

JCSCORE

Journal Committed to Social Change on Race and Ethnicity

The Journal of the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education

CORRECTING, CORRECTIONS

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Journal Committed to Social Change on Race and Ethnicity
Volume 8, Issue 1 | 2022

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The *Journal Committed to Social Change on Race and Ethnicity* (ISSN 2642-2387) is published by the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity (NCORE), a production of the University of Oklahoma, in partnership with the University of Oklahoma Libraries.

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Second Change Educational Alliance, MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution

Everything I am writing is from personal experiences, watching news, and hearing staff at numerous facilities. I was not able to do any research at the facility library or through assistance from the education program/school due to the short staff. I had to write something. Hopefully, it can be for some use, all I want is to provide some info to try to help my fellow inmates because things are becoming worst in prison and in society.

DEAR,

KAYLA ELLIOTT

I'm writing to let you know that I had trouble finding help at my current facility, from school staff & counselors to do the proper assignment, but I had to write something. Hopefully it can be for some use, all I want is to provide some info to try to help my ~~some~~^{fellow} inmates, because things are becoming worst in prison & in society, something has to change. I don't ask for nothing in return for my self, if things change & it helps the inmates around me, then I'm happy. DR. ERIN CORBETT ALREADY GAVE ME SOMETHING THAT IS BIGGER THAN ANY RECOGNITION & THATS THE EAGERNESS TO LEARN, TEACH & HELP OTHERS. Hopefully you find my paper useful & THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

SINCERELY

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C.C.I.

Note: Everything I'm writing is from personal experience, watching news, and hearing staff at numerous facilities. I was not able to do any research at the facility library or through assistance from the education program/school due to short staff.

How can you call something, "Department of Corrections" when no correction is being done? You have a small percent of people trying to make a difference, while the majority either don't want to, don't know how to or simply just don't care to. In reality it seems more like the "department to punish" than correcting. When you have double, even triple the prison guards than you have Counselors, Mental Health providers, and more importantly teachers that can really help inmates grow, and rehabilitate mentally as humans, then the chances of people reforming, rehabilitating, and growing are very small or non-existent.

It's important that administration, and law makers address the disparity between counselor(s), teacher(s), and mental health provider to that of prison guards, that gap has to be attended to. Not only hiring in those positions just to hire, you have to hire people that really care to make a change, and people from the communities that we more than likely are returning to. Those that can relate in a sense to our problems, and know what it takes to not make the wrong decision. As of the past (18yrs) of me being incarcerated I've been one that have had, and still have a hard time to be able to participate in programs. School also falls under programs, and after receiving my High School Diploma it's been challenging to be accepted in schooling/higher education, because of administration policies about programs. In the state of Connecticut Department of Corrections, they have certain criterias that you have to meet to participate in programs, you also have to be a certain overall level in most cases. Level 2, and 3 are the primary candidates for the majority of the programs.

The criteria consist of being disciplinary free for about 1yr or 2 depending on the offense, the length of your sentence is the one that gets you denied the most, because the most important criteria is that you have to be 2 to 3 years from the "End of Your sentence". That's where I have alot of problems along with a large percentage of the inmates in Connecticut, especially those housed in Level 4 facilities. If you are in a Level 4 facility normally, because you have a lengthy sentence, and you are not close to your "End of Sentence Date", so you would always be denied programs, and higher education. What I ask myself along with inmates that

are willing to participate in programs, schools, and different jobs; why would you offer such programs, school, and jobs at Level 4 facilities with Level 2, and 3 criteria? Furthermore, it is a known fact that the majority of the inmates in Level 4 facilities are people of color, African American, and Hispanic, because of the crimes. African American, and Hispanics are the highest percentage of incarcerated with violent offenses where as Whites are mainly in lower facilities, because of non-violent offenses, and all the programs are meant for the lower levels where there is more White inmates, because society, and the majority of administrations, and law makers have this ideology that White people can change at a higher rate than Hispanics, and African Americans. If you really pay attention, for the same crimes we are being punished differently, and it is also happening in the prison system with programs. You really can't say it is directly racism, but when you break down the dynamics it is, because numbers show that in the lower level facilities it is predominantly White inmate population, and the Level 4's are not so even. Even though they offer such opportunities in Level 4 facilities, but the ones that meet the criteria are those who really belong in Level 2, and 3 facilities, so in other words, yes they have programs in all facilities, but not for everyone, let alone for the majority at Level 4 facilities, only a selected few.

As I always try to go above, and beyond to participate in any, and every program possible. I always come across a big obstacle, my lengthy sentence, and how I'm not 2 or 3yrs to my " End of Sentence Date". I always go into full details, how I've been incarcerated since the age of 15, and I'm 33yrs old now, and even though my (E.O.S.) is in 2038 I'm eligible for parole in (July of 2024), so technically that's in the 2 to 3yr range. Furthermore, I need to show the parole board that I have been participating in programs, because the board of pardon, and parole look at what you have been doing while incarcerated, and of course if you try to explain that you was not given the same opportunities, it is going to be looked at as someone making excuses.

We as inmates are given the impression that programs are very important to rehabilitate, and reform, but everyone is not forwarded that opportunity, not only that, but programs, and higher education help inmates in court with sentence modifications, commutation of sentence, and parole or any other early release. The Department of Corrections is quick to say that its purpose is to rehabilitate, reform, and correct the inmates who for the most part have committed a crime that

led them to be incarcerated, but yet once in prison there's really not enough programs, tools, and real equipped personnel to help a person reform. All you have is excessive prison guards that really don't care, don't know how to, or don't want to help inmates really change, and become better people to return to society, and be productive.

My personal conclusion after writing this paper is that the Department of Corrections say one thing to the public when in all reality they're not doing exactly what they say they're doing, and that's help people that make mistakes in life that need correcting, so they won't repeat themselves, instead all they do is the opposite, and treat us like animals, and try to keep us in cells as much as possible doing nothing productive with our time. Not realizing that if you help return a better person to society than when he came in it is a contribution to the communities they took a oath to protect, and keep safe. If prison guards, and staff was to look at helping inmates become successful in life, that they are providing a better society we can actually see change among our communities.

I want to say that everything I wrote is from personal experience through my years incarcerated, and from just common sense.

I want to make sure that I always give Dr. Erin Corbett all her credit, because she's the reason why I keep writing whether my papers meet the criteria or not; "I'm a keep trying DOC".