

**U.S. Department of Education**  
**Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education**  
**Office of Correctional Education**  
[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

## Improved Reentry Education (IRE) Abstracts

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**Fiscal Year 2015**  
**CFDA 84.191D**

### **Barton Community College**

*Kansas*

V191D150036

Barton Community College will enhance and formalize partnerships with area correctional facilities, juvenile justice programs, community corrections, the Kansas Department of Commerce, Department of Corrections, Kansas Juvenile Justice Authority, Center for Adult Education, industry experts, the state and local Workforce Investment Boards, and One-Stop Centers and other organizations to strengthen the established continuum of support services and educational and training opportunities for high need justice-involved students. This partnership will ensure that offenders can gain the knowledge and skills needed to obtain long-term living-wage employment, and transition successfully out of the corrections system.

Barton Community College will coordinate and align educational services with support services provided by the College, correctional facility, and other support agencies. They will also provide Career and Technical Training certifications identified by labor market needs. Program goals also include establishing an electronic data system and data sharing agreements with key partners to enhance data-based decision making and evaluation capacities and identifying and institutionalizing alternative technology-enhanced instructional delivery systems.

The project will serve participants from Ellsworth Correctional Facility, Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility, Larned Juvenile Correctional Facility, and the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District and Central Kansas Community Corrections.

### **Essex County College (ESSEX)**

*New Jersey*

V191D150022

The *Bridging Reentry Opportunities for Workforce Navigation to Success (BROWNS)* education and employment training initiative will provide career training and family strengthening intervention targeting -income, young men of color (African-American and Latino) age 16-35,

and their families. The initiative will be implemented in Essex County, New Jersey by a consortium of cross-sectional partners, including five local workforce release facilities under the supervision of the New Jersey Department of Corrections; and led by Essex County College (ESSEX).

Using Individual Reentry and Education Plans (IREPs) to guide success, participants assessed at or above the seventh grade level, can be *fast-tracked* into one of several career pathway programs available through Essex and its partners. These career training programs offer participants the opportunity to earn high school equivalent (HSE) certifications, and the opportunity to support their economic mobility by participating in industry-recognized credentials and certifications trainings that are aligned with high-demand/high-needs industries relevant to New Jersey. To further support academic and career development, participants will be provided internship / apprenticeship opportunities and have access to a host of wrap-around supportive services, including tutoring, mentoring, parenting workshops, as well as cognitive behavior programming.

## **Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13**

### ***Pennsylvania***

V191D150033

Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13 will offer Intensive pre- and post-release education services for reentry adults including assessment, orientation, and career/education planning focused on a career pathway. The program will also include expanded and coordinated case management inside prisons and in the community after release. The academic supports provided by the program will include GED tutoring, Adult Basic Education classes, educational technology, occupational skills training, and certification classes leading to employment.

The program will partner with Lancaster Reentry Management Organization, Lebanon Reentry Coalition, Lancaster County Prison, and Lebanon County Correctional Facility and serve participants in Lancaster and Lebanon Counties, PA.

## **Lorain County Community College**

### ***Ohio***

V191D150016

The proposed demonstration project will improve correctional education and the attainment of educational credentials for incarcerated individuals at the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections' (ODRC) Lorain Correctional Institute facility, the Lorain/Medina Community-Based Correctional Facility, and post-release at Lorain County Community College through a multi-phased project.

Over the three year grant, 1,020 inmates and ex-offenders and 60 corrections officers will participate in the project's education and training activities. Education and training activities include: Enhanced Mentoring Training to prepare inmates to become Inmate Mentors before

placement in the ODRC System; Enhanced Adult Basic Literacy Education services to increase educational attainment rates and prepare inmates who are basic skill deficient for post-secondary educational opportunities; Post-Secondary courses for qualified residents and post release to pursue a certificate or associate degree in demand in the regional labor market and enhanced “Second Chance” wrap around supportive services for students.

