

Inmate Education Methods

“How This is an Equity Issue?”

by

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Lately, there has been considerable legislation, dialogue and funding available for incarcerated and recently released students. For the past ten years, Lassen Community College has served incarcerated students in a variety of modalities. Come and hear about the successes from LCC and gain new ideas on how to implement similar methods in your schools and district.

Reasons for Inmate Education

- Access to Higher Education
- Reduce Recidivism
- Future Employment
- Transfer to a Four-Year
- Equitable Services to an Under-Served Population
- Less Problems at the Correctional Facility

LCC's Inmate Education Program

- Provides correspondence education programs toward the Associate Degree in General Studies with emphasis in Social Sciences at over 40 penal institutions throughout the state
- Locally, LCC provides traditional Associate Degree programs at the California Correctional Center (CCC) and High Desert State Prison (HDSP) in the areas of Business and Human Services. Also provides a program toward the Certificate of Accomplishment in Entrepreneurship

Equity / ACCJC Issues

“Provides Equitable Services to All Modalities”

- ACCJC

What is Equity?

How is “equity” different from “diversity”?

- Equity refers to achieving parity in student educational outcomes, regardless of the background of the student.
- It moves beyond issues of access and places success outcomes for all students at center focus.
- The focus on equity efforts recognizes the historical marginalization of some underrepresented groups in American education.

Issues at the Facility

- Students transferring from one facility to the next not completing courses
- Text book purchasing
- Retention
- Lockdowns
- Need for a college counselor at the facility
- Lack of basic resources (paper, pencils, pens)
- Correctional Officers
- Lack of Supervision in the Classroom
- Changes in merit points from school to work

Other Services Needed

- FAFSA completion
- Admissions Application completion
- Categorical program application completion - assistance needed
- Tutoring assistance needed
- Faculty needed in areas of science, speech communication for completion of ADTs
- Lack of basic skills in certain areas/AB705
- Restrictive majors

The Importance of Inmate Education

- Reduces recidivism
- Access to higher education
- Adult inmates in the U.S. are significantly less likely than the general public to have obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent
- Benefits Public Safety - correlation between low educational attainment and being incarcerated
- Improves prison management
- Fiscal benefits for state/local governments (less costs for criminal investigations, jail operations, less reliance on public assistance)

Advantages of Inmate Education

- Access
- Equity
- Reduces Crime Rate/Recidivism
- Retention of Students
- Student Success (Completion, Graduation, Transferring)

Disadvantages

- Textbook issues (cost, need of OER)
- Signed MOUs needed between the College and Institution
- Need for a correctional officer in the classroom
- Costs
- Need for faculty to be stationed at the penal institution
- Need for cultural change at the prisons

Questions??



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