

REENTRY CAMPUS NEWS

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ISSUE 2 | MAY 2021



WELCOME BACK TO THE REENTRY CAMPUS PROGRAM!

Spring is the season of new beginnings, which is particularly appropriate for our graduates, as well as where we are right now as an organization. This second issue of our newsletter details our recent exponential growth and the next challenges we hope to tackle. Thank you again for standing by our side, and enjoy!

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest"

- Benjamin Franklin



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HIGHLIGHTS

- The Reentry Campus Program recently participated in Brown University's Mass Incarceration Lab's archiving project. The goal of which is to *"construct the most comprehensive archive of mass incarceration in the US, ensuring that the stories of the most impacted are not lost and will be available for future generations. They aim to collect as many stories as possible to construct a comprehensive picture of mass incarceration in America."*
- The Reentry Campus Program is ever so proud to congratulate 7 students on graduating from their respective programs this spring! See pages 8 - 10 to learn more about these students.
- We are thrilled to announce Verizon as a new sponsor of the Reentry Campus Program and our work! Everyone here at the Reentry Campus is endlessly grateful for all the ways they will enrich our programming. The financial support, coursework assistance, and workshops they will be providing for our outside cohort of students enrolled in our new StoryPathing course gives us a lot to look forward to! StoryPathing classes began at our Broad Street office on Monday, May 3rd! See pages 4 & 5 for more info.
- After a large influx of requests for assistance with obtaining new personal identification documents, we have included some information about where to start that you may find useful in the Community Resources section of this newsletter. See pages 15 & 16 for more details.

MESSAGE TO THE READER

Board of Directors

- Lisa Holley (President)
- Imam Abdul Latif
- Dr. Taino Palermo
- Stephanie M Cruz
- Commander Tom Verdi
- Eileen Hayes
- Heather Gaydos
- Brenda Dan-Messier
- Judy Tizel
- Mary Louise Joseph
- Cherie Cruz
- Teresa Foley
- Robert Gessman
- Peter Slom

For far too long, there has been a huge disconnect between the educational programming that happens behind the walls of prisons and the affordable access to it upon release.

We have fought to ban the box, got some states to restore our right to vote, and amended some of the archaic laws around probation and parole. Yet, in many institutions of higher learning, we are still not welcome. Perhaps due to the stigma surrounding us as second class citizens who are not worthy of second chances.

It is one thing to be locked up in prison where everyone is pretty much on the same playing field, but it is another thing entirely to be locked out of society even after having paid our debt to it.

Here is our opportunity to break the cycle and not only get out of prison, but stay out of prison. Here is our chance to make right of our wrongs, and make a difference in someone's life, beginning with our own. The pathway has been paved, the doorway has been opened, and now it is up to us to walk through it.

More Education = More Money = More Freedom of choices that having an education brings about!

We are worthy of so much more than we give ourselves credit for sometimes. If there is any debt to society that we owe, now that we have served our time, it is to ourselves, and to the individuals who are coming out and coming up after us.

Enter here boldly & blazing, and know for sure that you are not alone.



*James A. Monteiro
Founder & Director, Reentry Campus Program*

What is StoryPathing™?

StoryPathing is a 12 week educational correspondence course and new prerequisite for entrance into the Reentry Campus Program. StoryPathing is a powerful, proven, step-by-step narrative and identity development process designed specifically for anyone in transition. Students develop and learn to tell the guiding story of who they are with value and worth. Students will discover the unique skills they have, what motivates them and how that connects to a college degree or a career plan.



WHEN? Every Monday from 6:00pm-8:00pm,
starting Monday, May 3rd

WHERE? *RCP Student Hub*
500 Broad St., Unit C1,
Providence, RI 02907

(Entrance across from the UHaul on Pine St.)



WITH SPECIAL SUPPORT FROM

verizon ✓

Thank you for providing unparalleled financial support, coursework assistance, and workshops for our outside cohort of StoryPathing students!

What is StoryPathing™?



