

 **Court to College: A Collaborative Court Approach to Providing Offenders with Access to Education**


Court to College (C2C)




Hon. **Peter Paul Espinoza**, Superior County of California, County of Los Angeles
Dr. René De Long Chomik, Dean of Counseling Services, Cerritos College, Norwalk
Linda Dandy, Director, Division of Recidivism Reduction and Re-entry, California Department of Justice
Sharon Owsley, Deputy Director for Programs, Division of Recidivism Reduction and Re-entry, California Department of Justice
Martha Wright, Moderator, Senior Court Services Analyst, Judicial Council, Criminal Justice Services

 **Education Reduces Recidivism**

- In California, more than six out of ten persons who leave prison are incarcerated again within three years of release (California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Office of Research, January 2014)
- A RAND meta-analysis concluded that participating in any kind of education while incarcerated (GED, adult education, high school courses, career technical education [CTE] and college) reduced the chances of recidivism by 43% (L. Davis et al., the RAND Corporation, 2013)


 **Education Reduces Recidivism (Continued)**

- A college education provides many benefits to all citizens
 - Many jobs require at least some postsecondary education and the demand for a higher education of skilled individuals outweighs the supply (Mukamal, Silbert & Taylor, 2015)
 - By 2025, 41% of jobs will demand at least a Bachelor's degree yet only 35% of working age adults in California will have attained a Bachelor's degree (Bohn, 2014)
- Individuals with criminal histories have even more difficulty obtaining a position that pays them a living wage
 - Approximately 92% of employers across the nation check out the criminal history of job applicants (Society of Human Resource Management, 2010)
 - Incarceration may reduce an individual's earnings annually by 30 to 40% (Western, Russell Sage Foundation, 2006)




Education Reduces Recidivism (Continued)

- The timing is Critical for Court to College (C2C)
 - While California once led the nation by educating current and formerly incarcerated students (programs in every prison, fifteen community colleges and nearly half of CSU campuses), only a few programs currently exist (Mukamal et al., 2015).
 - With benefit to all citizens, education is once again being revisited as a major component of need for those facing incarceration




Why Community College?

- The majority of individuals begin their education at a community college
- There are one hundred and thirteen community colleges across California, providing commuter access to millions of individuals
- The California Community College system is the largest higher education system in the nation, with 2.1 million students (California Community College Chancellor's Office, 2015)
- Community Colleges are the "people's college" and embrace any student eighteen years or older who can "benefit from instruction"
- Community colleges are affordable and financial aid offices assist incoming students
- Community colleges offer a variety of certificate and degree programs




Why Cerritos College?

- Cerritos College has been an active community educational institution since 1956
- Cerritos College has a history and longstanding partnership with the Los Angeles Superior Court
- Cerritos College is dedicated to serving particularly first-generation students of color who may need extra assistance in learning how to navigate the educational system
 - Comment on LA Times "Latino Transfer" article?
 - Mention Puente & Umoja programs?
- In addition to excellent counselors, there are a variety of supportive services which include but are not limited to financial aid, tutoring, orientations, clubs, and student government options




Court to College (C2C)

- Is a collaborative program with Los Angeles County Superior Court
- Target population is age 18-25 felony charge with medium to high risk to recidivate
- Screening includes a modified Wisconsin Risk Assessment
- N= 100 (Two cohorts of 50)
- Guilty plea, agree to 3 years probation
- Participants report to Probation and are sent to Cerritos College Counseling Office
- Counselors determine individual course of study based on students level of education, placement on ACCUPLACER (math , English, reading and interests)
- Other tests may be administered through Career Services including Myers-Briggs and Strong Interest Inventory



Cerritos College C2C

- From the moment participants arrive, their C2C progress is tracked
- They are told by Probation to report within 5 days to Cerritos College
- They are met by a C2C team member to start the regular Cerritos College matriculation process
 - Application then AOC
 - Assessment
 - Orientation
 - Counseling
- Cerritos College C2C team consist of :
 - Dean
 - Counseling Department Chair
 - 1 Full-time and 2 Part-time Counselors
 - Administrative Clerk who tracks the data and reports participant list and progress weekly



“ This initiative can’t be just about recidivism. The value system behind education has to be the betterment of people’s lives. It makes the whole feel of the program different.”

-Vivian Nixon, Executive Director of College and Community Fellowship



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