

2023



**COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING®
CONFERENCE**

***Unlocking Access:
The Power and Promise of Higher Education
for Justice-Involved Individuals in Illinois***

**A Panel Presentation for
2023 College Changes Everything® (CCE)**

“DEIA: The Work We Need to Do”

Thursday, July 13, 2023

Interest Session, Round 3: 2:00 p.m.—2:50 p.m.

South Pavilion 4



Maria Cynthia “MC” Anderson
Illini Science Policy Program Scholar,
Illinois Board of Higher Education



Michael Brawn
Prison to Gown Pathway
Manager, Education Justice
Project at University of Illinois
Urbana-Champaign



Angel Pantoja
Project Coordinator,
Illinois Coalition for
Higher Education in
Prison



Ashton Hoselton
Policy & Research Director,
Education Justice Project at
University of Illinois Urbana-
Champaign

Illinois Institutions

View Larger

Tweets from @IBHETweets

IBHE @IBHETweets · Jun 14

It was a nice day to tour the campus of @NIU! Thank you, NIU, for hosting today's Board meeting and for an engaging tour. We were especially captivated by the interactive globe in the library that can be used to study meteorological phenomena and many other things - so cool!

View on Twitter

Current Higher Ed. Lan

Active Degree/Certificate Programs

Institutions	Programs
12 Public Universities	
48 Community Colleges	
93 Independent NFP Institutions	
10 Independent For-Profit Institutions	
41 Out-Of-State Institutions	
230 PBVS For-Profit Institutions	
43 PBVS NFP Institutions	
477	Grand Totals

For more detailed information about active programs, use the links below.

[IBHE-Program Inventory](#)

[ICCB-Directory of Programs](#)

Community College information is updated bi-annually, all other data is live.



ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

IL-CHEP

ILLINOIS COALITION FOR HIGHER ED IN PRISON

Working to bring opportunities and hope to individuals who are incarcerated.



EDUCATION JUSTICE PROJECT
an initiative of Education at Illinois

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DEMONSTRATING THE POSITIVE IMPACTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN PRISON



GOAL 2025 COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING™



Welcome To The Illinois P-20 Council

The Illinois P-20 Council was established by the legislature in 2009 to foster collaboration among state agencies, education institutions, local schools, community groups, employers, taxpayers, and families, and to collectively identify needed reforms to develop a seamless and sustainable statewide system of quality education and support. The "P" in our name represents Preschool and "20" stands for grade 20, education after college.

Our Goal

To increase the proportion of adults in Illinois with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60% by the year 2025.

More About Us

In Illinois...

RACE & GENDER

904,729 women and **2,314,877 men** were **arrested or convicted** of a crime since 1979.



Black women make up 14.5% of all adult women in Illinois, but **over a third** of all women **arrested or convicted** of a crime.

The percent of women with felony convictions who are **Black is 3.1x higher** than the percent of adult women who are **Black**.

Black men are 13.0% of all adult men in Illinois, but **over a quarter** of all men **arrested or convicted** of a crime.

The percent of men with felony convictions who are **Black is 3.4x higher** than the percent of adult men who are **Black**.

Black people make up **13.8%** of Illinois's adult population, but **Black people** make up...



- ▶ **28.9%** of those who **acquired arrest or conviction** records.
- ▶ **34.9%** of people who were **convicted** of crimes.
- ▶ **45.3%** of people who were **convicted of felonies**.

ARRESTS & CONVICTIONS



3.3 million adults alive today have been **arrested or convicted** of a crime since 1979.¹¹

Of these, **1.2 million adults** have conviction records and **602,201 adults** have felony convictions.



So **1 in 3** adults with records have convictions & **1 in 5** adults with records have felony convictions

627,945 adults, or **19.2%** of all people with an arrest record were **not convicted** of a crime.

Even though they were not convicted, **arrests still appear** on some background checks carrying with it a stigma that could make it difficult to get jobs or housing.

LAW



There are **1,189 unique permanent punishment laws** in Illinois.

