

**Pursuing Educational Equity through  
Prison Education for Currently and  
Formerly Incarcerated Individuals**

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**What is Prison Education?**

Prison Education can take a variety of forms:

- G.E.D. Certificate Program
- Basic Literacy
- Tutoring (i.e., Petey Greene Program)
- Development of Life Skills (i.e., Parenting Skills, Financial Management)
- Vocational Training/ Trade School (including unisex trades, more than simply cosmetology for women, and carpentry for men)
- College Education (A.A., B.A., correspondence for grad school degrees)
  - Returning & Incarcerated Student Education (RISE), New Jersey
  - Inside Out Program

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**Why is Prison Education a  
Social Justice Issue?**

- Prison Education Programs:
  - Reduce crime, by decreasing the recidivism rate
  - Lead to greater employment opportunities and higher wages for participants upon release.
  - Challenge the stereotypes held by those in society about the incarcerated
  - Provide incentive for compliant behavior within prison
  - Allow for incarcerated parents to serve as role models for school-age children
  - Increase chance that incarcerated individual will be paroled when going before parole board
  - Enhances positive identity and increases self-esteem among students

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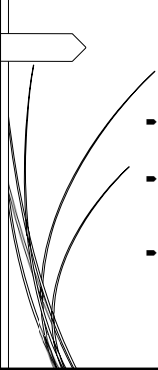
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### How does Prison Education Promote Educational Equity?

- Prison education programs that are academically rigorous and student-centered are essential to advancing equity. They must be held **in person** to achieve true educational equity.
- Program design must be guided by an unwavering commitment to providing incarcerated students with the same educational opportunities that are offered on high-quality campuses across the country.
- **Mass incarceration** has incarcerated disproportionate numbers of men and women from black and brown communities, therefore, educational equity achieved within our prisons is crucial toward achieving the goal of **racial equity**.

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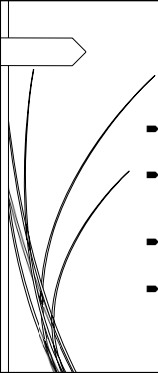
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### What is the Connection between Prison Education and Mental Health?

- Mass incarceration has created a warehouse environment for over 2.2 million individuals in our nation.
- Our prisons have been deemed not only warehouses, but ones that are overwhelmingly flooded with individuals who possess mental health issues.
- Mental health treatment within our prisons is inadequate and seriously lacking.
- Prison education allows for the enhanced self-esteem that is able to counter much of the mental health challenges confronting the majority of those who are behind bars.

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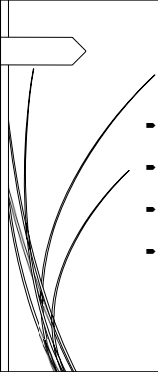
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### Resources

- Petey Green Program
  - <https://www.peteygreene.org/>
- Sisters of Hope Corporation
  - <https://www.sistersofhopeentry.net/>
- Returning & Incarcerated Student Education (RISE)
  - <https://www.raritanval.edu/rise>
- Videos:
  - TIME: The Kalief Browder Story (Netflix)
  - College Behind Bars (PBS, Netflix, Amazon Prime Video)

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The Scott Sisters: Revealing the Truth,  
Exposing Injustice and Trusting God



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