

Governor's Award for Quality and Performance Fall 2002

Braille Transcription Project

Department of Printing, Department of Corrections, School for the Blind, Tacoma Community College

Demand for Braille products far outstrips the available transcription resources in the School for the Blind and the community. The Department of Printing, Department of Corrections and the School for the Blind piloted and adopted a transcription program that uses inmate labor at Purdy to transcribe materials into Braille.

Results

Using inmates has allowed the state to leverage the transcription dollars available, resulting in a 2000% increase in pages being transcribed. Women inmates in the program have an infraction rate of zero, compared with the inmate average of .6 per month. Some inmates in the program have been released and are now gainfully employed in their own transcription businesses. In addition, by using inmates for routine items, profession transcribers are free to handle more complicated documents.



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