

TREATMENT OF PRISONERS

Search

Go

[News](#) ▾ [Sports](#) ▾ [Business](#) ▾ [Entertainment](#) ▾ [Lifestyle](#) ▾ [Obituaries](#) [Opinion](#) ▾ [Special Reports](#) ▾ [Marketplace](#) ▾ [Tools](#) ▾

Inmates design lockers for Chino High basketball team room



Inmates from the California Institution for Men, using welding and metal working skills they learned in the prison's underwater diver training program, have fabricated and donated open gym lockers for use at Chino High. Courtesy Photo

By **Canan Tasci**, *Inland Valley Daily Bulletin*

POSTED: 09/17/13, 2:10 PM PDT

CHINO Chino High School continues to receive upgrades, but this time it's not from the school district.

Eight inmates from the California Institute for Men designed, fabricated and donated open gym lockers that were installed in the school's basketball team room of the Frank Elder Gymnasium.

The men used metal working skills they learned in the prison's underwater diver training program at the Leonard Greenstone Marine Technology Training Center.

Earlier this year parents and staff of the high school complained about the lack of facility upgrades to the 59-year-old school, which included peeling paint, old bathroom stalls, water that leaves rust behind because of an old metal piping system, no benches in the locker rooms and broken and damaged lockers and floors.

By August, the school received \$138,522 worth of upgrades.

"We are always looking for opportunities in which inmates can contribute to the community," said CIM Warden Tim Busby, in a news release. "This is an example of inmates providing restitution to society by supporting local athletes, and also exercising skills that will help ensure their success when they return to the community."

The program, operated by the Prison Industry Authority, is internationally recognized for its extensive curriculum and the success of its graduates, which are in demand for highly skilled jobs on offshore drilling rigs and other types of deep sea pipeline construction and repair, according to the release.

Coursework includes: diving physics, navigation, report writing, air systems, welding, seamanship, blueprint reading, diesel engines and marine construction. Graduates must maintain a high level of professionalism and confidence to work under demanding circumstances, the

release reads.

This is the first time the program has donated a project to the community.

The idea came from a previous prison spokesman and Chino High graduate Mark Hargove. After seeing the needs of the high school he partnered with the prison program.

The open gym lockers were installed earlier this month.

This contribution teamed CIM, the Prison Industry Authority, the Chino Valley Unified School District, and local businesses, including Patton's Steel Corporation in Ontario, which donated the steel, said Busby.

Part of the education these inmates learn in the program is exactly what they are utilizing to build this community project, said Fred Johnson, MTTC Instructor.

"The inmates were provided with an idea and by utilizing welding and metal working skills learned through the renowned rehabilitative commercial dive program they were able to design and fabricate the open gym lockers," he said.

The commercial diving program was initially established in 1970 at CIM.