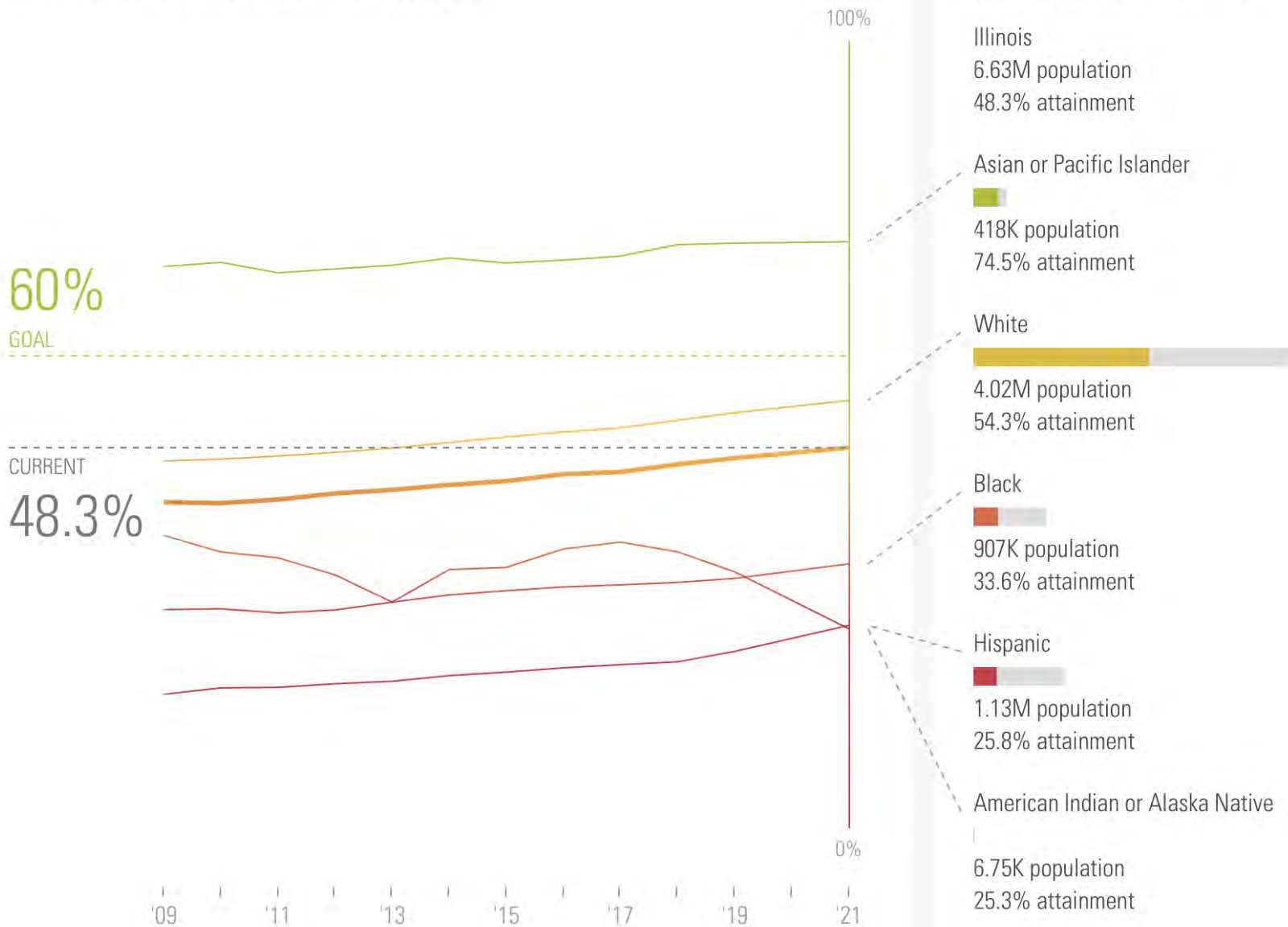
982 permanent punishment laws create punishments that **prevent or hinder** access to employment.

