



22 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP

Since the founding of the College Program at San Quentin in 1996, the Prison University Project has emerged as a national leader in providing quality higher education opportunities to incarcerated people.

Telling the story of the Prison University Project for this inaugural annual report has given us an opportunity to reflect not only on our accomplishments over the last year, but on the long distance traveled since the College Program was first founded in 1996. There is much to celebrate!

Today our focus is on implementing the goals outlined in our strategic plan—expanding and improving the College Program at San Quentin, providing technical assistance and support to practitioners across California, deepening our assessment and evaluation of the impact of our programs, and building out our organizational capacity. In March, we hosted 100+ practitioners at our Technical Assistance training conference in San Rafael. In June, eight students celebrated the completion of their Associate's Degree at San Quentin, together with friends, family, teachers, supporters, and Prison University Project staff. Over the course of last year, we hosted hundreds of outside visitors to the College Program. We grew our staff, including the addition of a new position of Learning Specialist, and welcomed six new board members. We also received the two largest gifts of support we have ever received, allowing us to launch exciting multi-year initiatives. Inside and outside San Quentin, our students are engaged at the front lines of an array of social movements, and are dedicated to making positive contributions in their communities and in the world.

In the final pages of this report are the names of the individuals and organizations that together made such an exceptionally successful 2018 possible. We are awed by how broad and diverse our base of supporters has become, and deeply grateful to each and every one of you for the part you have played.

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We promote a deeply student-centered and culturally responsive learning environment that is critical to student success. Students in our program pay no fees or tuition and all textbooks and supplies are provided free of charge.

THE COLLEGE PROGRAM AT SAN QUENTIN

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Intellectually rigorous courses were offered through the College Program in 2018, including intensive college preparatory courses in Math and English, and credit classes in the Humanities, Social Sciences, Math, and Science.

COLLEGE PREPARATORY PROGRAM

Our college preparatory program, comprising five courses in writing and math, aims to prepare students with a range of educational histories both academically and socially for college-level coursework, to establish a learning community, and to support students in experiencing a positive shift in identity—for example, to *student*, *scholar*, *academic*, and *community member*—and a shift in their perception of their own abilities.

THE COLLEGE PROGRAM

In order to earn the Associate of Arts degree, students must complete 61 semester units (20 classes). Most courses are introductory and all are transferable to most four-year institutions. The list of course requirements can be found on the following page.

ENGLISH

ENG 101A, Introduction to Reading and Composition ENG 101B, Reading, Writing, and Critical Thinking ENG 102, Introduction to Literature COM 146, Communications ENG 204, Interdisciplinary Reading, Writing, and Research

ELECTIVES (4)

First-year Spanish language (two semesters) and Pre-Calculus or Statistics are recommended for fulfillment of electives, so that students will have completed all transfer eligibility requirements to UC and Cal State campuses.

HUMANITIES

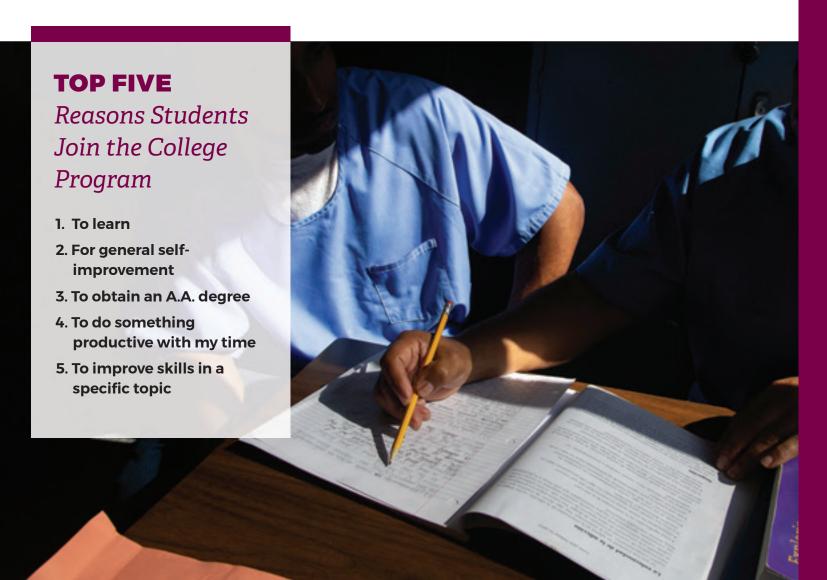
PHL 263, Ethics ART 211, Art Appreciation PHL 271, Introduction to Philosophy REL 180, Comparative Religion

