

Teaching In Prison: Lots of Benefits with Issues To Consider



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Teaching In Prison

Challenges

Benefits

Limited potential instructors

Lots and lots of potential students

Classroom space, supplies limited

Create new degree-seeking students

Limited control of student access, classrooms, testing

Students are available and rather stable

Limited control of student access, classrooms, testing

Very, very low overhead costs (very cheap marketing)

Ex-offenders have lots of needs – do you have somebody who can handle their unique needs

Funding available

Alumni tracking extra challenging

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

References

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