



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Prisons

United States Penitentiary

*#1 Federal Way, Castle Airport
Atwater, CA 95301*

My name is Andre Matevousian and I serve as Warden of the United States Penitentiary in Atwater, California. I write this letter as a testimonial for Michael Santos.

I was in the audience when Mr. Santos made a luncheon keynote presentation at a symposium sponsored by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in Sacramento. More than 300 people were in the audience made up of federal and state judges, prison wardens, and others associated with corrections. Mr. Santos spoke about his experience of serving 26 years in prison, and the relationship between a person's adjustment in prison and his prospects for success as a law-abiding, contributing citizen upon release.

After listening to Mr. Santos's presentation, I invited him to visit USP Atwater to make a presentation for the Executive Staff at our institution. He then addressed approximately 150 high-security prisoners, sharing his story and inspiring them to pursue values-based, goal-oriented adjustment patterns. By avoiding disciplinary infractions and participating in positive programming, Mr. Santos assured the men that they would advance opportunities for success in prison and beyond. His message resonated with the men. They found him authentic by virtue of the time he served and the success he experienced upon release.

We purchased the Earning Freedom Mastermind Course, a program he designed to teach values-based, goal-oriented adjustment strategies for people in prison. Out of 75 people that signed up for the initial class, 70 people earned graduate certificates. He continues to support the program by visiting our institution when appropriate.

Since working with Mr. Santos, I have been in contact with other law enforcement officers about his work, including US Attorneys and other federal prison wardens. I endorse his efforts to contribute to the building of safer prisons and safer communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andre Matevousian", is written over a large, stylized blue oval.

Andre Matevousian
Warden, USP Atwater