

Inmates to Entrepreneurs expands reach to Charlotte

Raleigh, N.C., February 21, 2018 – [Inmates to Entrepreneurs](#), an outreach program founded by Sageworks to assist formerly incarcerated individuals in starting their own businesses, announced today that it is expanding its programming to Charlotte, N.C.

Inmates to Entrepreneurs, headquartered in Raleigh, N.C., was founded by Sageworks Co-Founder and entrepreneurship advocate [Brian Hamilton](#) in 2008 after years of informally teaching entrepreneurship workshops at correctional institutions in North Carolina. Since then, the program’s mentors, who are also business owners, have taught entrepreneurship to more than 1,250 incarcerated men and women at approximately 40 different correctional institutions in North Carolina, additionally serving as individual mentors to inmates upon their release. The organization’s program offerings also grew in 2017 to include an eight-week course covering modules on entrepreneurship essentials like marketing, financing and sales.

The expansion of the program comes as a result of increased demand for support and mentoring from current and former inmates throughout the state. The expansion will be spearheaded by recently hired Charlotte Program Director Alexandria Thomas and will offer resources and mentors based in the Charlotte area. The Charlotte chapter of the organization will also soon deploy an eight-week course, following the model that has seen recent success in Raleigh.

Jaclyn Parker, Director of Inmates to Entrepreneurs said, “There is a huge demand throughout the formerly incarcerated community for business education and entrepreneurial mentorship because of the barriers that exist in finding traditional jobs. We are so excited to be able to grow in meeting this need throughout the state, and are encouraged by the outpouring of interest and support for the program we’ve already seen from the Charlotte community.”

Brian Hamilton noted, “Our long-term vision is to create a volunteer program with national scope where former inmates who have started businesses and who feel passionate about helping others in their shoes can offer mentoring. We want to provide people who have been incarcerated with guidance and hope, and believe that the second chance offered in owning a business is a powerful force against a return to old habits or mistakes.”

To volunteer or to find out more about Inmates to Entrepreneurs, visit www.inmatestoentrepreneurs.org.

About Inmates to Entrepreneurs - Inmates to Entrepreneurs is a not-for-profit community outreach program started by [Sageworks](#) with the mission to help former inmates start over by providing them the information needed to become productive participants in society through entrepreneurship. Inmates to Entrepreneurs aims to ultimately reduce the rate of recidivism by providing an alternative path to financial stability and success.

Media Contact

Media Relations / Email: info@inmatestoentrepreneurs.org / Phone: 984-242-2526

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