These state laws collectively act in **1,260** ways **impacting** people's access to:

- ▶ housing
- ▶ employment
- ▶ education
- ▶ other opportunities

IL ATTAINMENT BY RACE AND ETHNICITY 2009-2021

2021 POPULATION STATISTICS



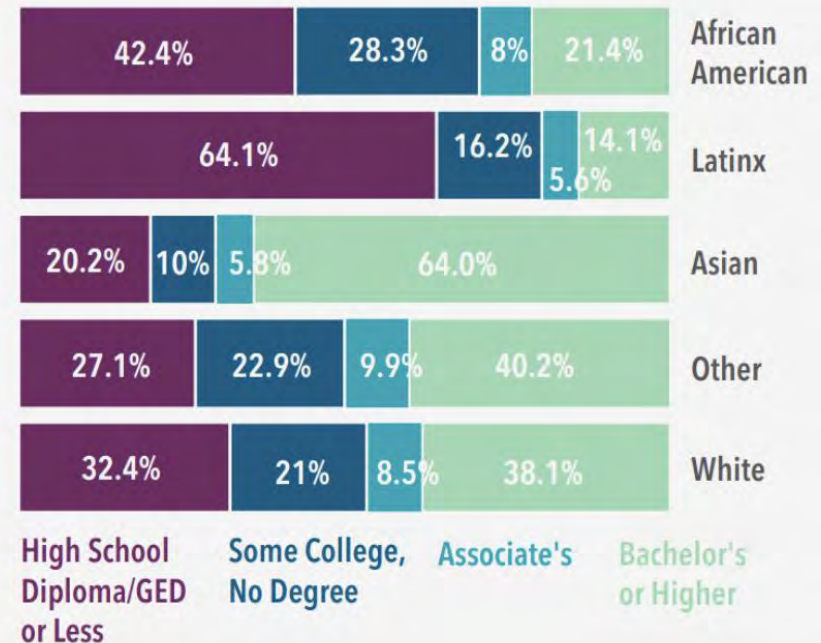


A Thriving Illinois: Higher Education Paths to Equity, Sustainability, and Growth

Equity drives our system.

We make equity-driven decisions, elevating the voices of those who have been underserved, and actively identify and remove systemic barriers that have prevented students of color, first generation college students, low-income students, adult learners, rural students, and others from accessing and succeeding in higher education. Access and affordability are embedded in our definition of equity.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN ILLINOIS (AGE 25+) BY RACE/ETHNICITY



PERMANENT PUNISHMENTS FOR EDUCATION IN ILLINOIS



“When I tried to go back to school they told me [that] I no longer qualify for the FASFA because of some reason...I think it was an incident from a while ago... a fight and that I got involved with, it wasn’t even my fight.... It just seems like... they are holding everything against you, basically ... Like, why can’t I get an education? Just because I made a bad decision that don’t mean you should take that from me.” – Anonymous

“Compared to the general public, formerly incarcerated people are nearly twice as likely to have no high school diploma or equivalent, and more than half only hold a high school diploma or GED. Less than 4% of formerly incarcerated people hold a college degree, compared to 29% of the U.S. population.”

Presenter #1: Michael Brawn

- Prison to Gown Pathway Manager, Education Justice Project at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Founder, C.O.R.E. Re-Entry Inc.
- Co-Founder, The Building Block Program
- BA in Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies, Eastern Illinois University