Meet the StoryPathing™ Founder

- **NAME:** Denis Rebelo, Ph.D.
- Professor of Technology, Leadership and Management at Roger Williams University, University College
- Executive Director at the Narrative Research Group, Inc.

What can students look forward to gaining?

- 3 College Credits
- Employment Alignment
- Interview Skills
- A sense of direction that is logically articulated, founded in reality, and responsive to opportunities and challenges
- A coherent, polished narrative/story that helps others recognize, support, and promote your potential
- Clarity and certainty to investigate, select, and apply to colleges/universities/programs/jobs that are well-suited to you
- A rich understanding of how your skills, beliefs, values, and interpersonal style integrate with and complement one another -- revealing a strong individual identity that is connected to your past and your attainable, possible future

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM NEWS: THE GROWING NECESSITY OF COMPUTER-ASSISTED LEARNING.

By Abigail Lucy Terry, RCP Data & Communications Manager

In Dr. King's rightfully famous 'I Have A Dream' speech, he said: "The best way to solve any problem is to remove its cause."

It is widely agreed the root cause of why many individuals commit crimes is socio-economically motivated. Even for those who have never seen the inside of a prison- and especially for those who have- the benefit of a college degree is one of the most profound and radically effective means of climbing the economic ladder. Perhaps rivaled only by winning the lottery, obtaining a college degree is one of the only near-guaranteed methods available to Americans to break the cycle of poverty they find themselves in. Looking beyond the individual economic benefits, people who participated in educational programs while incarcerated were almost half as likely to recidivate(1), which positively contributes to the long-term safety and well-being of the communities that previously incarcerated people return to.

So if we can agree it is in everyone's best interest to expand these educational programs for the incarcerated, how can we expedite the progress? Well, evidence shows that computer-based educational programs in correctional facilities is the answer. The educational benefits of computer-assisted instruction has been shown to double or triple the rate of learning in STEM subjects as well as reading comprehension in English. Which makes sense, right? Can you imagine going to college nowadays without access to the internet?

Even if you are to disagree with my previous argument, this infamous COVID-19 pandemic may very well be forcing us in that direction whether we like it or not. Previously, RCP's incarcerated students progressed through the nationally recognized DSST Credit-by-Exam program- which gives students the opportunity to get college credit for learning acquired outside the traditional classroom- entirely with paper materials. Everything from course introductions, to midterms, to final exams, and all the homework in between was done on paper. Typically, materials were dropped off to students by caseworkers and picked up again when completed and ready to be mailed back to Prometric, the exam administering institution, for grading. However, the dangers posed by the pandemic caused this paper-based learning and testing process to come to a pause; and now a complete, final stop. Prometric recently announced that they will be outmoding paper-based learning opportunities. This leaves online learning as the only option for our students who only want to make meaningful strides towards earning college credit while serving their time. But unfortunately you'll be hard pressed to find a computer lab with internet connection in any correctional facility in Rhode Island.

Now that you're up to speed with the dilemma we find ourselves in as advocates for our incarcerated students, you may be wondering: how can I help?

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM NEWS: THE GROWING NECESSITY OF COMPUTER-ASSISTED LEARNING.

By Abigail Lucy Terry, RCP Data & Communications Manager

Well, one free and easy thing we're all able to do to advance this cause is educating those around us of the problem and the research supported solution. It is also important to express this policy priority to our elected representatives; this includes those that represent us locally all the way through to those who represent us on the national scale. Since numbers often speak louder than words, it will be helpful to mention that the Vera Institute of Justice estimates that 64% of the incarcerated population is eligible for postsecondary education, which represents around 463,000 potential students nationally(2). That's almost half a million Americans (plus their families) that we have the opportunity to help lift out of poverty; and even better yet, this effort does not have to be a pricey one. Studies done by the Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP) confirmed that even if educational programs were to be expanded, every state's per-prisoner cost would still be far less than the total cost of incarceration. The same study from IHEP shows that currently, only around 6% of corrections spending is put towards programming—which includes higher education programs (3). This number leaves more than enough room to grow in corrections spending before the 'cons' of increased educational programming even come close to outweighing the 'pros'.

