Corrections Education: Supporting Justice-Impacted Students
As educators we know that language is powerful and that when we change the language, we change the culture.

To this end, we recommend

- Consider word choices carefully
- Use humanizing language
- Refrain from negative labels
Addressing the Gap

Department of Corrections
WASHINGTON STATE

COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES
Washington State State Board
Navigator Mission, Vision and Values

Mission:
Navigating education pathways with students who have been impacted by the legal system as they engage in holistic and restorative learning that leads to increased personal capacity, long-term sustainability, deeper community integration, and upward economic mobility.

Vision:
We envision a process of integration that mitigates the barriers and stigmas faced by those marginalized by factors such as: race, economic status and the legal system. This is a process which promotes sustainable integration through economic mobility that is anchored in a foundation of community and education.

Values:

Commitment: Advocating for inclusive and equitable access to educational resources and providing student support services for all students.

Respect: It is imperative to maintain and restore mutual respect, act with integrity, treat students with dignity, build trust, and act with consistency.

Representation: Elevate the voices of those with shared lived experiences, and design pathways in collaboration with impacted students and community.

Relationship: Create an environment of mutual respect, validate each student’s process, honor lived experiences, and assist in creating unique pathways that accommodate the student’s goals.
Who we are…

Campus Education Navigators

• **15** total Navigators, representing **14** community colleges and **1** four-year college
• **5** Navigators are justice impacted

Facility Education Navigators

• **12** total Navigators, representing **8** community colleges
Onboarding New Navigators

Divided into **three** sections:

- Bottom Line
- Culture and Language
- Transitions

Onboarding is provided by **at least** three separate Navigators.

Once onboarding is complete, new Navigators are provided with a list, identifying Navigators and their area(s) of expertise.
What we do…

- Career and Academic Development
- Guided Pathways
- Transcript Support
- Financial Aid
- Education Enrollment
- Identifying employment connections
Who are our students?

• Often survivors of **poverty, trauma and abuse**

• Many students are from **historically marginalized communities** and have had limited access to academic success.

• Some may experience **learning or mental health challenges**.

• For women who are incarcerated they are often **mothers** who will return to being the custodial parent after incarceration.

• Most importantly our students are **RESILIENT, dedicated, strong, self-advocates and driven to reach their goals**.

The Equitable Response

• Trauma-informed and Healing Centered Engagement
• Increasing transparency & access to information
  • Technology Skill Development & Information
  • The System of Higher Education (ex. The Ampersand, college enrollment)
  • Career Development
• Communication & Consistency
• Center & Uplift Student Voices

I’ve overcome and dealt with many challenges with the guidance and patience of amazing faculty, and I’m now in my fourth quarter of college.”

– TCC Student (Graduated!)
How we do it…

- Spending time with students
- Provide clear and concise overview of the college system
- Provide space for students to ask questions
- Engage Student Voice Councils
- Identify the student’s needs
- Use DOC monthly release reports to identify releasing students
- Referrals and warm hand-offs
- Relationship building
Helping students reach their goals
5 Navigators are justice impacted

Build Community Relationships

- CCO, Non Profits, DSHS, DOC Reentry Navigators

Create a Holistic Student Support for all justice involved students

Cultivate Conversations Between Faculty, Staff, Students, and Community

15 total navigators, representing 14 community colleges and 1 Four-year college.
Role of Reentry Navigator on a College Campus

- Meet Student Where They Are and Create Supports at That Level to Promote Successes
- Enrollment Support
- Support Across Campuses and County
- Provide Support in the Community
Student programs and support...

- Student Voice Council
- Guided Pathways
- Financial education assistance
- Tribal scholarships
- Workshops
- Student Loan Rehabilitation Program
Questions?

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