Higher Ed Journey

Associate of Science,
Lakeland Community College

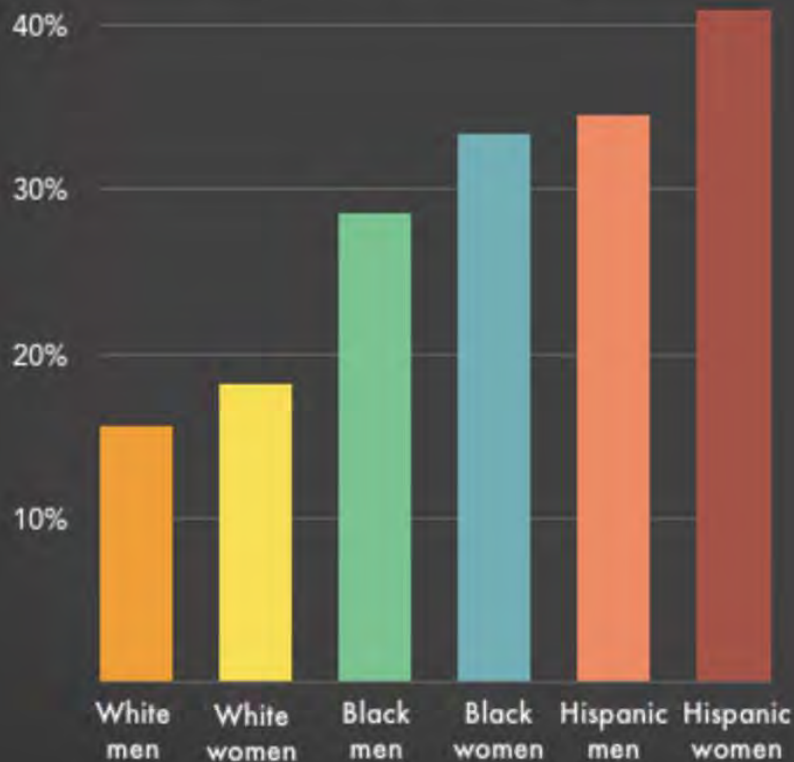
Undergraduate Certificate in Education Studies,
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Bachelor of Arts,
Eastern Illinois University

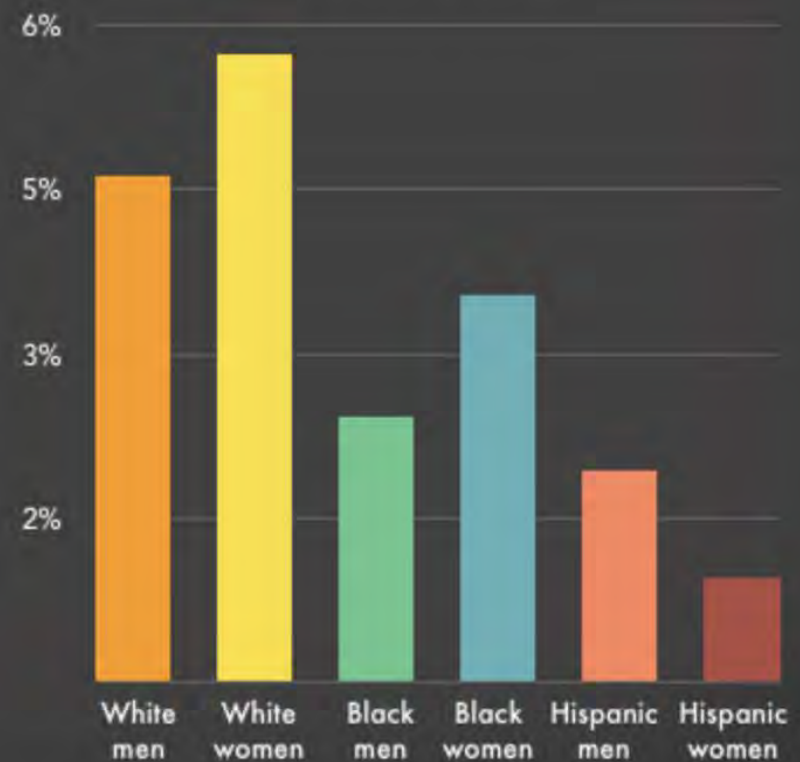
Formerly incarcerated people of color face the greatest educational disadvantages

Percentage of formerly incarcerated people who hold no high school credential (left) and who have a Bachelor's degree or higher (right), by race/ethnicity and sex, 2008