If you are motivated by what you have learned here today and choose to join us in advocating for increased access to computer-based educational programming for incarcerated students, first of all, we must offer a sincere thank you. We are blessed to be surrounded by such an amazing, compassionate community of supporters as we tackle the "sources" of the problems we see in our system of mass incarceration, in the spirit of that famous quote from Dr. King's 'I Have A Dream' speech. Secondly, do not forget that expanding access to computer-based higher education opportunities for incarcerated students should be a policy priority, not only for its proven ability to break the expensive and harmful cycles of recidivism and poverty, but because it is the morally correct thing to do.

SOURCES:

1. Davis, Lois M., Robert Bozick, Jennifer L. Steele, Jessica Saunders, and Jeremy N. V. Miles, Evaluating the Effectiveness of Correctional Education: A Meta-Analysis of Programs That Provide Education to Incarcerated Adults, RAND Corporation, 2013.
1. Patrick Oakford, Cara Brumfield, Casey Goldvale, Laura Tatum, Margaret diZerega, and Fred Patrick. Investing in Futures: Economic and Fiscal Benefits of Postsecondary Education in Prison. New York: Vera Institute of Justice, 2019.
1. Wendy Erisman and Jeanne Bayer Contardo, "Learning to Reduce Recidivism: A 50-State Analysis of Postsecondary Correctional Education Policy," Institute for Higher Education Policy, 2005.

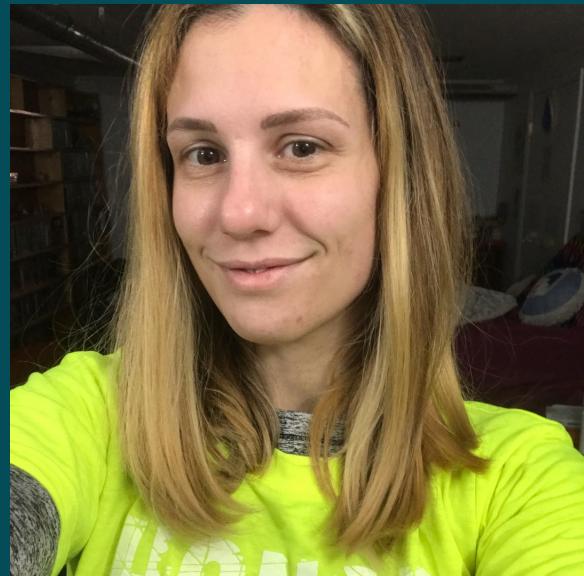
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: SPRING 2021 GRADUATES



*Check Out My
Certificate!*



SHANNON
OFFICIAL GRAD STATS



**GRADUATING FROM:
BUILDING FUTURES**

**COMPLETED:
NORTH AMERICA'S BUILDING TRADES UNIONS
APPRENTICESHIP READINESS PROGRAM**

**MOST MEMORABLE CLASS:
VANTAGE POINT**

**FUTURE PLANS:
APPLYING TO THE IRON WORKERS UNION**

**SENIOR QUOTE/SONG:
"DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY!"**

MEKO

OFFICIAL GRAD STATS

GRADUATING FROM:

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

GRADUATING WITH:

CASE MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION

MOST MEMORABLE CLASS:

COUNSELING THEORIES

FUTURE PLANS:

PURSUING A BACHELOR'S DEGREE

SENIOR QUOTE/SONG:

"KEEP ON MOVING!"



