

THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

**Bill Number:** Senate Resolution SR #2020-09  
**Title:** Resolution in Support of California State University, Long Beach Offering Face-to-Face, Postsecondary Education Programs to California State Prisoners  
**Sponsored by:** Senator for the College of Education Dale Lendrum  
**Date Submitted:** January 11, 2020  
**Date Approved:** February 12, 2020

- WHEREAS** the Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) Board of Directors at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) is the recognized voice for over 37,000 students; and
- WHEREAS** CSULB and ASI are committed to educational equity, inclusive excellence and the public good, and
- WHEREAS** providing postsecondary prison education programs for prisoners facilitates educational equity, promotes inclusive excellence, and serves the public good; and
- WHEREAS** it has been IMAGINED that by 2030 CSULB would provide face-to-face, hybrid, and/or online postsecondary degree programs at the bachelors, masters, and/or doctoral levels; and
- WHEREAS** a primary vision of Beach 2030 is growth to 70,000 students, and providing face-to-face prison education programs would contribute to that goal without further straining physical, campus resources; and
- WHEREAS** there is a relationship between a lack or low level of education and criminality, incarceration, and recidivism;<sup>2</sup> and
- WHEREAS** recidivism, for the purposes of this resolution and the data provided, refers to individuals being returned to prison within the first three years of their release; and
- WHEREAS** the current rate of recidivism in California is reported at 65%;<sup>1</sup> and
- WHEREAS** prisoners who participate in college level course work are 43% less likely to recidivate;<sup>2</sup> and
- WHEREAS** prisoners who achieve a high school diploma or equivalent, experience less than a 55% chance of recidivating while prisoners who achieve an associate's or bachelor's degree experience less than a 12% and 6% chance of recidivating respectfully, and those whom achieve graduate level degrees (M.A., Ph.D., Ed.D., etc.) experience a zero chance of recidivating;<sup>3</sup> and
- WHEREAS** prison education programs are cost effective, with a \$1 investment in prison education reducing incarceration costs by \$4 to \$5 during the first three years post-release;<sup>2</sup> and
- WHEREAS** there is a positive relationship between prison education and degree attainment pre-release and public safety and employability post-release;<sup>6</sup> and
- WHEREAS** the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation estimates that 52,000 prisoners, nearly half of California's prison population, are potentially eligible for college level coursework;<sup>6</sup> and

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- WHEREAS** the mission of the California State University, in part, is to seek “out individuals with collegiate promise who face cultural, geographical, physical, educational, financial, or personal barriers to assist them in advancing to the highest educational levels they can reach;”<sup>5</sup> and
- WHEREAS** the Director of the Division of Rehabilitative Programs for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Brant Choate, envisions all 23 CSU campuses delivering degree content to all of California’s state prisons;<sup>7</sup> and
- WHEREAS** California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA) is the only CSU offering a face-to-face, postsecondary degree program within California’s prison system;<sup>8</sup> and
- WHEREAS** there is campus wide support for delivering face-to-face, postsecondary degree programs to California’s state prisoners; now therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that ASI recognize the wide ranging and long-term benefits of offering face-to-face, postsecondary prison education programs to prisoners; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that ASI urges the CSULB administration to invite campus stakeholders to form a task force to conduct a cost analysis, research potential funding sources, test the campus climate, and report back in a feasibility study; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that ASI urge the California State University to partner with the California Governor’s Office and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in the development and delivery of a state-wide, postsecondary prison education program; and be it finally
- RESOLVED** that an electronic copy of this resolution, upon approval by the ASI President be distributed to the CSULB President Jane Conoley, Provost Brian Jersky, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Mary Ann Takemoto, Dean of Students Piya Bose, The California State University Chancellor and Board of Trustees, the Academic Senate for the California State University, California Governor Gavin Newsom, Director of the Division of Rehabilitative Programs for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Brant Choate, Associated Students President/CEO Lizbeth Velasquez, all ASI Officers, the Daily 49er, and 22 West Media.

<sup>1</sup>Auditor. (2019). *California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation*. Retrieved from <https://www.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2018-113.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>Davis, L. M., Bozick, R., Steele, J.L., Saunders, J., & Miles, J.N.V. (2013). *Evaluating the effectiveness of correctional education: a meta-analysis of programs that provide education to incarcerated adults*: Santa Monica: RAND Corporation.

<sup>3</sup>“Education as crime prevention,” Open Society Institute, Criminal Justice Initiative, Research Brief Occasional Paper Series No. 2 (September 1997); E.R. Meiners, “Resisting Civil Death: Organizing for Access to Education in our Prison Nation,” *DePaul Journal for Social Justice*, Vol. 3, No. 1 (2009), H. McCarty 2006 op. cit.

<sup>4</sup>McElreath, D. H., Doss, D. A., Jensen, C., Mallory, S., Wigginton, M., Lyons, T., . . . McElreath, L. S. (2018). Failed hopes of education: Revisiting the relevancy of education as a method of diminishing recidivism. *International Journal of Adult Vocational Education and Technology*, 9(1), 15-30. doi:10.4018/IJAVET.2018010102

<sup>5</sup>The Mission of the California State University. (n.d.). Retrieved July 21, 2019, from <https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/about-the-csu/Pages/mission.aspx>

<sup>6</sup>Mukamal, D., Silbert, R., & Taylor, R. M. (2015). Degrees of Freedom: Expanding College Opportunities for Currently and Formerly Incarcerated Californians. *Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy*.

<sup>7</sup>Personal Communication, Dale Lendrum and Brant Choate, 2017

<sup>8</sup>Prison Graduation Initiative. (2019, February 14). Retrieved January 9, 2020, from <http://www.calstatela.edu/engagement/prison-graduation-initiative>.



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*Leen Almahdi*

Leen Almahdi, Vice President &  
Chair, Associated Students Board of Directors

Delivered to the President of the Associated Students on:

*Lizbeth Velasquez*

Lizbeth Velasquez, Associated Students President

2/12/20  
Date  
2/12/20  
Date

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