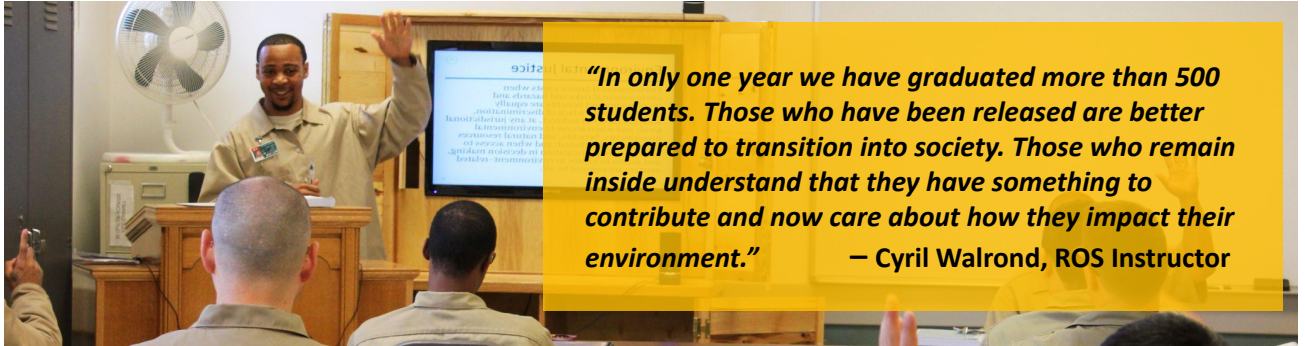




An environmental education and job training program that prepares individuals for 100+ jobs and career pathways, reentry and successful reintegration, and to improve conditions in their communities.



"In only one year we have graduated more than 500 students. Those who have been released are better prepared to transition into society. Those who remain inside understand that they have something to contribute and now care about how they impact their environment."
— Cyril Walrond, ROS Instructor

ROOTS OF SUCCESS offers a multimedia, activity-based curriculum customized for prisons, jails, and reentry programs. Taught by incarcerated Instructors trained and certified to teach and mentor their peers, ROS is easy and affordable to implement. The teaching approach and content is designed to immediately engage participants. ROS prepares individuals for reentry and 100+ jobs and career pathways, and to improve conditions in their communities.

Supports Reentry and Reduces Recidivism

- 98% of graduates feel better prepared for job interviews
- 97% of graduates are more knowledgeable green careers
- 96% of graduates are motivated to pursue employment opportunities they did not previously know were accessible to them
- Incarcerated ROS graduates are hired to work in sustainability programs in prisons
- Reentering ROS graduates are hired by employers in multiple sectors of the economy

KEY FEATURES

- Increases professional knowledge and skills
- Promotes positive behavior, confidence, leadership development
- Fosters teamwork and collaboration
- Reduces conflict and violence
- Teaching/taking ROS classes viewed positively by Board members in resentencing and clemency hearings
- Prepares individuals for jobs in environmental/infrastructure fields
- Increases financial literacy and social entrepreneurship skills
- Graduates receive a Certificate
- Promotes water, energy, waste conservation
- Reduces institutional costs, carbon footprints
 - \$90,000 reduction in annual trash bills in multiple facilities
 - 60% decrease in electrical usage over 3 years in 9 facilities
 - 12,000-pound reduction in food waste per week in facilities










*Statistics collected from Ohio DOC & are "on average"

In April 2021, ROS became the first DOL "Environmental Literacy Instructor" Apprenticeship in the nation.

"Oftentimes in prisons people go off into their little groups, but ROS brought people out of those groups and tied them together. I would see more connections. There was something in common, greater than being in prison. They bonded with people through ROS and that was really important. It broke down the hierarchy." — Grady Mitchell, ROS Instructor

"A lot of programs you complete them and they drop you off a cliff. With ROS, it's the opening of a door, career pathways. People are able to get a green job now. They didn't know they were qualified for those things" — Lori Moseley, ROS Instructor

INCLUDES 10 MODULES

-  Fundamentals of Environmental Literacy
-  Water
-  Waste
-  Transportation
-  Energy
-  Building
-  Food, Health, & Agriculture
-  Community Organizing & Leadership
-  Financial Literacy & Social Entrepreneurship
-  Application & Practice



ROS Supports Institutional Goals

- 100%** of program directors observed positive behavioral changes in participants
- 99%** said ROS improved participants' academic skills
- 90%** of instructors would recommend ROS to other programs/facilities
- 89%** said participants' communication/professional skills improved

"Engaging inmates in meaningful activities and giving them opportunities to contribute reduces violence and makes prisons safer for both inmates and staff."

– Dan Pacholke, Director; Washington State Prisons



ROS Engages, Prepares, & Inspires

- 98%** of participants had a better understanding of environmental problems and solutions
- 98%** feel better prepared for job interviews
- 86%** strengthened their academic skills
- 85%** feel more motivated in educational settings

TO OFFER ROOTS OF SUCCESS

Programs schedule a Train-the-Instructor training for the individuals who will teach the ROS course. Instructors leave the training with all of the teaching materials and multimedia content needed to teach ROS and receive ongoing technical assistance. A few weeks before the class begins, programs order Student Workbooks for each participant. Students who complete the course receive a Certificate valued by employers and educational institutions. In some settings, students receive college credit for taking the course. There is also an Apprenticeship program.