JAYLON

OFFICIAL GRAD STATS

GRADUATING FROM:

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND

GRADUATING WITH:

ASSOCIATES DEGREE

MOST MEMORABLE CLASS:

SOCIOLOGY

FUTURE PLANS:

PLUMBERS OR LABORERS UNION

SENIOR QUOTE/SONG:

"BUT SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS,
AND ALL THESE THINGS WILL BE ADDED TO YOU." - MATTHEW 6:33



ANONYMOUS STUDENT

OFFICIAL GRAD STATS

GRADUATING FROM:

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

GRADUATING WITH:

CASE MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION

MOST MEMORABLE CLASS:

CRISIS INTERVENTION

FUTURE PLANS:

FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT

SENIOR QUOTE/SONG:

'VICTORY LAP' BY NIPSEY HUSSLE



ALEXIS

OFFICIAL GRAD STATS

GRADUATING FROM:

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

GRADUATING WITH:

CASE MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION

FAVORITE PROFESSOR:

NANCY, CASE MANAGEMENT PROFESSOR

FUTURE PLANS:

FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT WITH LIFESPAN, PURSUING A CAREER IN SOCIAL WORK & CONTINUING SCHOOL FOR A BACHELOR'S DEGREE.

SENIOR QUOTE/SONG:

"WHAT'S MONEY WITHOUT HAPPINESS OR HARD TIMES

WITHOUT THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE?"



"Shoutout to the whole Reentry team including James, Diana, Ron & everyone else that kept pushing me & believing in me!"

TOMMY

OFFICIAL GRAD STATS

GRADUATING FROM:

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

GRADUATING WITH:

CASE MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION

MOST MEMORABLE CLASS:

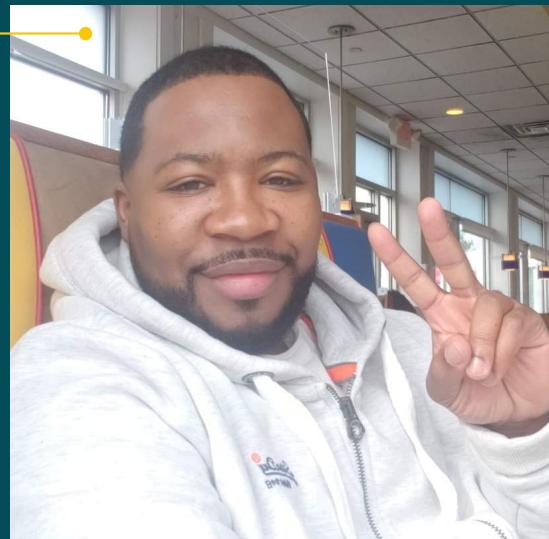
CRISIS INTERVENTION

FUTURE PLANS:

ADVANCE AT CURRENT JOB, EARN MORE AND
CONTINUE ON TO EARN ASSOCIATES DEGREE.

SENIOR QUOTE/SONG:

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF. HAVE HOPE, KEEP FAITH
AND DON'T GIVE UP COURAGE.



STANLEY

OFFICIAL GRAD STATS

GRADUATING FROM:

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

GRADUATING WITH:

LIBERAL ARTS ASSOCIATES DEGREE

MOST MEMORABLE CLASS:

NATURAL DISASTERS AND CRISIS INTERVENTION

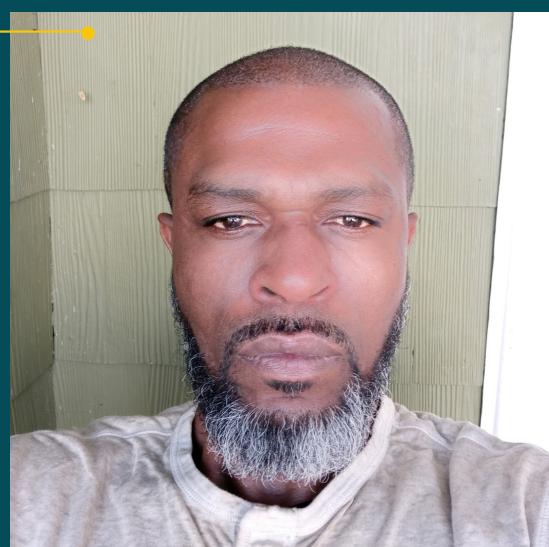
FUTURE PLANS:

FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT AS A CASE MANAGER AT
THE REENTRY CAMPUS PROGRAM

SENIOR QUOTE/SONG:

"EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO LIFE."

I must thank James Monteiro, founder of the Reentry Campus, for his support throughout my educational journey so far.



