



# Corrections Education: Supporting Justice-Impacted Students

#### Language is Power

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







## 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

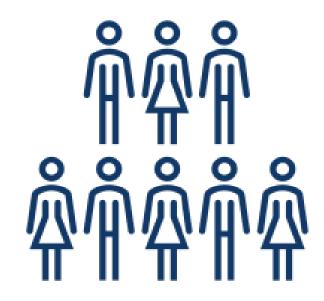
## **Onboarding New Navigators**

Divided into **three** sections:

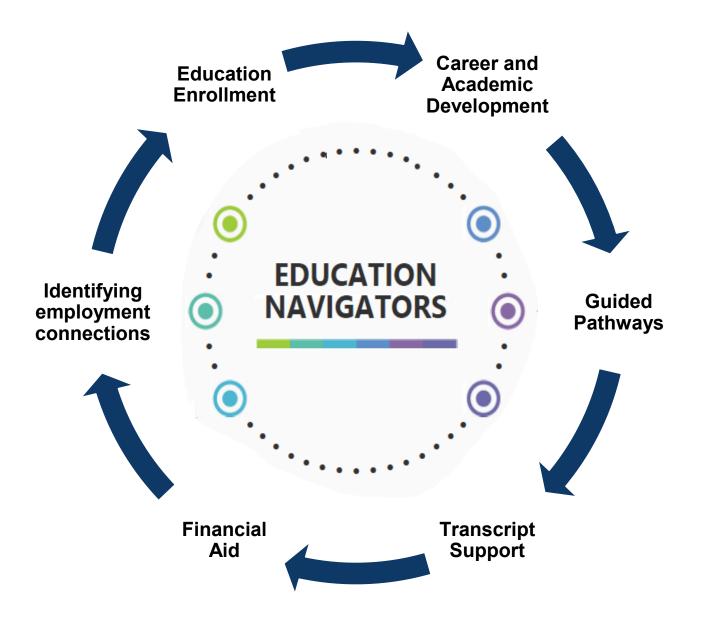
- Bottom Line
- Culture and Language
- Transitions

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



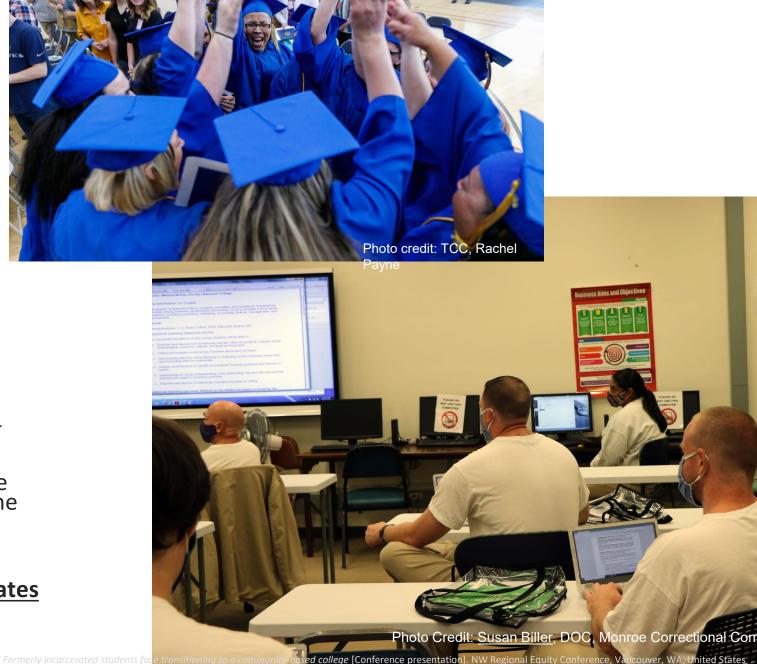




# What we do...

#### Who are our students?

- Often survivors of <u>poverty</u>, <u>trauma</u> and <u>abuse</u>
- Many students are from <u>historically</u> <u>marginalized communities</u> and have had limited access to academic success.
- Some may experience <u>learning or mental</u> <u>health challenges.</u>
- For women who are incarcerated they are often <u>mothers</u> who will return to being the custodial parent after incarceration.
- Most importantly our students are <u>RESILIENT, dedicated, strong, self-advocates</u> <u>and driven to reach their goals</u>.



#### The Equitable Response

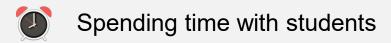
- Trauma-informed and Healing Centered Engagement
- Increasing transparency & access to information
  - Technology Skill Development & Information
  - The System of Higher Education (ex. The Ampersand, college enrollment)
  - Career Development
- Communication & Consistency
- Center & Uplift Student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

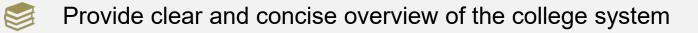


I've overcome and dealt with many challenges with the guidance and patience of amazing faculty, and I'm now in my fourth quarter of college."

- TCC Student (Graduated!)

# How we do it...





- 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



Photo: <u>Tacoma Community College</u>

## Helping students reach their goals



#### Student Experience

- 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

# Campus Education Navigator Community Colleges of Spokane

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







Guided Pathways



Financial education assistance



Tribal scholarships



Workshops



Student Loan Rehabilitation Program



## Questions?

#### Hanan Al-Zubaidy

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