Formerly incarcerated people with no high school diploma or GED



Formerly incarcerated people with a college degree

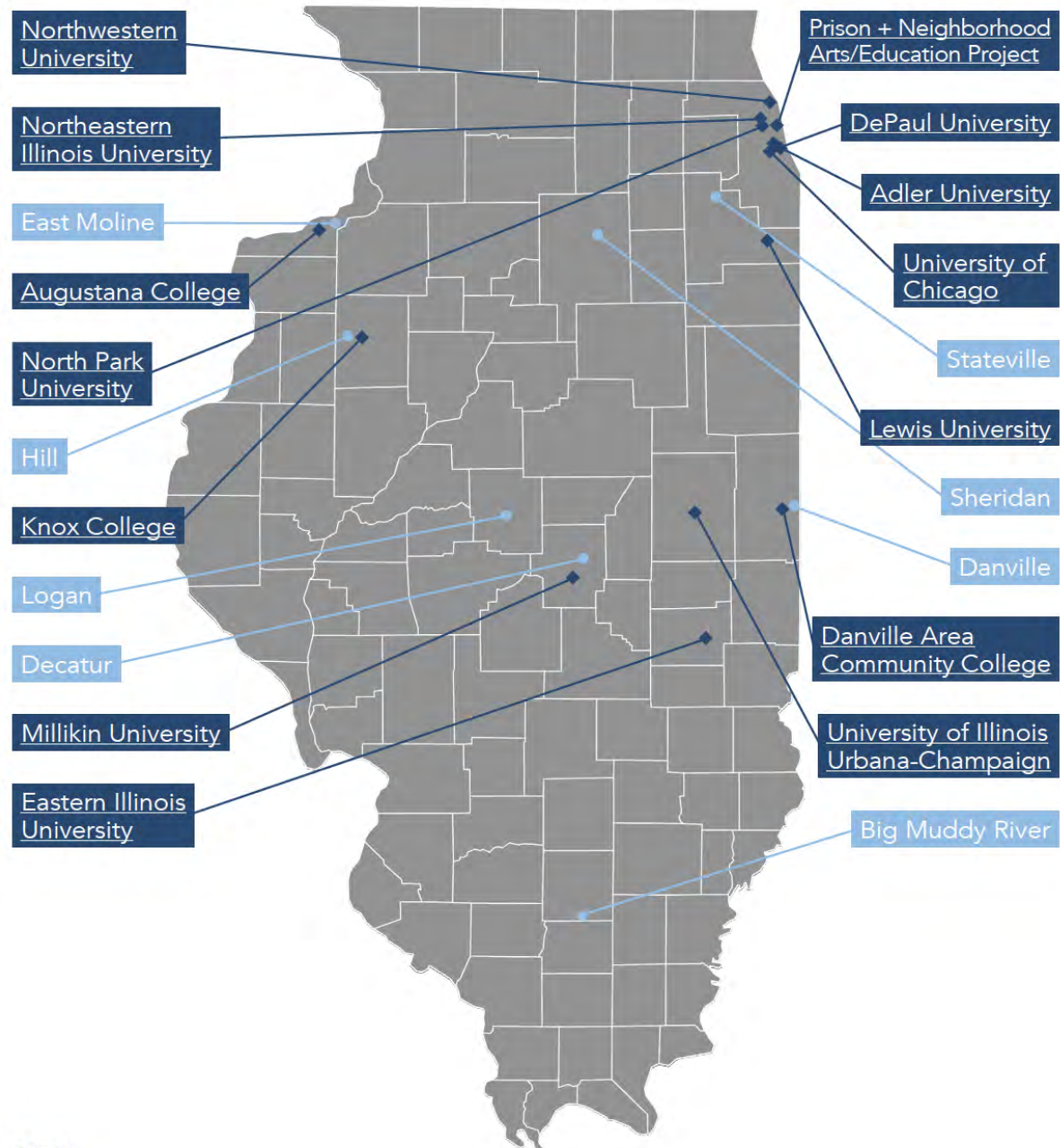


Presenter #2: Angel Pantoja

- Project Coordinator, Illinois Coalition for Higher Education in Prison
- Ambassador, Illinois Prison Project
- Student, Northeastern Illinois University
- apantoja@adler.edu



