Technical Assistance for Correctional Education Re-entry Model Implementation

Background

In March, 2013 the Department of Education awarded discretionary grants to three of more than 75 organizations and institutions which competed for awards under the "Promoting Reentry Success through Continuity of Educational Opportunities" (PRSCEO) grant program. These grants were made possible as a result of a cooperative agreement between the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs and the Department of Education. The three recipients are: Western Technical College, La Crosse, WI.; Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit, Lancaster, PA.; and Barton County Community College, Great Bend, KS.

OVAE will support these programs with technical assistance, will conduct a program evaluation to determine the impact of the services provided, and will disseminate technical assistance resources broadly to entities implementing reentry education programs.

Overview

At the heart of the projects will be the new Reentry Education Model, released last year by the U.S. Department of Education. Grant recipients will build upon the model, which offers evidence-based approaches to support individuals leaving prison to successfully transition back into the community through schooling and career advancement.

Among the suggested improvements for correctional education contained in the Model are: establishing an integrated reentry program that offers and incorporates education services, workforce training, and job search support during intake and prerelease processes and links education to employment services; targeting job support to labor market demands that do not have criminal history restrictions; using technology to increase program access and data to measure performance and outcomes; and conducting thorough program evaluations to further share lessons learned and best practices.

Project Milestones

- Develop tools and resources for use by grantees and others implementing reentry education.
- Collect and analyze qualitative and quantitative data on the reentry education model and its effect in meeting student needs.
- Assess information technology in correctional education and related areas important for reentry.

Outcomes and Products

- Resource Collection
- Individualized Technical Assistance Plans
- National Evaluation of the Reentry Education Model
- Policy Brief on Information Technology and Correctional Education

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