MATH & SCIENCE

MTH 115, Intermediate Algebra Any two science courses, one with a lab (e.g., Astronomy 217, Biology 151, Chemistry 111, Geology 215, Physics 154)

SOCIAL SCIENCES

HIS 101, U.S. History POL 241, American Government PSY 221, General Psychology SOC 230, Sociology





On February 13 at San Quentin State Prison. the Prison University Project Ethics Bowl team faced off against the team from UC Santa Cruz...and won.

The Prison University Project Ethics Bowl team was formed in September 2017 by faculty volunteers KATHY RICHARDS and KYLE ROBERTSON.

Ethics Bowl is a debate format that prioritizes conversation and reflection on questions of applied ethics. Participants are judged on their ability to demonstrate their understanding of the ethical issues involved in a particular case, to address concerns that might be raised by the other side or by judges, and to engage civilly with the competing team.

This debate covered the ethics of psychiatric diagnoses of public figures, national boycott campaigns, the Goldwater Rule, collateral damage and unintended consequences, and utilitarian benefit calculations. The Prison University Project team won the debate.

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STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 1

Expand and Improve the College Program at San Quentin



EVALUATION OF THE COLLEGE PROGRAM

The Prison University Project is committed to rigorous, data-driven evaluation as a means to analyze our own effectiveness, continually improve our programs, and demonstrate the complex, powerful impacts of prison higher education. While programs in prisons are traditionally evaluated from a correctional perspective—in terms of fiscal impact, effect, recidivism, and public safety—the Prison University Project is above all interested in the impact of its programs on the well-being of students themselves, as well as on their families, the larger community, and society as a whole. Foremost, we are interested in educational attainment, including reading, writing, critical thinking, written and verbal communication, and quantitative reasoning skills, which we measure through systems embedded within the College Program itself.

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STRATEGIC
PLAN GOAL 4

Conduct Rigorous Research and Evaluation The Prison University Project has established a partnership with UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy to conduct a multi-year longitudinal study on how participation in the College Program leads to improved student outcomes across a range of categories, including economic mobility and professional outcomes, mental and physical health, civic engagement, educational attainment, and family and community stability, as well as recidivism.

The full study will result in data for shaping policy, supporting advocacy and communications work, analyzing the value of the model itself, and creating tools with which future and existing programs may evaluate themselves. This is much-needed data that will make a significant contribution to the field of prison higher education, and that can be utilized by both advocates and practitioners across the country.

In my eight years of teaching in the Prison
University Project's College
Program, I have consistently felt inspired by the dedication, seriousness, and authenticity with which the students engage. They study big things, and they become bigger for it."

Bill Smoot VOLUNTEER FACULTY

BECOMING INDEPENDENT

The Prison University Project is currently seeking independent accreditation from the Accrediting Commission for Junior and Community Colleges (ACCJC), as well as building out aspects of the organization that will support it functioning as an independent school (e.g., student information systems, institutional research, increased operations/finance capacity, etc.). This new college will be the first of its kind: a world-class college based in a prison and designed solely for incarcerated students. This work began in earnest in the second half of 2018, and has been a significant focus of the Prison University Project's leadership team. At the time of publication of this report, the Prison University Project has been deemed eligible to proceed with an application for candidacy, a major initial success.





ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

On October 5th, the Prison University Project hosted one of the first academic conferences ever held inside a prison in the U.S. Held at San Quentin State Prison, the conference Corrections, Rehabilitation, and Reform: 21st Century Solutions to 20th Century Problems, facilitated a dialogue in which outside academic scholars and those within the criminal justice system could support and improve upon each other's ideas.

Panel topics included:

- Histories and Narratives of Incarceration
- Precursors to Prison
- The Fine Line Between Help and Harm
- Bodies and Control
- Developing Agency in Community
- Alternative Methods and Materials
- Alternatives to Incarceration
- Incarceration and Intersectionality: the Experiences and Analyses of Formerly Incarcerated Women
- Hurdles to Reentry

PATRICK ELLIOT ALEXANDER delivered the Keynote
Address: Reimagining 'Justice Everywhere' from the Prison
Classroom: Teaching and Learning Behind Bars as Justice Pursuit
in the Age of Mass Incarceration. He is an Associate Professor
of English and African American Studies at the University of
Mississippi and co-founder of the University of Mississippi
Prison-to-College Pipeline Program at Parchman/Mississippi
State Penitentiary.

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STUDY GROUPS OFFERED IN 2018

In order to support students in their intellectual, social, and personal growth, we provide extracurricular activities that strengthen community among students and provide opportunities for students to take on leadership roles.

GERMAN LANGUAGE GROUP

A weekly non-credit group that explores the basics of German language.

MATH CIRCLE

An alternative non-credit math enrichment program.

SCIENCE DISCUSSION GROUP

A weekly non-credit group that studies a wide variety of topics in current science research.

2018 GRADUATION

With friends, family, board members, volunteers, supporters and staff in attendance, eight Prison University Project students celebrated the successful completion of an Associate of Arts degree in 2018. Interview excerpts with the graduates are found throughout this report.



We support the expansion of thoughtfully designed and effectively implemented higher education programs for incarcerated people in prisons across the country.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Prison University Project's Technical Assistance Program aims to develop a knowledgeable, skilled, and professional community of prison higher education practitioners by offering resources and services that any college, university, or prison can access to improve their higher education program, and by establishing widely accepted standards of practice for the field of prison higher education.

HIRING A LEARNING SPECIALIST

A core premise of the Prison University Project's mission is that education should be accessible to all; among many other things, this means providing education in a manner accessible to students with diverse learning styles. We believe that students benefit not just from learning, but from learning about learning, so that they can engage actively in their own education, and avoid being derailed by frustration and self-doubt.

In order to increase our capacity to support students across a broad range of academic, emotional, and psychological challenges, we hired Allison Lopez as our team's first Learning Specialist. This position boosts our capacity to recognize learning differences and other barriers to success that our students may face; to devise effective strategies for supporting students and instructors in overcoming these barriers; and to increase awareness about the field of learning differences throughout the program, as well as among other practitioners in the field of higher education in prison.

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STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 1

Increase Individualized Support for Students with Learning Differences and Special Needs



STATEWIDE TRAINING

In March 2018, the Prison University Project presented a three-day, statewide Technical Assistance training in San Rafael, CA. Roughly 100 practitioners attended, representing more than 20 programs from California and around the country. Sessions included the following:

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STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 2

Provide Technical Assistance to **Expand In-Prison** Higher Ed

- Establishing core values for in-prison higher education programs: excellence, inclusivity, standards, and accountability
- Academic and Administrative Planning: Selecting degrees; curriculum development and course planning; understanding students' needs, goals, and potential
- The Prison Classroom: Training teachers on pedagogy, learning disabilities/ differences, and psychological dimensions of learning
- Prison Rules, Regulations & Culture: What teachers and staff need to know about the prison environment
- Psychological Dimensions of Teaching in Prison: From rescue fantasies to secondary trauma
- College preparatory programs
- Institutional Logistics and Planning: Navigating prison rules and procedures related to materials, supplies, equipment, etc.
- Allowable Materials: Decoding CDCR policy and practice related to printed materials,
- California Community College-specific Bureaucratic Challenges & Solutions (with Rebecca Silbert, Director, Renewing Communities Initiative and Chelsea Esquibias, Program Manager, Inmate Scholars Program, Bakersfield College, Delano Campus)
- A panel presentation and group discussion with representatives from Project Rebound (San Francisco State University) and Underground Scholars (University of California, Berkeley)
- Site visits to San Quentin

50+

The number of institutions and organizations, since 2016, that have been served by Prison **University Project Technical Assistance** trainings; see full listings, next page.

