**Intro to employment workshop 4-11-12**

-My name is…

-I’d like to welcome all of you to the 2nd Annual Employment Workshop

-I’d like to particularly like to thank all of the ex-offenders who are here today b/c by participating in today’s workshop…

You have determined to take a substantial step towards…

-self sufficiency, and

-a brighter future

-You may ask, “Why is the US Atty’s Office sponsoring an employment workshop?”

-I’ll tell you why!! -Jobs are important!!

-According to info compiled by the Administrative Office of Court up in Wash DC, b/w 2002-2006…

-262,000 federal prisoners were released from incarceration

-And of that #, those who had no emplt…50% went back to jail

-Of those who had emplt part of their SRT, 88% were successful & did not go back to jail

-Of those who had emplt for entire time of SRT…93% were successful & did not go back to prison.

-Did you know that that 30% of adult offenders released from state prisons are re-arrested w/in the 1st **SIX MONTHS** of their release (1 of 3).

-Within 3 years of their release, this number increases to **67%** or **2 out of 3**.

-We do not want you to be among the number of ex-off that go back to jail.

-Will all of today’s volunteers raise your hands…all the people who raised their hands…

-want you to succeed

-and have volunteered their time to help you succeed

-Let’s give them a hand too.

-I’d also like to thank Bishop State for hosting this event again

-Now a couple of house keeping matters…

Ms. Sheria Mitchell is going to describe the flow of events in more detail but…

-we have several mock job interviews lined up for you

-resume critique and review

-a soft skill training session

-and several community service providers that are here to give you valuable info and answer your questions

-Your going to hear from a few ex-off who have been in your position, but have found stable work

-Don’t 4get to stop by the USAO table as we have important info 4 you as well

-including a flyer to remind you that there is a job fair next Thursday at the Mobile Civic Center from 9-2

-a letter from me that details the financial incentives for employers to hire ex-offenders

-and other valuable info

-Other important info…the bathrooms are located in the back of the auditorium.

-Along with all of the volunteers that are here today…we are excited that you’re here today.

-Remember that the power to succeed rests in your…hands…head…and heart.

-Thank you… and I will now introduce two gentleman who were ex-off like you but are now out there making a difference.