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Program Director, Inmate Scholars Program
Accomplishments 2017 – 2018

The Inmate Scholars Program is the largest face-to-face transfer level college program in the nation and serves students that are currently incarcerated in ten California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) facilities and the Kern County Jail. All ten of the prison facilities have an established rotation of Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) courses and students can achieve an Associate Degree for Transfer in Communication. Two prison facilities have added programs. The McFarland Community Re-Entry Facility offers a Culinary Arts Certificate. The Firehouse at Wasco State Prison offers courses to staff and inmates within the fire discipline. Matriculation assistance is offered at the Kern County Jail for those planning on attending Bakersfield College upon release.

Program Sustainability and Expansion:
1. Increased course offerings from eight prisons to ten prisons.
2. Increased course offerings from 16 student groups to 23 student groups.
3. Implemented the first transfer-level Geology lab to be offered in a prison by a California Community College.
4. Began offering courses to Fire Brigade at Wasco State Prison including officers and inmates.
5. Increased tours to the prison for new faculty from four to 13.
6. Partnered with administration to expand orientation to create positions for outreach and admissions to integrate students currently incarcerated into the Bakersfield College campus.
7. Integrated additional student services within the prison facilities in alignment with campus offerings.
8. Took multiple guest speakers into the prisons to engage and provide support and encouragement to students.

Community and Board Partnerships:
1. California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and California Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation, “Executive Working Group.”
2. Advisory Board for the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and California Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation.
3. Turning Point Advisory Board for those previously incarcerated.

Conference Presentations:
1. National Conference for Higher Education in Prison in Dallas, Texas to teach other colleges how to serve within the prison setting.
2. Correctional Education Association Region 7 Training Symposium at the McClellan Conference Center.
4. CACCRAO Region 5 & 6 Workshop at Cuesta College.
6. Congressman Kevin McCarthy’s Office.
7. Stanford School of Law for various funders.
8. Seven GED graduations at various prisons.

Grants:
1. Exceeded all outcomes outlined in the grant received from Renewing Communities/Opportunity Institute.
2. Provided various insight for the Innovation Award that lead to state award.

Events and Partnerships within the Prison:
1. Expanded the KVSP, B Yard Debate Club to a course and held a student panel and debate for attendees from the community. Attendees included elected officials, state and community leaders, and Bakersfield College employees.
2. Held a Japanese Recital and Student Panel for attendees from the community. Attendees included elected officials, state and community leaders, and Bakersfield College employees.
3. Supported the Lerdo Jail Re-Entry Fairs.
4. Served at multiple prison Provider Fairs.
5. Partnered with Defy Ventures and served at graduation for students also enrolled in the Inmate Scholars Program.
6. Partnered with the Pawsitive Change program in support of the Inmate Scholars enrolled in both opportunities.

Previously Incarcerated Students:
1. Created streamlined process for re-entry facilities to contact Bakersfield College and obtain assistance.
2. Took the FOTO (Free on the Outside) Club on a field trip to Cal Berkeley for a transfer day for previously incarcerated students.
3. Identified and engaged Co-Advisor for the FOTO club.
4. Created partnership with the Parole Office for students previously incarcerated.
5. Partnered with the Underground Scholars of Cal Berkeley for transfer opportunities for those previously incarcerated.