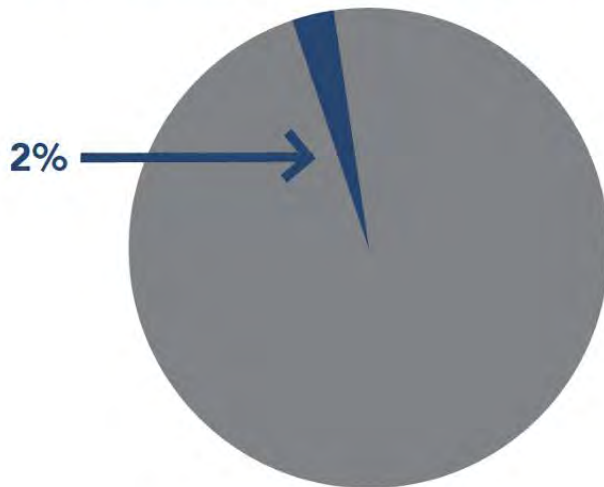
14 Programs Available in 8 Illinois Prisons



KEY

- ◇ University
- IDOC Facility

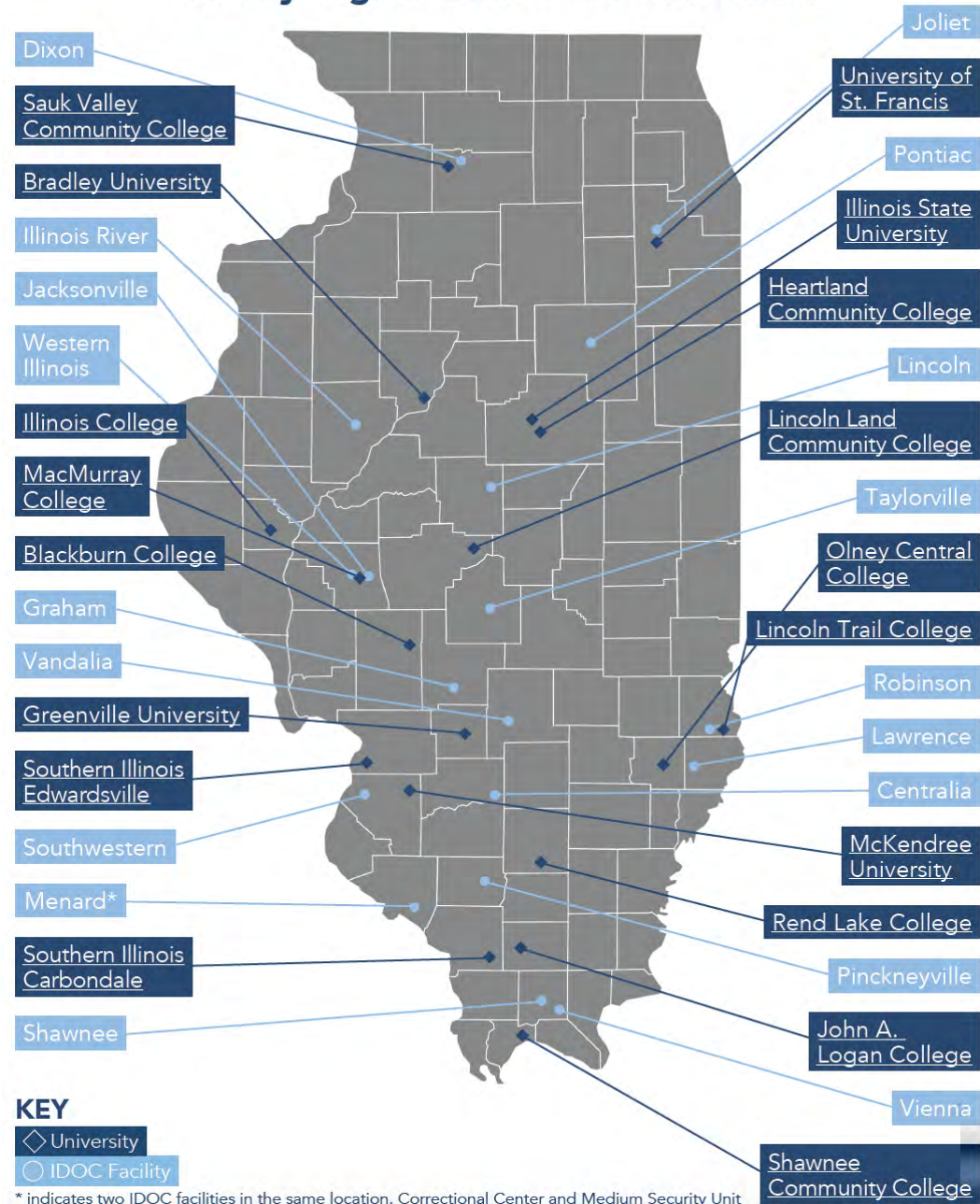
Percent of Incarcerated Individuals Enrolled in HEP Across IDOC Facilities

