

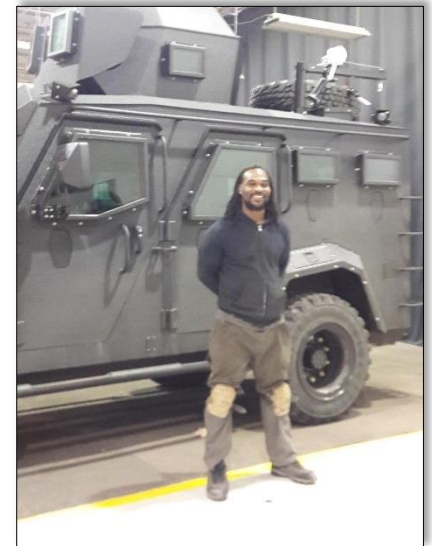
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SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT

CHRISTOPHER'S JOURNEY

Christopher was concerned about his return to the work world after his release from Vocational Village, a live-in program for felons interested in the skilled trades. Having gained skills as an auto mechanic through Vocational Village, and needing to obtain employment as a condition of his parole, he applied for a job at the Armored Group in Dearborn Heights. The Armored Group recognized that Christopher possessed valuable skills and was willing to give him a chance. A representative called EDSI WIOA Career Coach Fredonna Williams to see if Christopher was eligible for On-the-Job Training. Indeed, he was! Fredonna also provided the Armored Group with a direct link to a Fidelity Bonding representative at the Michigan Works! Livonia Service Center. This enabled the company to obtain a Fidelity Bond for Christopher's employment.



Christopher began his OJT with The Armored Group in July; the contract allowed him to develop the skills and knowledge necessary for the job, while reimbursing the company for costs associated with his training. Christopher also reached out to Fredonna to receive some WIOA supportive services, including gas cards and funds to purchase the tools required for work. Throughout his OJT, Christopher consistently received positive monthly evaluations.

By November, Christopher became a full-time employee of the Armored Group. He told EDSI that "for the first time in a long time, I feel that I am doing what I want to do. I made mistakes, but I am glad the Armored Group gave me another chance to prove myself. I want to grow in the company. Thank you to everyone who helped me out, especially Ms. Fredonna who was very patient with me."