Presenters

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Vision Statement

Changing Lives Through Education
Las Colinas Detention & Reentry Facility
Restorative Justice: Partnerships for Inmate Education

- Significance of Partnership
- Commitment
- Collaboration
- Resourcing
- Advocacy
- Flexibility
- Communication
Partnerships

- Grossmont College
- Las Colinas Detention & Reentry Facility
- San Diego Sheriff’s Department
- National Association of Women Judges (Partnership Advocates)
Commitment

• Resources
• Time
• Expertise
• Long-term Stewardship
Collaboration

- Education
- Law Enforcement
- Community Programs
- Judicial Commitment
Resourcing

• Programming
• College Courses
• Support Services
• Supplies
• Time
Advocacy

• Inside and Out
• Intentional
• Connected
• Memorialized
Flexibility

- Processes
- Learning Style
- Location
- Limited Classroom Resources
Communication

• Grossmont College Team
• Las Colinas Detention & Reentry Facility Team
• Between the College & LCDRF
COORDINATING PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS ACADEMY
The Program

- Cohort Based
- Coordinate and Plan with Instructional Deans
- Requires Coordination with Campus Admissions and Financial Aid Offices
  - Create Paper/Pencil Applications
  - Create Financial Aid Paper/Pencil Forms
The Program

• Ensure Total Class Contact Hours are Satisfied
• Provide Academic Support Services (Tutoring)
• Student Release Dates Impact Their Schedule
• Few Students Drop Out
• Classes Meet According to Student Availability
Currently Pathways Uses 2 Classrooms
The Program

A Sampling of Courses Offered:

• History – Modern American Women’s History
• Science – Introduction to Scientific Thought
• Sociology – Marriage, Family and Alternative Life Styles
• English - College Reading
• Counseling - College & Career Success
• Communication- Interpersonal Communication
What we Have Learned For a Successful Program

• Establish a “TRUE” Partnership with Local Sheriff’s Office and The Correctional Facility
• Understand Institutional Requirements (from Both Ends)
• Understand & Follow Up with Security Clearance Requirements
• Cohort Model - What Does that Mean
• Coordinate Scheduling with Requirements of Jail
• On-Site Campus Admissions & Financial Aid Services
• No Internet
• No Cell Phones
• No Paper Clips or Staples

• Golf Pencils
• Preapproved Materials
• Security and Escorts
The Classroom

- Students WANT Knowledge
- Faculty WANT to Teach at Las Colinas
- Students Continue After Release
- Dean’s List Students!
- Hope is Restored!
THE FACULTY
The transformation of students at Las Colinas is still motivating me. They started tentatively, sometimes struggling and sometimes exceeding both my and their own expectations about their skills and insights. US and women’s history became THEIR history, and their success in the class showed it.

- Sue Gonda, Ph.D.
“Teaching at Las Colinas has been one of the most transformative learning experiences of my life. From the moment I arrived into our learning community, I understood there was mutual teaching and learning taking place. Sometimes I was their teacher; sometimes I was their student. I was humbled on a daily basis by the numerous examples of intellectual curiosity, courage and resilience these amazing Mujeres demonstrated on their path towards becoming better human beings. We worked arduously from the beginning to create a safe space where mistakes we made were used as pivotal educational opportunities. This was only possible thanks to our collective commitment to cultivating an environment in abundance of academic rigor holding hands with an atmosphere of respect, empathy, and never-ending self-reflection. Long live the many individuals and organization that make these opportunities possible.”

- Julio Soto, M.A.

GROSSMONT COLLEGE
"Working with the women at Las Colinas has brought me back to the very reason I first went into education: to help people realize the joy of learning and the power and beauty of their own minds!"

- Linda Thomas
"Teaching at Las Colinas has been a life changing experience for me. In my course, students write a lot of journals where they get the opportunity to reflect on their lives and the choices they made that led them to incarceration. They then learn how to make better choices, set a goal, and create a plan for their future. It is very rewarding to see their growth throughout the semester. It is a transformative experience for them and I am grateful to be a part of it."

- Pearl Lopez, Ed.D.
When I heard about the opportunity to teach at Las Colinas I jumped at it immediately. Other than running the Honors Program for Grossmont, this has been the most rewarding experience of my 18 years at the college. In teaching the class Intro to Science I felt like I was making a real difference in the lives of women who really needed it. The experience was more rewarding, even, than I expected and I would be honored to teach for these students again.

- John Oakes
Teaching at Las Colinas has served as a valuable reminder that education is a potent form of self-empowerment.

- Denise Schulmeyer
“It isn’t anything like I thought it would be. Especially for being incarcerated.

The teachers with their lively personalities and welcoming positive attitudes not only motivate me in this educational journey, but make me crave more...instead of drugs.”
Success

Pathway to success has helped me put a purpose in my life, it uplift my self-esteem and my self-confidence. I now know what I’m capable of and I know that nothing can stop me from achieving my dreams. I spent 5 years in jail, taking every class I could, but it wasn’t until they offered college courses through Grossmont College that I realized that just because I made a mistake didn’t mean that I didn’t deserve a better future. While in custody I completed 19 credits with a 3.9 GPA and I made it to the Deans list. Now I’m attending Grossmont College full-time and I’m working part-time. I can say that now I’m walking in a pathway to success in my life.

- Kanya Zepeda
What Success Looks Like...
Celebration

Congratulations!
Pathways to Success Academy
Cake!
Questions?