The training experience has re-energized me helping to confirm my intentions and abetting my approach as an advocate. I have already begun changing up my tactics regarding some of the barriers experienced and am dedicated to creating space for student empowerment within our program."

Attendee STATEWIDE TRAINING Antelope Valley College, California State Prison in Lancaster Bakersfield College, SATF Corcoran

Cal State East Bay

Castro Valley Unified School District

Center for Engagement, Service, & the Public Good – Cal State LA

Cerro Coso Community College, California City Correctional Facility

Chaffey Community College, California Institution for Women, California Institution for Men

College of the Canyons, Los Angeles County Jail

College of the Redwoods, Pelican Bay State Prison

College of the Sequoias

Columbia College, Sierra Conservation Center

Cuesta College, CMC Prison

Exchange for Change

Five Keys Charter School, County Jail 5, San Francisco

Flinders Law School, Australia Folsom Lake College, Folsom

Women's Facility at Folsom State Prison

Franciscan School of Theology

Hartnell College, Salinas Valley State Prison

Insight Garden Program

Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, UC Santa Barbara

Jackson College, Michigan

John Jay Prisoner Reentry Institute

Lafayette Academy

Lassen Community College, High Desert State Prison

Microsoft

Office of the Inspector General

Otterbein University Prison Program

Plattsburgh State University

Prison Teaching Initiative, Princeton University

Project ALOFA

Project Rebound

Project Rebound, SDSU

Project Rebound, SFSU

Renewing Communities Initiative at The Opportunity Institute

Research Foundation, SUNY Systems and Administration

Rubicon

San Diego State University

San Francisco State University

San Joaquin Delta College

San Jose State University

Sarah Webster Fabio Center for Social Justice

SLCC Prison Ed Program

Southwestern College, **RJD** Correctional Facility

SRJC/SFSU

Taft College

UC Berkeley

UC Berkeley Extension

UC Davis

UC San Francisco

University of North Carolina

Wilmington

University of Washington

West Los Angeles College, Jail Program

Willow Creek Academy

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

Alliance for Higher Education in Prison

Executive Director Jody Lewen continued her national engagement efforts, building this important coalition of practitioners. Learn more at: higheredinprison.org

National Conference for Higher Ed in Prison

Prison University Project staff, board, and volunteers hosted plenary sessions, facilitated workshops, and delivered papers in Indianapolis.

Best Practices Report

Funded by the Lumina Foundation, the report (to be published in 2019) charts quality and practice standards for the field of prison higher education; developed with colleagues Mary Gould (AHEP/St. Louis University) and Tanya Erzen (Freedom Education Project).





THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are an essential component of our programs and the livelihood of our organization. Every dollar that the Prison University Project spends is more than doubled by the value of donated instructional expertise.

Volunteer-related fundraising highlights:

