

# MSI STAFF ENTERS “ESCAPE ROOM” FOR TEAM BUILDING

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Michigan State Industries’ mission is to provide meaningful and marketable work training to incarcerated offenders in our factories, laboratories and shops, including nationally recognized certifications so that upon parole or release offenders can obtain quality employment, retain that employment and drastically improve the likelihood of successful reentry into society. The mission also coincides with the training and development offered to employees each year. If we are to instill motivation and workplace skills in the offender workforce, we need to provide our employees with highest quality of professional development opportunities. Our industries staff, managers, central office and directors look forward to attending NCIA workshops, webinars, regional and national training conferences.

A goal to offer workforce development training to each area of industries is a significant part of MSI’s strategic plan. Inclusion in these opportunities has a direct impact on employee morale and engagement with the offender workforce. On a recent trip to the Central Region NCIA Training Conference in Wisconsin Dells, nine staff members had the opportunity to attend from various areas of the organization including sales, order entry, garment, signs, and license plates. The theme for this year’s conference was “Industries Work for Everyone,” and it was only fitting to have various areas represented. Upon their return to the workplace, each shared how important the training was to them and the learning experience. A team building activity known as the “Escape Room” was the highlight of their trip because of the innovative ways it allowed them to think on their feet and lean on one another for the next move. Staff was assembled together in a room where they had to maneuver through various mazes without igniting obstacles in their way. Unfortunately, the MSI Team did not make it out alive but they learned a host of team building skills along the way.



MSI team members celebrate after the escape room

MSI directors and managers attend NIC Leadership Training Programs and National Training Conferences each year to develop professionally as our future industry leaders. The valuable information gained in marketing, balancing internal and external environments, developing staff, financial self-sufficiency, developing re-entry resources along with a host of other e-learning and classroom modules have only added to the success of their staff and the organization as whole. Teri Cline, MSI Administrator, Jay Ketcik, MSI Operations Manager, and Chris Kamrada, MSI Business Mgr/Marketing know all too well the importance of building a strong foundation for the industries program by continuous learning and involvement in ongoing NCIA training opportunities. As a great example, Chris Kamrada was recently appointed by the Central Region State of Officers as the Vice Chair for the 2018-2019 term. The training, development and involvement in NIC Leadership Training prepared leaders for the next step in their development and they also receive certificates after completion. The exceptional training and opportunities offered by NCIA has enhanced the capabilities of our staff, and MSI will continue on the path to achieve a goal of 100% employee training and development.