

# IN2WORK IMPACT

EDUCATE.

ENCOURAGE.

EMPLOY.

## NOWAK'S STORY: A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE



**E. NOWAK**  
IN2WORK Graduate, 2015  
IN2WORK Intern, 2018-Present

Nowak is currently incarcerated at Pendleton Correctional Facility. He was a stellar IN2WORK student. He continuously went out of his way to help his fellow classmates learn harder concepts and stood out as a positive influence for all I2W students. Nowak has been an I2W intern for nearly 4 years and is the sole reason that Aramark extended the internship past the original two-year agreement. He is one of Aramark's best employees and has even earned his own office space.

As a subject matter expert, Nowak assisted the I2W team on creating the latest curriculum, providing invaluable feedback and handwritten edits to four different program guides (and he was a pleasure to work with!) He led student focus groups to ensure everyone's voice was heard, so every I2W student felt like they were making an impact.

**“The skills I have learned in the I2W program help me in my everyday work. I am appreciated for the work that I do, I am just not another person, I am part of a team.”**

You may be thinking that students like Nowak are few and far between, but we disagree. IN2WORK students emanate a sense of pride – in the uniform that they wear to work in class, in the knowledge and skills they pass on to future students and peers and in the thought that they have made a lasting change in their lives, one that is focused on stability and constructive outcomes. Transformative change happens through IN2WORK.

Nowak's projected release date is 2042, he will be almost 80 years old. Being an I2W intern gives him a sense of purpose, he is not just a DOC number – he has a responsibility to himself and his co-workers. The I2W internship has allowed Nowak and other graduates of the program a sense of humility and helps capture exactly what the program is about – humanizing the corrections landscape and justice involved individuals.

**“The biggest reward is the training and ServSafe certification. I take pride in having it and I am hoping that when I get out, I can use my skills to earn employment.”**

“I will never forget Nowak's hand-drawn shirt and tie under his institutional issued uniform. He spent hours sketching a shirt and tie on a new, clean white t-shirt. Nowak was nervous, but prepared. He put his best foot forward and nailed the interview. And we are all so glad that he did.”

**Melissa Hess - IN2WORK Program Manager**