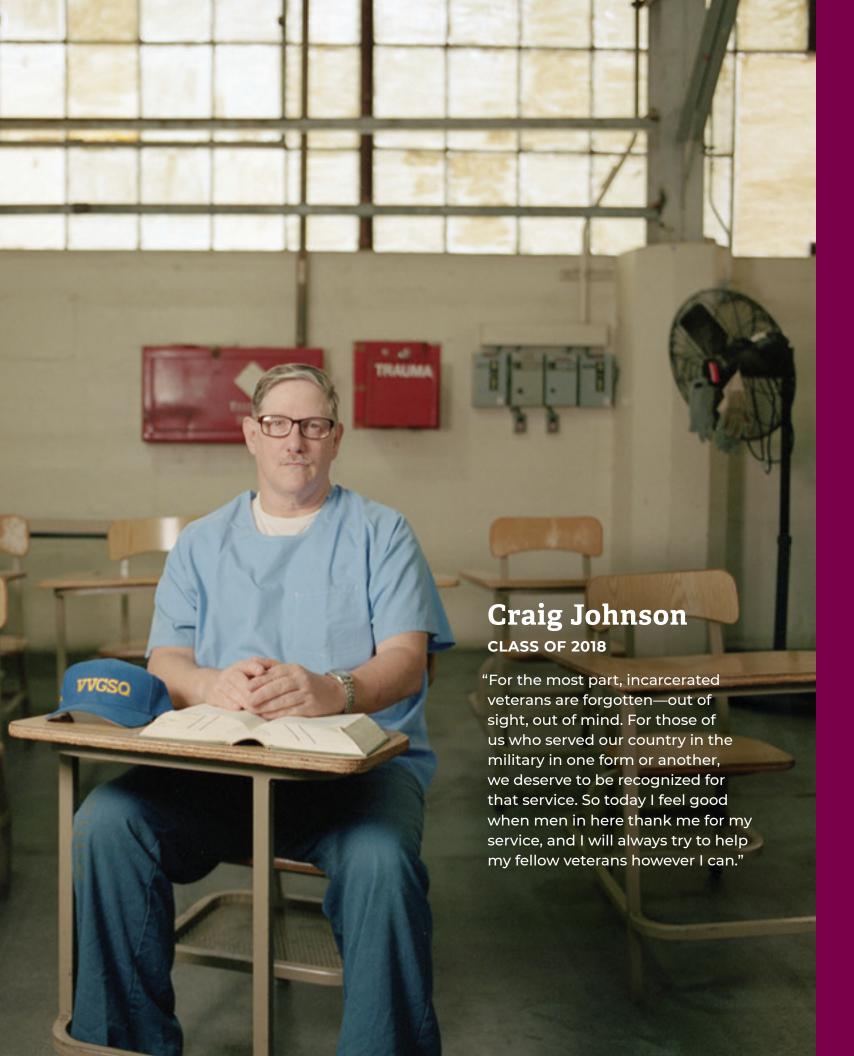
- In 2018, we raised over \$119,000 in contributions from our volunteers alone.
- During our 2018 end-of-year campaign, 12 volunteers served as peer-to-peer fundraisers and helped us raise over \$90,000.
- For our first annual benefit, Gather and Give, one volunteer served as an event sponsor and six members out of the host committee of 11 were Prison University Project volunteers.

 In total, we raised \$89,423 at our first fundraising event.
- 100% of board members donated to the Prison University Project in 2018, contributing \$54,000.

Working with the Prison University Project reminds me every day that education is something that everyone has the right to explore. I am grateful for the space it provides to seek, imagine, and grow no matter what our past or future holds."

Amber Shields VOLUNTEER FACULTY







NCHEP CONFERENCE

Prison University Project
staff, volunteers, and
former students traveled
to Indianapolis for the
National Conference on
Higher Education in
Prison in November 2018.
The conference, titled
"Building the Movement",
energized and strengthened
the already fast-growing
higher education in
prison community.