REENTRY CAMPUS STUDENT HUB OFFICE HOURS

The entrance across from the UHaul on Pine Street!



DATES:
Monday - Friday

TIMES:
9:00am - 5:00pm

LOCATION:
500 Broad St, Unit 1C,
Providence, RI, 02907

Study Center and PLA Testing office hours begin in May! Case managers will be standing by to assist with college prep, registration, applying for FAFSA, stabilization, and registration.

We are proud to offer students access to our new computer lab for individuals to drop in and get some work done. Student Support Specialists will be available there to assist with resumes, cover letters, and applications. Don't be a stranger- stop by to say hi!

COMMUNITY RESOURCES:

Updated scholarship opportunities and- at the request of students- information on obtaining new personal identification documents.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Prison Education Foundation

- Offers a limited amount of scholarships for previously incarcerated individuals pursuing secondary education.

APPLY HERE: www.prisonedu.org/scholarship-qualifications/

Transcending Through Education Foundation (TTEF)

- TTEF was started by three former ACI inmates who improved their lives through higher education. Scholarships up to \$1,000 are available to both incarcerated and formerly incarcerated applicants. The foundation looks for people who can demonstrate leadership qualities, community involvement, and a commitment to education.

APPLY HERE: www.transcendingthrougheducation.org/how-to-apply.html

United Negro College Fund

- This organization has helped over half a million people to get their college education. They provide more minorities with college scholarships than any other organization. Every year, they give out more than \$100 million in scholarships, which do not have to be paid back. They have several scholarship programs that you can apply for, including ones focusing on STEM degrees, education degrees, and more.

APPLY HERE: uncf.org/scholarships

COMMUNITY RESOURCES:

Updated scholarship opportunities and- at the request of students- information on obtaining new personal identification documents.

PERSONAL ID DOCUMENTATION INFO

PASSPORT:

The Passport Services Office provides information and services to American citizens about how to obtain, replace, or change a passport. One's ability to apply for and obtain a U.S. passport is not automatically restricted as a result of a criminal conviction. However, as a condition of probation or supervised release, your ability to travel may be restricted.

- For information about how to obtain a new or replacement U.S. passport (book or card), visit www.travel.state.gov/passport or call the National Passport Information Center at (877) 487-2778 and speak with a trained specialist.

SOCIAL SECURITY CARD:

If you have never applied for a social security card and are over the age of 12, you are required to apply in person and provide at least two documents to prove age, identity, and U.S. citizenship or current lawful work authorized immigration status. To apply for a replacement card, you are required to provide one document to prove your identity. You may request an application form and local office information from the address below.

- U.S. Social Security Administration, Office of Public Inquiry, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235
- Additionally, you can call (800) 772-1213 or visit their website at www.socialsecurity.gov

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Updated scholarship opportunities and- at the request of students- information on obtaining new personal identification documents.

PERSONAL ID DOCUMENTATION INFO

DRIVERS LICENSE/ID CARD:

To apply for a current driver's license in your state of residence, and identification card, or an instruction permit, you may present a copy of an expired driver's license, instruction permit, or state identification card. If you do not have one of the documents listed above, you may learn more about each state's rules and regulations, the alternative options they offer, and second steps by contacting them directly through the information below.

- Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles, Operator Control, 600 New London Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920
- Additionally, you can call them at (401) 462-4368, or visit their website at www.dmv.ri.gov

BIRTH CERTIFICATE:

A birth certificate can be useful for providing identification in situations such as applying for a driver's license, identification card, social security card, health benefits, U.S. passport or general assistance programs. Applications forms, fee schedules and eligibility requirements may be obtained by contacting the Office of Vital Records and Statistics by phone (401) 222-2811, or by visiting www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w/.

- Rhode Island Department of Health, Office of Vital Records, 3 Capitol Hill, Room 101, Providence, RI 02908

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!



BANK OF AMERICA



RHODE ISLAND
FOUNDATION



THE CLANEIL FOUNDATION

... AND READERS LIKE YOU!