

Finalists for UCF Collective Impact Community Challenge (These two pages maximum)

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Title: Florida Prison Education Project

1. Describe the project, significant community challenge it addresses, and the target audience and geographic area you will focus on (specific neighborhood, city, count, etc.) in 100 words or less:

The Florida Prison Education Project is a desistance-based program that provides multi-modal education to the 30,000 people incarcerated in Central Florida. Florida has America’s third largest prison system, with 100,000 people behind bars and 3 million residents with criminal records. Each year 33,000 people are released from Florida prisons, and many settle in Central Florida, which has one of the highest incarceration rates in the nation. Correctional education is the most effective way to make a meaningful impact in the lives of ex-offenders, their families, and our community, because it reduces recidivism by 43% and increases post-release employment by 58%.

2. We seek comprehensive solutions that address root causes of an issue, how will your team draw upon the unique expertise, strengths, and assets of the university and engage as many different functional and disciplinary areas of the university as possible?

Internal Collaborators/Partners	Role	Confirmed
Jeff Jones, UCF Connect	Administration and outreach	Yes
Tom Cavanagh, CDL	Technology and infrastructure	Yes
Melody Bowdon, FCTL	Faculty outreach and training facilitation	Yes
Jeff Moore, CAH	Administration and outreach	Yes
Jason Dodge, SDES	Advising and transition services	Yes
50+ faculty from across disciplines	Committed to teaching in prisons	Yes
External Collaborator/Partners	Role	Confirmed
Florida Department of Corrections	Access to sites, staff, and students	Yes
Florida Keys Community College	Inmate training program in hospitality	Yes
Valencia College	Inmate construction industry certification program	Yes
Seminole State College	Inmate construction and manufacturing training	Yes

3. We seek projects that integrate or involve all three areas of our mission. Describe how your project has the components of teaching/academic, research/scholarship, and/or service/engagement.

The Florida Prison Education Project increases student access and inclusiveness by providing a pathway to high quality undergraduate education to at-risk imprisoned populations and it strengthens our faculty and students by providing opportunities for them to teach and intern in prisons.

The Florida Prison Education Project enhances our research and graduate programs in numerous disciplines including criminal justice, legal studies, social work, business, education, psychology, mental health, medicine, visual and performing arts, philosophy, and the humanities, and it offers faculty the opportunity to contribute to interdisciplinary projects.

Correctional education is the best way to make a meaningful impact in the lives of prisoners, ex-offenders, their families, and our community. The Florida Prison Education Project serves and engages the community by reducing recidivism, decreasing crime, increasing desistance, saving tax-payer dollars, and contributing to the safety and well-being of families.

4. Outcomes primarily relate to improvements in knowledge, skills, and attitudes whereas impacts involve improvements in academic, cultural, economic, environmental, health and/or social conditions. State the main three outcomes or impacts that you expect by the first 5 years of implementing this project in 50 words or less total.

The Florida Prison Education Project impacts our community by:

1. Expanding access to higher education to people incarcerated in Florida
2. Reducing crime and recidivism
3. Increasing desistance and employment and strengthening families and communities

5. In 100 words or less total, describe the potential for scaling this project nationally or globally such as salience of the issue nationally or globally and potential national or global partners, etc.

With only 5% of the world's population, the U.S. has more than 20% of its prison population. Correctional education is at the forefront of the national conversation about criminal justice reform, but until last year, Florida was 1 of 11 states that did not offer college courses to prisoners. UCF, as a leader in partnerships and distance learning, can leverage its scale and excellence to offer a desistance-based program that focuses on socialization, transition, and matriculation, and that provides a model of innovative higher education practices through partnerships with the Florida Department of Corrections and the Florida College System.

6. The components of a successful Collective Impact project were discussed during the meeting with Dr. Jones. Describe how your team will incorporate each component for collective impact rather than isolated impact. (No more than one sentence each). Refer to handout provided by Dr. Jones.

UCF is the backbone organization that provides a centralized infrastructure to the Florida Prison Education Project, which is directed by members from across the university's departments and disciplines.

The common agenda of the Florida Prison Education Project is to provide a pathway to high quality undergraduate education to at-risk imprisoned populations.

The Florida Education Project calls upon the most recent data that concludes that the 3 main factors that contribute to desistance, or the process by which people become law-abiding citizens, are educational attainment, employment, and social bonds; all of our programs used evidence-based teaching practices to measure the success of the students, while the FDOC collects data on education, recidivism, and employment that will help us measure our impact and progress.

We have recruited 50+ faculty and graduate students from across the university's departments and disciplines who are interested in teaching in prisons, and we have established common goals with our State College partners and the Florida Department of Corrections.

In order to establish continuous communication and transparency, we have established a mailing list, but will be creating a listserv and website as well.

7. In 50 words or less, describe specific external sources of potential funding and whether there are RFPs forthcoming from those entities?

We have secured \$20,000 in federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts for a pilot program, and have applied for another \$50,000 from the NEA. We will be applying for a \$900,000 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant and a \$5 million Institute of Education Sciences grant (January 2019).

8. Review the information on UCF Cluster Initiatives. In 50 words or less, discuss the potential for this project to form an active, productive Cluster. (<https://www.ucf.edu/faculty/faculty-research-clusters/>)

This project is ideal for a Cluster Initiative as tackling mass incarceration requires support from strong, interdisciplinary teams who are focused on solving tough societal challenges.