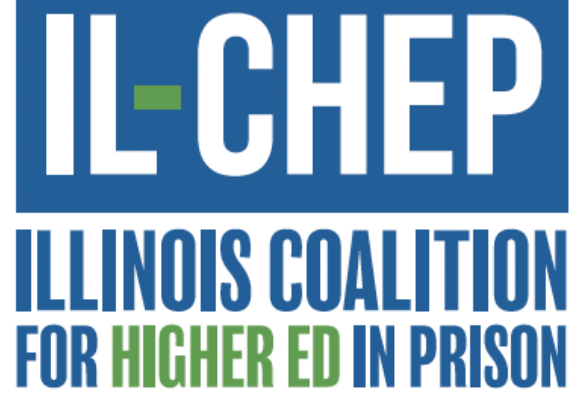


Not enrolled in HEP program

Enrolled in HEP program

Map of IDOC Facilities Without HEP Programs and Nearby Higher Education Institutions





Mission

ILCHEP advocates for greater access to quality higher education opportunities for all people who are incarcerated in Illinois while supporting policies that will abolish our state's and nation's reliance on criminalization and incarceration.

Vision

ILCHEP is a state and national leader in amplifying the higher educational opportunities and voices of incarcerated individuals through liberatory education, direct instruction and policy advocacy. Our ultimate goal is to become obsolete by abolishing our state's and nation's reliance on criminalization and incarceration.

10 Facts About Prisons and Incarcerated People

1

Over 2.3 million people are incarcerated in America. About 7 million people, or 3% of the U.S. population, are under correctional supervision (jail, prison, probation or parole).¹

2

Nationally, more than 8.3 million children have parents under correctional supervision (prison, jail, or on probation or parole). One in every 28 children has a parent in state or federal prison.¹⁷

3

Between 1970 and 2001, the Illinois prison population increased more than 500%. Today, there are over 29,000 people in Illinois prisons with another 26,000 on parole.^{2,3,8}

4

The Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) operates 28 adult prisons, various work and boot camps and four adult transitional centers.³

5

In 2020, Illinois spent \$1.5 billion on IDOC. Nationally, spending is approximately \$64 billion.⁵

6

About 93% of incarcerated people are male; 7% are female.¹

7

Black males have a 32% chance of serving time in prison at some point in their lives; Hispanic males have a 17% chance; white males have a 6% chance.¹

8

Approximately 68% of people in state prisons did not receive a high school diploma; up to 65% are illiterate.¹⁶

9

Between 1987 and 2007, state corrections funding increased by 127% while funding for higher education grew by only 21%.⁶

10

Being formerly incarcerated reduces hourly wages for men by approximately 11%, annual employment by nine weeks and annual earnings by 40%.⁷

Why is HEP important?



Impacts Families Positively

Children with parents that have a college degree are more likely to attend college.



Increases Employment Opportunities

Postsecondary education in prison increases employment and earnings for formerly incarcerated people, most of whom will leave prisons and jails and return to their communities.