## **Miami-Dade County**

### ***Florida***

V191D150034

Project Restart will build upon and expand the network of services and activities (education, training and employment) provided by community organizations in Miami-Dade County for ex-offenders returning to the community from jail. The Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department operates a 16-month, Boot Camp Program (BCP), an intensive and highly structured paramilitary rehabilitation program for incarcerated offenders, to reduce recidivism and provide an alternative to traditional incarceration for some youth and adult offenders. BCP Cadets include sentenced and adjudicated offenders ages 18 to 24. Project Restart will enroll 100 Cadets over a three-year funding period. A cadre of activities, services, and strategies will be provided to support this Reentry Education Model-based demonstration program.

## **Pennsylvania Department of Corrections**

### ***Pennsylvania***

V191D150050

The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (PDOC) is proposing the initiative, Improving Reentry Education with Career Pathways in Pennsylvania. The program’s target population prioritizes adult offenders aged 25 and younger who are medium to high risk of reoffending. Along with key partners that include representatives from criminal justice, community colleges and universities, workforce development, employers and labor management, the PDOC is proposing three goals for the program: 1) Transform Corrections Education by incorporating a Career Pathways approach, 2) Enhance the use of career readiness & interest assessment data into the corrections education service delivery and 3) Establish sustainable partnerships and systems-linkages amongst corrections, education training and workforce development service providers.

## **UTEC**

### ***Massachusetts***

V191D150059

UTEC will use Improved Reentry Education to support educational services, especially HiSET preparation, and job training in our social enterprises for formerly incarcerated young people from Lowell and Lawrence, MA. Through coordination with state and county correction facility partners, UTEC will provide pre-release visits and intensive case management to ensure that

young people move directly into community-based education and training services. While they work on their education and employment skills, these young adults will also receive wrap-around case management services to overcome both practical and social barriers to their success.

## **Washburn University of Topeka/Washburn Institute of Technology**

### ***Kansas***

V191D150012

Washburn Institute of Technology (WIT), in partnership with Topeka Correctional Facility (TCF), Greenbush and the Kansas Department of Commerce through an Accelerated Career Training program (ACT) will provide support for women housed in TCF, 60% of whom have not yet achieved a GED or high school diploma. Women will be assessed for basic skills and career interest and then enrolled in Adult Education only or co-enrolled in Adult Education and Career and Technical training. WIT has demonstrated that an accelerated approach will enable them to achieve the outcomes of increased levels of employment in high-wage high-demand jobs and reduce recidivism. The project will include job readiness coaching and support in seeking employment from employers who have committed to interview ex-offenders.

This project is an extension of a current program at TCF and is based on research which shows that inmates who receive technical training are more likely to be employed and less likely to return to prison than inmates who receive no training. WIT and partners will target inmates who do not yet have a GED or high school diploma and have low basic skills. This project builds on the lessons learned from the successful Accelerated Opportunities in Kansas (AO-K) project which has demonstrated that co-enrolling participants in Adult Education and Career and Technical Education increases educational outcomes for those participants.

## **Western Technical College**

### ***Wisconsin***

V191D150033

Western Technical College, in partnership with the La Crosse County Law Enforcement Center and multiple community stakeholders (Congressional District 3, Wisconsin), is proposing PROVEN to Work. As a recipient of the PRSCEO grant in 2012, Western and the La Crosse community have implemented Project PROVEN based on the Department's Reentry Education Model and the framework that existed due to the community's work with the Urban Institute prior to receipt of the grant. PROVEN to Work will improve, expand, and provide new elements to the current PROVEN model in three distinct, yet interrelated components. The project improves the PROVEN Reentry Education Model's infrastructure already in place in La Crosse by contextualizing the GED/HSED/ABE curriculum around employability.

PROVEN to Work will expand the model to two rural community jails in Monroe and Trempealeau Counties to test the sustainability of the model in more rural areas that have fewer community supports in place. Finally, the project will provide a model to incorporate the returning prison population to the La Crosse community into the PROVEN to Work model.