

Why Invest in Prison Education?

Over 60% of inmates in the Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) are in custody within Clark County facilities (Nevada Department of Corrections, 2023). Currently, Clark County is second in the state for former inmates most likely to return to prison (Livingston, 2022). Studies suggest that approximately 68% of people released from prison are rearrested within 3 years, 79% within 6 years, and 83% within 9 years (Alper, Durose, and Markman, 2018). These statistics have social and economic costs which can be positively impacted by providing educational and career skill building opportunities.

The CSN Prison Education Program is dedicated to decreasing the recidivism rates in Clark County and Nevada by providing students within NDOC facilities the opportunity to attain an associate degree or certificate in technical education. Nationally, Prison Education Programs have been shown to reduce recidivism by over 40% while providing numerous benefits at the individual, social, and community levels (Bozick, Steele, Davis, & Turner, 2018; Office of Public Affairs, 2013). This includes but is not limited to better employment and income opportunities upon release, increased stability for children of incarcerated parents, increased safety of prison correctional officers, and decreased crime in our local community (Bozick et. al. 2018; Huberner, 2003; Wooldredge, 2020). For every dollar invested into prison education, between four and five is saved in incarceration costs (Bozick, Steele, Davis, & Turner, 2018). By providing incarcerated students with college access, CSN supports the mission of breaking the cycle of chronic recidivism in southern Nevada.

References

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