- Executive Director **JODY LEWEN** led a plenary session on boundaries, ethics, and self-care with Molly Lasagna from the Tennessee Higher Education Initiative.
- Jody also led two pre-conference workshops on starting a
 higher education in prison program with former students
 and Prison University Project staff DAVID COWAN and
 DMITRIY ORLOV. Jody moderated a panel on California
 prison education programs as well.
- Academic Program Director **AMY JAMGOCHIAN** presented a paper on how rules related to "overfamiliarity" play out in the educational context of prison.
- Volunteer instructor, Ethics Bowl coach, and Prison
 University Project board member KATHY RICHARDS,
 former student TOMMY GARDNER, and Lecturer in
 Philosophy and Assistant Director of the Center for
 Public Philosophy at UC Santa Cruz KYLE ROBERTSON,
 presented on the Ethics Bowl format.
- Volunteer instructor AMBER SHIELDS presented a paper co-written by Prison University Project student JAMES KING that questioned how the perpetuation of institutional power structures through the classroom and canon can hinder the accomplishment of educational goals and produce conflicts for a diverse student body.

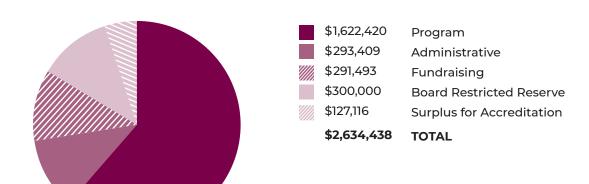
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Below is a snapshot of unrestricted revenues and expenses for the 2018 fiscal year.

REVENUE



EXPENSES



We extend our deepest gratitude to the individuals, corporations, and organizations who supported us in 2018.

SUPPORTERS

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Mary Elliott

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Julia Epstein & Betsy Sandel

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Brenda Hillman Marcia Hofer Jackson Hoffman Dennis Holl Tony Holzhauer Charles Hopple Suné Horn Jonathan Howland Mikiko Huang &

Marshall Stoller Mary & Jay Hubert Claire Huysentruyt Mark Iverson

Joseph Jackson Ginger Jackson-Gleich

Erin Jacobs

A liberal arts education is a window into the beauty, struggle, and cruelty of humanity's will to endure. Through it, we can strive to be and do better. We can learn what it means to uphold and respect the beliefs of others, no matter how different or contrary they are to our own."

Eddie Herena FORMER STUDENT

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Heidi Morshead

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Stephen Murphy-Shigematsu

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Helen Purcell

Hong Qiang

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Maria Rabatin

Vanessa Rabatin

Morris Rabinowitz &

Elaine Spatz-Rabinowitz

Carey S. Pulverman

C Learning itself is the best joy—taking an academic voyage into the unknown and coming away with more knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. The best part of that joy is learning more about myself and the world around me and how to help others learn the same things." **George Coles CURRENT STUDENT**

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STRATEGIC PLAN **HIGHLIGHTS**

GOAL #1: EXPAND AND IMPROVE THE COLLEGE PROGRAM AT SAN QUENTIN

- Building out course offerings, support services, and faculty training
- Building out alumni support services and leadership development programs
- Becoming a fully independent, accredited academic institution

GOAL #2: SUPPORT NEW PRISON HIGHER EDUCATION INITIATIVES THROUGH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Creating toolkits and leading trainings for practitioners, as well as others in the field
- Providing intensive, customized, and hands-on support to select programs
- Creating statewide and regional networks of practitioners and other stakeholders

GOAL #3: EDUCATE TO BUILD A MOVEMENT AND INFORM CHANGE

- Engaging the field and the public around the importance of prison higher education
- Sharing stories of impact
- Building our organization's communications capacity

GOAL #4: BUILD EVIDENCE THROUGH DATA AND EVALUATION

- Evaluating how participation leads to improved outcomes across a range of categories in addition to recidivism, including economic mobility, mental and physical health, civic engagement, educational attainment, and family and community stability
- Partnering with the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley on a longitudinal impact study

GOAL #5: STRENGTHEN THE ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY OF THE PRISON **UNIVERSITY PROJECT**

- Investing in developing and retaining existing staff
- Growing and developing the Board of Directors
- Investing in upgraded information technology and equipment to support our work, both inside and outside of San Quentin
- Increasing strategic ability to track progress toward the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan

See how these goals were put into action in 2018: pages 7, 9, 10, 13, and 15.

PRISON UNIVERSITY PROJECT

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