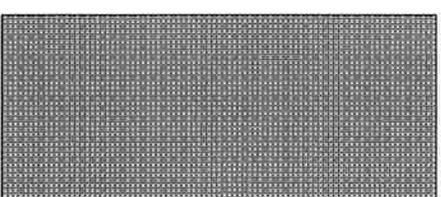


IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION  
REPORT TO  
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 8, 2016





### **Mission**

Protect the public, our staff and those within our custody and supervision through safety, accountability, partnerships and providing opportunities for offender change.

### **Vision**

Care and professional development of staff, sound security practices and a reentry system that enhances public safety.

### **Values**

Integrity \* Positive Attitude \* Respect

### **Goals**

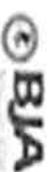
- 1) Protect the public, staff and offenders
- 2) Enhance staff success and wellness
- 3) Modernize technology



How Effective Is  
Correctional Education,  
and Where Do  
We Go from Here?

*The Results of a Comprehensive Evaluation*

*By James G. Fray, Jr., and Robert G. Peters*



## **Review of Correctional Education (CE) programs for incarcerated adults and juveniles**

- Meta-analysis of CE's effects on the post release recidivism and employment rates of incarcerated adults.
- Comparison of direct costs of CE for adults with those of re-incarceration
- Examination of impact the recession has had on states
- Identification of current and emerging trends in CE

## **CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES HOW EFFECTIVE IS IT, AND HOW CAN WE MOVE THE FIELD FORWARD?**

BY LOIS M. DAVIS, JENNIFER L. STEELE, ROBERT BOZICK, MALCOLM WILLIAMS, SUSAN TURNER, JEREMY N. V. MILES, JESSICA SAUNDERS,  
PAUL S. STEINBERG  
THIS PROJECT WAS SUPPORTED BY GRANT NO. 2010-RQ-BX-001 AWARDED BY THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE TO THE RAND  
CORPORATION, 2013.

**Inmates who participated in Correctional Education programs had a 43 percent lower odds of recidivating than inmates who did not.**

**This translates to a 13-percentage-point reduction in the risk of recidivating for those who participated in correctional education programs versus those who did not.**

- CE for adult inmates is both effective and cost-effective
- The direct costs of re-incarceration are far greater than the direct costs of providing CE



Every dollar spent on CE programs returns about five dollars on average in cost savings given reductions in re-incarceration

- Adult Basic Education
- Postsecondary Education
- Vocational/Career Technical Education

- Odds of obtaining employment post release among inmates who participated in CE (either academic or vocational programs) were 13% higher than for those who did not.

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### **States vary in the types of Correctional Education programs offered:**

- 32 of the 46 states offered adult secondary and postsecondary education
- Postsecondary education classes are primarily paid for by individual inmates or their families
  - Other than the classes listed below, this is true in Idaho as well

### **IDOC Correctional Education program offerings:**

Adult Basic Education

Secondary Education

Postsecondary classes

Horticulture (NICI)

Electrical Wiring (ISCC)

Carpentry (ISCC)

Masonry (ISCC)

Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS)

Pre-Release

Microsoft Digital Literacy

Education / Career Planning

Pre-Release Manual



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CORPORATION-2013

### **The 2008 recession significantly reduced Correctional Education (CE) spending across states.**

The 2008 recession led to an overall decrease of 6 percent, on average, in states' CE budgets.

- The IDOC receives 4 federal grants flowed through the State Department of Education and Professional Technical Education. The FY10 CE grant budget in Idaho was \$785,972 - the FY 16 grant budget is \$676,804, a 14 percent reduction – 8% higher than the national average.

The capacity of academic education program contracted, the number of course offerings were reduced and the number of academic teachers who were employees decreased by 24 percent on average.

- In Idaho during FY11, there were 66 full and part time educational staff working in the prisons
- Currently the count of educational staff in FY16 is 51 - a 23% decrease.



## **CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN PRISON AND FINDING EMPLOYMENT**

- The prison population is increasingly comprised of inmates with a high risk of reoffending, many who enter prison with significant educational deficits. Those deficits, coupled with their status as an offender, can make securing employment difficult after release.
- Program participation allows offenders to bridge the gap between release and securing employment by providing the necessary skills to compete for employment, reducing the risk of recidivism.
- Individuals who are employed after their release are less likely to recidivate.



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### **Two key trends affecting Correctional Education**

- **Growing role of information technology**
  - Importance of computing skills for today's job market
  - IDOC offers Microsoft Office Specialist certification as part of vocational education program and Microsoft Digital Literacy completion is a requirement for the PreRelease Program.
  - Internet access and use of Internet-based instruction is limited.
- **Implementation of the new 2014 GED exam**
  - The 2014 GED exam is a more rigorous computer- based test
  - Teachers trained to teach the new GED exam
  - Additional time required to prepare students for testing
  - Negative effect on GED completion rates



## **FY 2015 EDUCATION COMPLETIONS**

- Secondary Education – 114
- Post Secondary Education – 283
  - PreRelease – 2288
- Microsoft Digital Literacy – 1104
- Education/Career Planning - 1098



## PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

University of Idaho Extension program/NICI – “That’s Life” Simulation

- Designed to provide students opportunities to learn and interact with diverse population
- Financial literacy simulations
- 15 simulations at NICI with 1,600 inmates and 200 college students participating

Boise State University/ISCC – Prison Debate Initiative

- 12 week prison debate project
- 20 hours of inmate class instruction
- Culminating in “Debate Day” - Spring, 2016  
ISCC inmates vs the Talkin’ Broncos.

Institute of Applied Ecology/SBWC/ISCC/CAPP – Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Through Prisons

- Funding by National BLM Office
- Greater Sage-Grouse is a candidate for listing as a threatened or endangered species
- Project focus is on the replenishment of sagebrush habitat

## UPDATE FROM LAST YEAR'S PROJECTS

- Inmate access to the internet
- IDOC Instructor rate of pay



## **INMATE INTERNET ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT**

Project objective is to provide inmates with current and relevant career and employment training and information to support a smooth transition upon their release.

- Pilot project at ISCC and ISCI
- Will allow access to a whitelist of websites to inmate workstations
- Initial website will be the Idaho Department of Labor – launching in Spring, 2016



## **IDOC INSTRUCTOR SALARIES**

- The beginning salary for an IDOC Instructor is 18% less (\$17.26/hr ) – than the current beginning salary for Idaho public teachers (\$21.11/hr).
- The Career Ladder increase slated for school year 2019-20 will raise the beginning salary for public school instructors to \$24.73/hr and increase the disparity in pay for IDOC Instructors to 30%.



## GOALS FOR FY16

- Expand post-secondary education opportunities for offenders by partnering with colleges/universities through Second Chance Pell funding
- Integration of computer-aided instruction into reading, writing and math curriculum. Internet access for offenders will be a project throughout the next year and will greatly increase classroom opportunities
- Explore technology to improve data reporting and offender class scheduling and improve staff efficiency and effectiveness
- Advanced external review 2016-17 for continued IDOC accreditation

