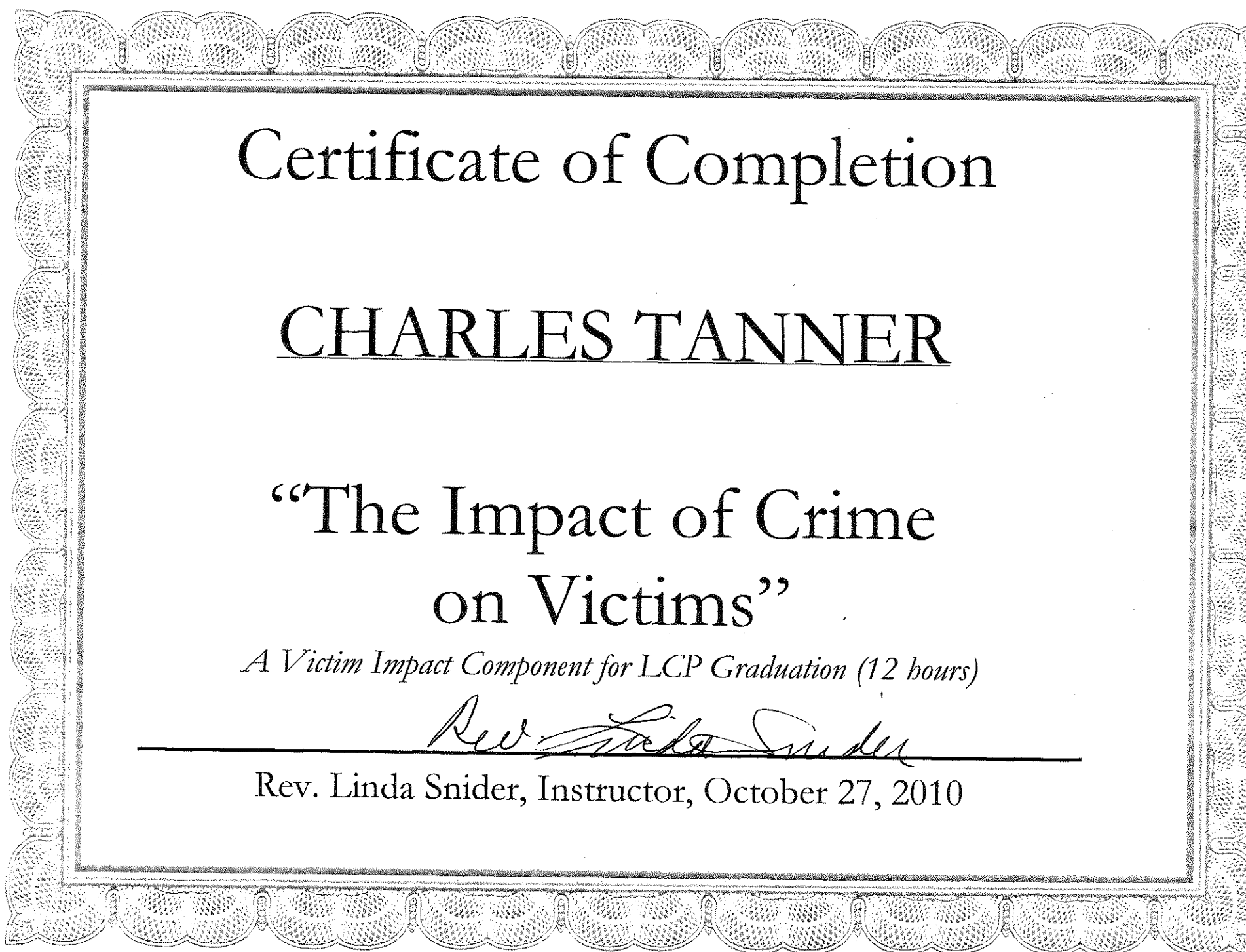
CHARLES TANNER

“Recovery from Addictions and/or the
Criminal Lifestyle” (44 hours)