Empowers Students to Give Back

Students in HEP programs report greater well-being. Many students go on to form advocacy groups to give back in their communities – benefiting all people in Illinois.



Creates Opportunities for Individual and Community Transformation

Higher education helps incarcerated and formerly incarcerated students develop and share their unique and valuable insights with the world.

Empowerment through Higher Ed Opportunities in Prison



Educational opportunities create social capital

- ▶ Participation in higher education behind the walls can improve a student's conversational skills.¹
- ▶ Not only is learning to communicate effectively helpful with employment and housing, but also in building self-confidence and maintaining social relationships. Professional relationships with faculty allow for these interactions to begin before release.¹
- ▶ Students behind the walls benefit from increased confidence and hope, which fosters the capacity to take an active part in their lives post-incarceration.¹



Education cultivates leaders

- ▶ Incarcerated students develop a stronger work ethic, study routines and critical thinking skills.²
- ▶ Education in correctional settings offers valuable benefits, such as social awareness and problem-solving skills.¹
- ▶ Formerly incarcerated students are more likely to get involved with education following release.¹
- ▶ Critical thinking skills gives incarcerated students the confidence to engage more actively in their lived experiences when navigating the challenges of reentry.³

Presenter #3: Ashton Hoselton



- Policy & Research Director, Education Justice Project at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Steering Committee Member, Freedom to Learn Campaign
- BA in Neuropsychology & Holistic Healing, Pitzer College; JD, Georgetown University Law Center
- ahoselto@illinois.edu

The Freedom to Learn Campaign (FTL): Legislative Pathways to Expanding Higher Education in Prison (HEP) in Illinois



1. Freedom to Pursue Higher Ed While in Prison
2. Freedom to Study Without Interference
3. Freedom from Censorship
4. Freedom to Continue Education Upon Release

news

Illinois Prison Removes More Than 200 Books From Prison Library

May 29, 2019

By LEE V. GAINES

Lawmakers To Question Officials About Removing Hundreds of Books From A Prison Library

NPR Illinois | 91.9 UIS | By Lee V. Gaines

Published June 26, 2019 at 1:22 PM CDT

**‘It’s the racial stuff’:
Illinois prison banned,
removed books on black
history and empowerment
from inmate education
program**

By Peter Nickeas

Chicago Tribune

Aug 15, 2019 at 12:31 pm



Photo credit: Zbigniew Bzdak/Chicago Tribune



Higher Education in Prisons Taskforce

HJR 27

**PASSES INTO
LAW**



Creates the Higher Ed Prison task force that will analyze the current higher ed. programs for incarcerated individuals, assess barriers and opportunities for those individuals, and recommend a legislative action plan to expand access.

1. To obtain and analyze existing data on HEP in Illinois.
2. To identify data points that should be collected to allow for meaningful, statewide evaluation of HEP.
3. To assess barriers and opportunities to HEP in Illinois, including barriers and opportunities to continuing higher education upon release from IDOC.
4. To recommend a legislative action plan.

HB 3818: Statewide Commission



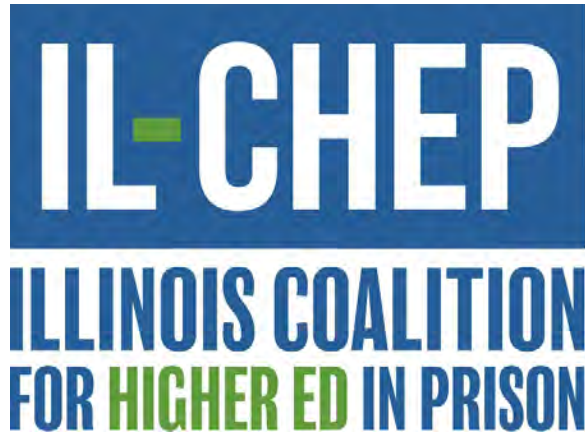
HB 3740: Higher Education
Student Assistance Act



HB 3648: Data Collection



Learn More & Get Involved



ilchep.org



Freedom to Learn IL



freedom-to-learn.net

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