

**P**ostsecondary education has been proven to reduce recidivism and promote more successful transitions back into communities for adults returning from incarceration.<sup>1</sup> However, currently incarcerated and reentering adults often face barriers to receiving high-quality postsecondary education. The Council of State Governments Justice Center, with support from Lumina Foundation, conducted an intensive 50-state scan and survey of the statutory, financial, and administrative policies and practices that impact the provision of postsecondary education for this population. This fact sheet outlines the research findings for Indiana.



### HOW ARE SERVICES FUNDED?

#### Correctional Agency Funding

- While the Indiana legislature may not appropriate state funds for college programs in state correctional facilities,<sup>2</sup> the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) may provide financial assistance for postsecondary education programs to those who are incarcerated for a felony conviction.<sup>3</sup> Postsecondary education is funded through federal sources—such as the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and the Second Chance Pell pilot program<sup>4</sup>—and private sources.<sup>5</sup>

#### State Financial Aid

- The Frank O'Bannon Grant, specifically its Higher Education Award, has a statutory restriction for students who have a felony conviction and are currently incarcerated.<sup>6</sup> The other relevant financial aid awards do not have statutory restrictions that prevent people who are incarcerated from receiving the awards. However, in practice, Indiana's Commission for Higher Education uses the federal Pell Grant requirements to determine eligibility; therefore, individuals who are incarcerated are ineligible.<sup>7</sup>



### WHAT IS OFFERED INSIDE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES?

#### Career and Technical Education and Certifications

- IDOC provides career and technical education in coding (The Last Mile), cosmetology, and culinary arts, as well as programs leading to certified logistics associate certification, certified logistics technician certification, certified production technician certification, computer numerical control certification, incident command system certification, Manufacturing Skills Standards Council certification, National Center for Construction Education and Research certification (specifically in level one carpentry and welding [American Welding Society]).<sup>8</sup>

#### Associate and Bachelor's Degrees

- Associate degrees and bachelor's degrees are offered through the Second Chance Pell Pilot site at Holy Cross College, a private institution, with support from Notre Dame University.<sup>9</sup>
- Associate degrees and bachelor's degrees are also offered at Marion University and Oakland City University, private institutions.<sup>10</sup>

#### Labor Market, Employer Feedback, and Outcome Data Alignment

- Indiana has identified local labor market trends, employer feedback, and outcome data as the primary factors that determine the types of postsecondary education and CTE programming that are offered within the correctional facility.<sup>11</sup>



## WHAT RESTRICTIONS OR BARRIERS ARE IMPOSED ON ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION?

### Statutory or Administrative Requirements, Permissions, and Restrictions

- ➔ Participation in postsecondary education programs is based on behavior during incarceration.<sup>12</sup>
- ➔ If withdrawn from an education program for disciplinary reasons, a participant will be eligible to reenroll six months to one year after their withdrawal.<sup>13</sup>

### Use of Criminal History in State College and University Applications

- ➔ Indiana has 16 state universities, 6 of which used the 2019–2020 Common Application.<sup>14</sup> These 6 schools all added questions asking applicants to disclose their criminal conviction history: Indiana University-Bloomington, Indiana University–Purdue University-Indianapolis, Purdue University, Purdue University Fort Wayne (which also includes the Northwest-Hammond Campus and Northwest-Westville Campus).
- ➔ Nine of the 10 state colleges and universities that do not use the Common Application require students to disclose their criminal conviction history: Ball State University, Indiana University<sup>15</sup> (includes its 6 different campuses), University of Southern Indiana, and Vincennes University. Vincennes University also requires applicants who disclose conviction history to complete a “Felony Application and Explanation Form.”<sup>16</sup>



