

[Email this article](#)
[Print this article](#)
Most popular pages

[Click to send](#)
Choose File Print or Ctrl P or Apple P
Today | [This Week](#)

Jail inmates get new lives in programs

Laura Houston

The Arizona Republic
Apr. 1, 2006 12:00 AM

WEST PHOENIX - Fifteen men entered Lower Buckeye Jail months ago, bogged down by drug addictions and felony convictions.

They shuffled into a chapel in the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office's West Phoenix complex Friday to pick up proof that they were ready to start new lives, sober and purpose-driven.

They were the first graduates of Life Pilot, a seminar that usually caters to multimillionaires and business executives. Life Pilot, which Arizona State University at the West campus co-sponsored with entrepreneurs Pete Thomas and Al Molina, is part of the Sheriff's Office Alpha Program, a rigorous drug-rehabilitation class that has been in place for a decade.

Life Pilot offers participants a chance to set priorities for their goals and lives.

Sheriff Joe Arpaio said recidivism among inmates hovers around 60 percent; graduates of the Alpha Program and Life Pilot face a much lower likelihood of returning to jail or prison: 15 percent.

Seventy-one men entered the Alpha Program. The 15 selected for Life Pilot were chosen at random, said Leanne Atwater, interim dean of the ASU West School of Global Leadership and Management.

The two programs did more than try to clean up the men.

Darryl Horne got his GED.

James Chinn brushed away tears when he picked up his transcript with ASU credit hours he earned.

Jack Chancey realized his potential.

"It helped me get my dreams aligned, something to shoot for," Chancey said. "I didn't have a lot of self-worth coming in here."

[Email this article](#)
[Print this article](#)
Most popular pages

[Click to send](#)
Choose File Print or Ctrl P or Apple P
Today | [This Week](#)