Addiction Recovery Component for LCP Graduation

G. H. Blackstone, M.A. August 8, 2011

G. H. Blackstone, M.A., LCP Facilitator and Instructor



Certificate of Completion

CHARLES TANNER

“The Impact of Crime
on Victims”

A Victim Impact Component for LCP Graduation (12 hours)

Rev. Linda Snider

Rev. Linda Snider, Instructor, October 27, 2010

Certificate of Completion

CHARLES TANNER

attended and wrote a PASSING essay about

The LCP Diversity Seminar

of

Monday, March 21, 2011



Marvin S. Pitt, Diversity Trainer

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

PRESENTED TO

Charles Tanner

FOR SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING THE
REQUIREMENTS OF THE SPORTS
OFFICIAL PROGRAM

E. Tyler
Recreation Specialist

K. Dupes
K. Dupes
Supervisor of Recreation

Certificate of Completion

awarded to:

Charles Tanner

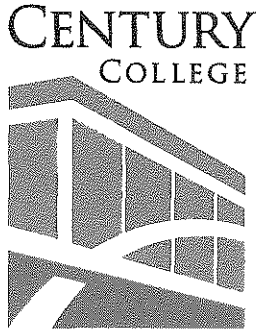
For Completion of ACE Nutrition
In the LCP Unit
USP Terre Haute

November 21, 2010

Date



LCP Coordinator



A MEMBER OF THE MINNESOTA STATE
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER & EDUCATOR

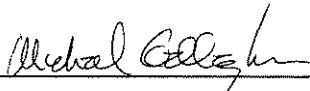
Continuing Education & Customized Training

CONTINUING EDUCATION TRANSCRIPT

Charles Tanner
USP Terre Haute
4200 Bureau Rd N
Terre Haute, IN 47802

11364661

Course ID	Name	End Date	Hours	CEUs
20115-003069	VT Building Trades	4/16/2011	360	43.2
			360	43.2

Authorized Signature:  8/23/2011

* This educational program was taught by Federal Bureau of Prison Instructors. Century College performs annual review and certification of this vocational program in compliance with American Correctional Association standards.

CENTURY
COLLEGE



Certificate of Completion

awarded to

Charles Tanner

Has Successfully Completed 360 Contact Hours and 43.2 Continuing Education Units

for

VT Building Trades

In acknowledgement thereof these signatures are affixed on this day,

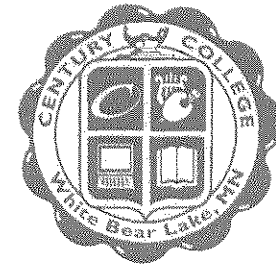
Saturday, April 16, 2011

Handwritten signature of Michael Gallagher in black ink.

Instructor/ Program Director

Handwritten signature of Mary McKee in black ink.

Vice President of Continuing Education & Customized Training



This educational program was taught by Federal Bureau of Prison Instructors. Century College performs annual review and certification of this vocational program in compliance with American Correctional Association standards.

Certificate of Achievement

awarded to:

Charles Tanner

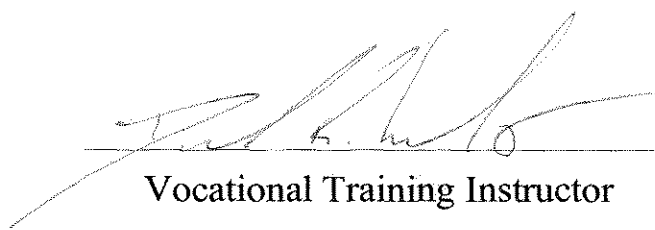
for being chosen

March's Student of the Month

Vocational Building Trades Class at U.S.P. Terre Haute

March 10, 2011

Date



Vocational Training Instructor

F.C.C. TERRE HAUTE

Certificate of Completion

Charles Tanner

#08020-027

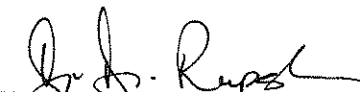
DRUG ABUSE EDUCATION PROGRAM

(15 Hours)