## WHAT INCENTIVES AND SUPPORTS EXIST TO ENCOURAGE ENROLLMENT AND COMPLETION?

### Statutory or Administrative Benefits

- ➔ Individuals can earn “educational credit” and “true credit time” to reduce their sentence by attending postsecondary education programs.<sup>17</sup> The time reduction varies from 30 days to 2 years.<sup>18</sup>
- ➔ Incentives for participating in postsecondary education programs include dedicated or specialized housing and exemption from work requirements.<sup>19</sup>

### Postsecondary Education as a Factor in Parole Decisions

- ➔ State law permits the parole board to consider participation in or completion of postsecondary education programs during incarceration as a factor when granting or denying parole.<sup>20</sup>

### Parole Conditions Related to Postsecondary Education

- ➔ Post-release participation in postsecondary education can meet a parole requirement to seek or obtain employment.<sup>21</sup>

### Support and Services in the Community

- ➔ The parole-granting agency provides occupational training and information on postsecondary education, but does not provide postsecondary education advisors and coordinators and vocational credential testing.<sup>22</sup>

### Coursework Transfer Policies

- ➔ IDOC does not have articulation agreements with schools offering programming in correctional facilities to ensure that courses offered in correctional facilities are equivalent to those offered in the community and that credits fully transfer.<sup>23</sup>

1. Lois M. Davis et al., *Evaluating the Effectiveness of Correctional Education: A Meta-Analysis of Programs That Provide Education to Incarcerated Adults* (Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2013), [https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_reports/RR266.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR266.html).
2. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
3. Burns Ind. Code Ann. § 11-10-5-1; Burns Ind. Code Ann. § 11-10-5-6.
4. U.S. Department of Education, "12,000 Incarcerated Students to Enroll in Postsecondary Educational and Training Programs through Education Department's New Second Chance Pell Pilot Program," news release, June 24, 2016, <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/12000-incarcerated-students-enroll-postsecondary-educational-and-training-programs-through-education-departments-new-second-chance-pell-pilot-program>.
5. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
6. "State Financial Aid—By Program," Indiana Commission for Higher Education, accessed February 14, 2019, <https://www.in.gov/che/4498.htm>; Ind. Code § 21-12-3-13.
7. Adult Student Grant Program: Ind. Code § 21-12-8-3; Workforce Ready Program: Ind. Code § 21-12-8-9; Employment Aid Readiness Network (EARN): Ind. Code § 21-16-1-8; Lauren Hobby, Brian Walsh, and Ruth Delaney. *A Piece of the Puzzle: State Financial Aid for Incarcerated Students—Technical Appendix*. (New York: Vera Institute of Justice, 2019), 25.
8. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
9. "Holy Cross selected by Second Chance Pell Grant Program," Holy Cross College, n.d., accessed March 8, 2019, <https://www.hcc-nd.edu/second-chance/>; U.S. Department of Education, "12,000 Incarcerated Students to Enroll in Postsecondary Educational and Training Programs through Education Department's New Second Chance Pell Pilot Program," news release, June 24, 2016, <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/12000-incarcerated-students-enroll-postsecondary-educational-and-training-programs-through-education-departments-new-second-chance-pell-pilot-program>.
10. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
11. Ibid.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.
14. The Common Application, an undergraduate college application system, recently removed its required criminal history question, but maintains its questions on disciplinary infractions. However, colleges on the Common Application can add questions regarding criminal conviction or disciplinary information to their individualized applications.
15. Includes: Indiana University-East, Indiana University-Fort Wayne, Indiana University-Kokomo, Indiana University-Northwest, Indiana University-South Bend, and Indiana University-Southeast.
16. "Admission Requirements," Vincennes University, accessed October 2, 2019, <https://www.vinu.edu/web/admissions/requirements>; Vincennes University, "Felony Charge and Explanation Form," accessed October 2, 2019, <https://www.vinu.edu/documents/4390381/4390437/Felony+Application+and+Explanation+Form.pdf>.
17. Burns Ind. Code Ann. § 35-50-6-3.3; The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
18. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
19. Ibid.
20. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state parole-granting agencies, July 12, 2019.
21. Ibid.
22. Ibid.
23. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.