Providing Instruction and Transition Support for County Jail Students

Garrett Rieck & Diane Avery (College of the Canyons) Randy Brown, Ph.D. & Robert Moreno (Gavilan College) Kelli Nadler (Rising Scholars/ CCCCO)

Introduction

Please answer in the chat...

- 1. Does your college currently offer instruction or outreach with local prisons or jails?
- 2. What brought you to this session?

Please raise your hand if...

- 1. You have ever taught in a jail or prison
- 2. You are interested in teaching in a jail or prison

College of the Canyons Rising Scholars Program

- College of the Canyons joined the Rising Scholars Network in 2015 offering credit courses
- We currently offer 36 credit classes and 22 noncredit classes to justice-involved students

Credit offerings

 General Education courses that meet IGETC requirements for transfer to 4-year University (UC or CSU)

Noncredit Offerings

- Health and Safety/Parenting parenting strategies, anger management, domestic violence, substance abuse, personal health/wellness, and stress management.
- <u>Basic Skills</u> English support courses builds writing skills for those working toward taking transfer level English (ENGL 101).
- Workforce Prep and Short-term Vocational Career Skills, CPR/First certification, Gardening/Landscaping, Commercial Sewing, and Culinary Arts.

Noncredit CPR/ First Aid and Gardening/ Landscaping Classes



CPR/ First Aid Class at Century Regional Detention Facility



Practical skills test on manikins



Pond maintenance and benefits of watering plants with fish waste.



Ongoing landscape design project.

Teaching Modalities for Rising Scholars

- Face to Face Instruction
- Correspondence Education
- Hybrid Instruction

Enrollment Totals

- Credit total enrollments 2015/16 162
- Credit total enrollments 2016/17 343
- Credit total enrollments 2017/18 192
- Credit total enrollments 2018/19 183
- Credit and noncredit total enrollments 2019/20 371
- Credit and noncredit total enrollments 2020/21 3,966

Teaching Strategies

- Filmed lectures
- TED Ed and YouTube Videos
- Worksheet activities to go along with videos
- Small group assignments
- Small group discussions including written discussion boards
- Students write their own quiz or activity that the class can complete
- Multiple weekly assignments and responsive feedback to increase human interaction

Gavilan College Jail program

- Gavilan College has served students in the San Benito County Jails for over a dozen years serving approximately 300 students per year.
- We offer noncredit classes in Creative Writing, Yoga/Mindfulness, English/Math HSE Preparation, and Career Preparation.
- We have been successful at moving over 30% of these students over to Gavilan College within 3 terms.

Gavilan College jail support services

- Unfortunately, only a small percentage of these students complete their academic program.
- In 19/20 we added an academic counselor to specifically serve students affected by incarceration
- Because of the challenges these students face, many of these students need additional and ongoing support to persist and complete
- We received a grant to support a peer-mentoring program for formerly incarcerated students, Higher Aspirations
- We developed this program collaboratively with students, faculty, staff, and administrators in a process that was guided by a nonprofit that works with formerly incarcerated individuals.

Higher Aspirations

Peer-Mentor Support Referrals **Academic Counselor**

Opportunities to become to peer mentors

Rising Scholars Statewide Network

- A network of CCC committed to serving incarcerated and formerly incarcerated students
- 75 of 116 CCCs have Rising Scholars programs
- Comprised of 400+ practitioners



Rising Scholars Network Mission

- Serving incarcerated and formerly incarcerated students is a critical matter of equity and aligns with the Vision for Success
- Elevating opportunities to individuals, communities, and families impacted by mass incarceration
- Pairing high-expectations with high-support to build a generation of graduates and leaders in communities
- Offer courses to students incarcerated in jails, state prisons, federal prisons, and youth facilities as well as offer on-campus supports to formerly incarcerated people



Rising Scholars Programs in Jails

- Thousands of individuals are incarcerated in California's 58 county jail systems, and nearly 90% of them are within 10 miles of a community college.
- 24 CCCs partner with Sheriff's Offices to offer courses in jails, Day Reporting Centers, or Reentry Centers
- Colleges take a different approach to serving students than in prisons where stays are longer
- In jails, colleges offer non-credit and credit courses, CTE certificate programs, online courses in any pathway, and transitions support for the move from jail back to the community

Rising Scholars Technical Assistance

- Robust online professional development and meeting series
- Active listserv: email <u>knadler@cccco.edu</u> to join
- Vision Resource Center Community: search "Rising Scholars" in "Communities"
- Website with statewide directory and archived resources
- Regional Consortium Meetings
- Regional Coordinator Technical Assistance

Questions