September 22, 2010



J. Ramer, Drug Treatment Specialist



Dr. Rupska, DAP Coordinator

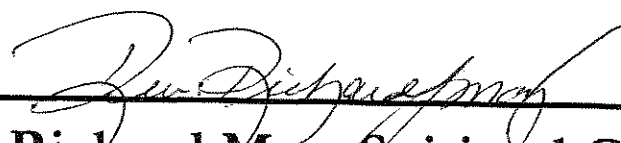
Certificate of Completion

CHARLES TANNER

The Houses of Healing Project

This man has read the book and written an acceptable analysis and response to each of the 15 chapters.

*Self Help Program Activity for LCP Graduation
(one Healthy Living, Task 6 credit)*



Rev. Richard May, Spiritual Guide

Certificate of Achievement

awarded to:

Charles Tanner

ACE Grief, Death, and Dying
FCC ~ USP Terre Haute

A.A. Costello, Chaplain

ACE Coordinator

September 24, 2009
Date

Certificate of Achievement

awarded to:

Charles Tanner

for

Completion of Money Smart Module One

Bank On It

at

USP Terre Haute

November 12, 2009

Date

K. A. Ackett

ACE Coordinator

Certificate of Achievement

awarded to:

Charles Tanner

for

Completion of Money Smart Module Two
Borrowing Basics
at
USP Terre Haute

November 19, 2009

Date

K. A. Ackett

ACE Coordinator

Certificate of Achievement

awarded to:

Charles Tanner

for

Completion of Money Smart Module 3

Check It Out

at

USP Terre Haute

December 10, 2009

Date

K. Hackett

ACE Coordinator

Certificate of Achievement

awarded to:

Charles Tanner

for

Completion of Money Smart Module 4


Money Matters

at

USP Terre Haute

December 17, 2009

Date



ACE Coordinator

Certificate of Achievement

awarded to:

Charles Tanner

for

Completion of Money Smart Module 5

Pay Yourself First

at

USP Terre Haute

January 7, 2010

Date

K. A. Hackett

ACE Coordinator

Certificate of Achievement

awarded to:

Charles Tanner

for

Completion of Money Smart Module 6

Keep it Safe

at

USP Terre Haute

January 14, 2010

Date

K. Hackett

ACE Coordinator

Certificate of Achievement

Charles Tanner

for completion of Money Smart Module 7

Charge it Right

at USP Terre Haute

January 28, 2010

Date

K. Ketchett

ACE Coordinator

Certificate of Achievement

Charles Tanner

For Completion of Money Smart Module 8:

Charge It Right

At USP Terre Haute

2/11/10

Date

K. A. Schutt

ACE Coordinator

Certificate of Achievement

Charles Tanner

For Completion of Money Smart Module 9:

Loan to Own

At USP Terre Haute

February 18, 2010

Date

K. Sackett

ACE Coordinator

Certificate of Achievement

Charles Tanner

For Completion of Money Smart Module 10:

Your Own Home

At USP Terre Haute

February 25, 2010

Date

K. Auckett

ACE Coordinator

Certificate of Achievement

awarded to:

Charles Tanner

for

Completion of ACE Keyboarding
at
USP Terre Haute

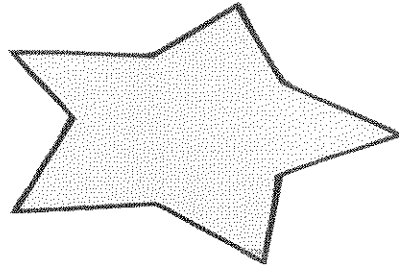
January 7, 2010

Date

K. Hackett

ACE Coordinator

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT



PRESENTED TO

CHARLES TANNER

**for completing the
Meal Plan Awareness Program
at FCC Terre Haute**


S. CASSELL, SPORTS SPECIALIST


K. DUPES, SOR

*Certificate
of
Completion*

Charles Tanner

*For Successfully Completing
the H.I.V./H.E.P./A.B.
Program.*

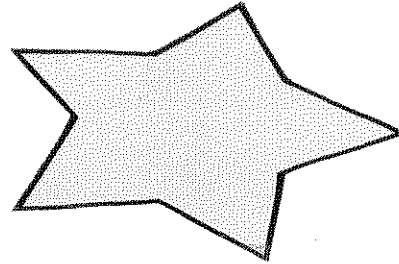
S. Cassell

S. Cassell, Recreation Specialist

K. Dupes

K. Dupes, Supervisor of Recreation

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT



PRESENTED TO

CHARLES TANNER

**for completing the
BASIC NUTRITION CLASS
at FCC Terre Haute**


S. CASSELL, SPORTS SPECIALIST

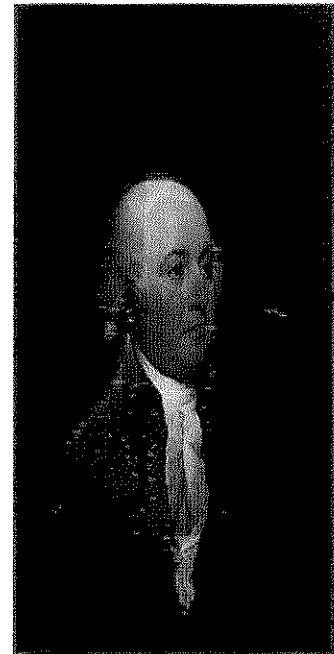

K. DUPES, SOR

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

PRESENTED TO

CHARLES TANNER

**For completing the
JOHN ADAMS HISTORY CLASS
at USP Terre Haute**



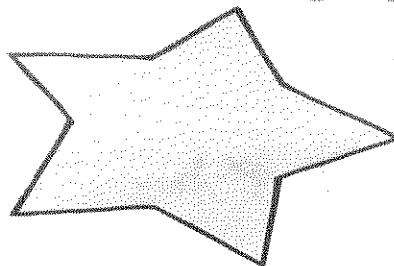
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Bunner', written over a horizontal line.

P. BUNNER / REC. SPECIALIST

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Dupes', written over a horizontal line.

K. DUPES / SOR

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT



PRESENTED TO

CHARLES TANNER

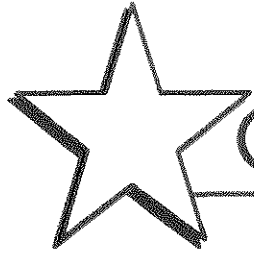
**For COMPLETING the
CYCLING CLASS
at USP Terre Haute**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Bunner', written over a horizontal line.

P. BUNNER, REC. SPECIALIST

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Dupes', written over a horizontal line.

K. DUPES, SOR



Certificate of Completion

Congratulations to

Charles Tanner

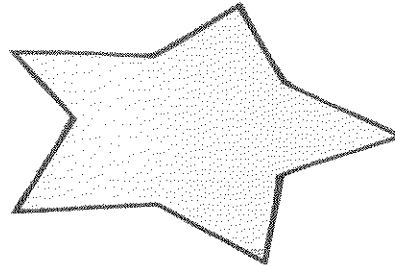
for successfully completing the
Billiards Class at FCC Terre Haute.

Awarded, May 24, 2011.

P. Bunner, Sport Specialist

K. Dupes, Supervisor of Recreation

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT



PRESENTED TO

CHARLES TANNER

**for completing the
Advanced Wellness Program
at FCC Terre Haute**

Handwritten signature of S. Cassell.

S. CASSELL, SPORTS SPECIALIST

Handwritten signature of K. Dupes.

K. DUPES, SOR