

Modesto Junior College (MJC)

Academic Senate

Resolution F19-A: Teaching the Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated

Proposed by Senators Theresa Rojas, Aishah Saleh, Noah Wilson and Andrew Kranzman

Whereas: Incarcerated populations that participate in correctional education programs are 43 percent less likely to recidivate and 58 percent more likely to find post-release employment than those who do not participate in such programs ([US Secretary of Education 11/16/16](#)); and,

Whereas: At least 95 percent of state prisoners will leave incarceration and attempt to reintegrate into society ([Bureau of Justice Statistics, Oct 1, 2019](#)); and,

Whereas: Providing the incarcerated with educational and career-readiness programs not only reduces recidivism but helps break intergenerational cycles of unemployment, poverty, family violence, mental illness, drug addiction and crime; and,

Whereas: Intentionally-designed educational programs for the incarcerated and thoughtful reentry programs which serve formerly incarcerated students (such as the MJC [Bridge Program](#)) can lead to educational certificate and degree completion and aid in the social reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals into our community.

Whereas: The state of California's new, revised funding formula encourages the development of educational programs for incarcerated students by allowing incarcerated student FTES counts to be included in a college's base-funding calculations.

Whereas: Both the prison and community college systems are bound by complicated constraints, including laws, contractual agreements, policies, to assure that course offerings meet the needs of incarcerated students, faculty, collegiate support and classified professionals as well as the needs of corrections staff and detention center, conservation center and prison administrations; and,

Whereas: Input from incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals, the administrative leadership of detention centers, conservation centers and prisons, the California Correctional Peace Officers Association as well as the administration of Modesto Junior College, our Academic Senate, the Yosemite Faculty Association, the Associated Students of Modesto Junior College and the Community College Association of the California Teachers Association needs to be solicited while developing successful educational programs for the incarcerated and reentry support programs for the formerly incarcerated within our service area.

Therefore, be it resolved: To break cycles of intergenerational incarceration, decrease recidivism rates and foster educational program development within detention centers and prisons, MJC should develop and expand correctional education programs by offering courses on-site at detention centers, conservation centers and prisons (as well as online and hybrid courses when allowed by detention center, conservation center and prison regulations) while also providing reentry support programs for formerly incarcerated students.

Therefore, be it resolved: The Academic Senate will help lead the development, implementation and review of educational programs for incarcerated students within our service area by collaborating with the administrative leadership at detention facilities, the California Correctional Peace Officers and the MJC administration, the Yosemite Faculty Association and the Associated Students of Modesto Junior College; and,

Therefore, be it resolved: The Academic Senate will work to assure appropriate faculty input in educational program development, with the input of the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated students as possible, by creating a Teaching the Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated (TIFI) Workgroup to monitor the development, implementation and review of academic, career, technical, professional and support programs offered to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated students; and,

Therefore, be it resolved: The Academic Senate will work with our college administration to address the educational needs of said students, including the transitional (incarcerated to paroled or released), support service (formerly incarcerated) and transfer needs (community college to university) of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated students; and,

Therefore, be it resolved: The Academic Senate will work with other programs from across the state--such as Cerro Coso Community College's Incarcerated Student Education Program, Corrections to College California, Prisoner Creative Art Project, The Prison University Project and Project Change at San Mateo College--as it advocates for, develops and supports effective, sustainable educational programs that meet the transitional, support service and transfer needs of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated students.

Furthermore, be it resolved: The Academic Senate at Modesto Junior College supports and encourages appropriate faculty professional development, appropriate safety training and adequate administrative support in order to be able to offer high quality correctional education to incarcerated students as well as effective reentry programs for formerly incarcerated students.