

Texas Workforce Commission

Adult Education and Literacy



Fall Institute 2020

Handout

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Day 3, Session 3

Teaching in Prison: Lots of Benefits with Issues to Consider

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Session Description: This session will present perspectives from program design to a former incarcerated individual who is now working at Lee College

providing support to Accelerate Texas participants during their program and as they exit into the community.

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Teaching in Prison

Challenges

- Limited potential instructors
- Classroom space, supplies limited
- Limited control of student access, classrooms, testing
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- Ex-offenders have lots of needs – do you have somebody who can handle their unique needs
- Alumni tracking extra challenging

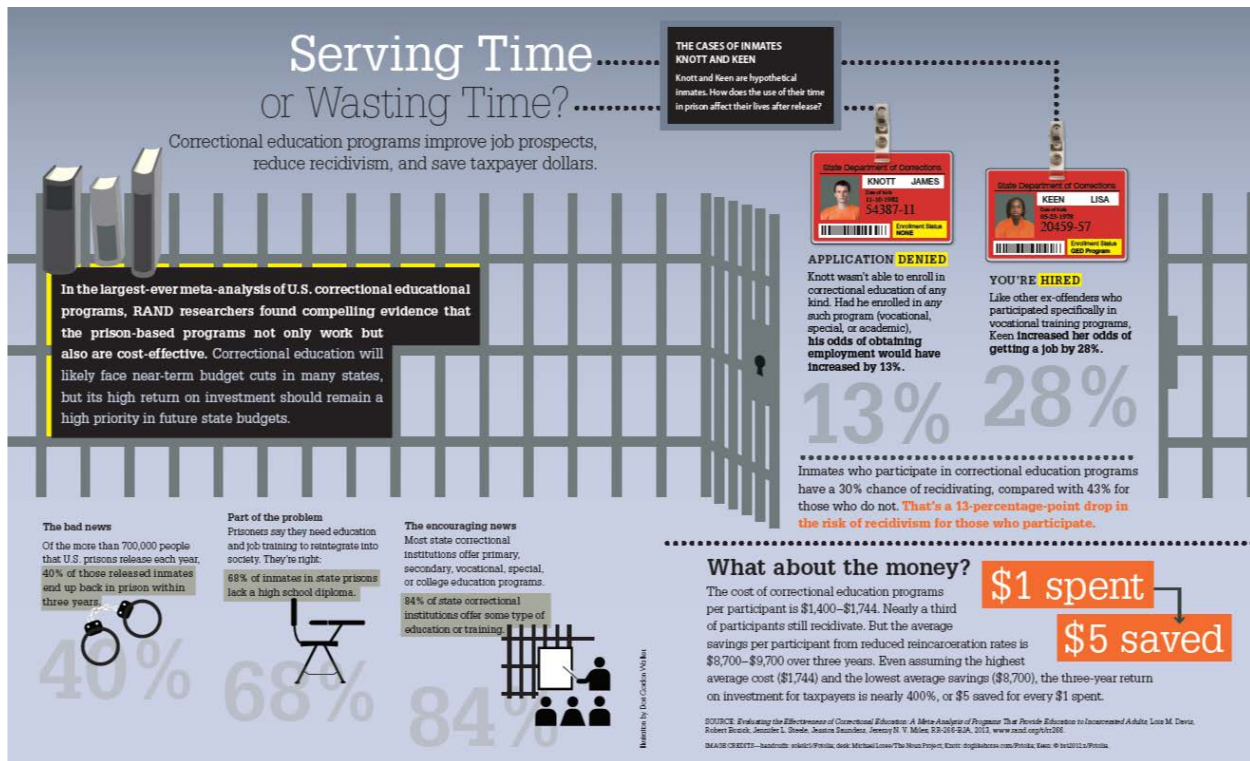
Benefits

- Lots and lots of potential students
- Create new degree-seeking students
- Students are available and rather stable
- Very, very low overhead costs (very cheap marketing)
- Funding available
- Teaching extra rewarding

Tips for Teaching in Prison

Consider

- Get feedback ahead of time from local workforce board (will raise warning flags but also refer employers, grants, targeted occupations – your workforce board and Workforce Solutions offices will help in many ways)
- Engaging new employers (many CEOs get a thrill out of visiting a prison class)
- Understand the physical setting, what the warden and guards expect
- Recruiting instructors in new ways
- Support personnel needed (counselor, adviser, career navigator)
- Is your college or school willing to take ex-offenders and help them enroll?
- Are your college or school's administrators going to support this?
- Are your instructors and advisors going to be serious?
- Shaming another person does not help them or you



This infographic first appeared in the Fall 2013 issue of RAND Review, the flagship magazine of the RAND Corporation. A full-size PDF version can be found at www.rand.org.

References

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