### Illinois-Logo-Full-Color-RGB Education Justice Project

*The mission of the Education Justice project is to build a model college-in-prison program that demonstrates the positive impacts of higher education upon incarcerated people, the communities from which they come, the host institution, and society as a whole.*

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**Writing and Math Partner Application**

For Spring Semester 2021

Due date: March 1, 2021 @ 5pm

Submit to Coordinators:

 Cristina Schlesier at cristina.schlesier@gmail.com &

 Adithya Kuchibhotla at kuchibh2@illinois.edu

**COVID-19 Disclaimer:** Due to the pandemic, EJP programming in the prison has been suspended since March 2020 and will remain suspended until further notice. While interested persons are highly encouraged to apply to WAMP and join the EJP universe (EJP is still very active outside the prison), please know that you will not be able to enter the prison as a volunteer until EJP and the Illinois Department of Corrections both determine that it is safe to resume programming.

However, due to the time it takes for new applicants to be cleared by IDOC (~ 8 months), it may be that the prison will have opened up by the time new volunteers are cleared for entry.

Thank you for your interest in the Education Justice Project’s Writing and Math Partners (WAMP) program!

Writing and Math Partners provide EJP students with academic support for credited coursework, writing, and extra-curricular learning. We operate out of two community library rooms and a computer lab at Danville Correctional Center, replicating the structure and energy of office hours or study hall. Attendance for WAMP sessions generally ranges from 15 to 40 students, all working on various forms of scholarship–-completing assignments, reading for classes, conducting independent research, collaborating on group projects, listening to and editing audio presentations, completing math and computer programming exercises, attending writing consultations, and discussing academic topics. WAMP members typically provide writing and math support, hence the name, but we hope that WAMP members are passionate and curious about the diverse subjects that EJP students are studying and are able to lend lateral support and foster peer-learning in WAMP spaces. That is, a WAMP member may have specific strengths in Writing *or* Math, but WAMP members are also encouraged to expand their engagement with students beyond their subject-area expertise. A successful WAMP member is one who is not only able to tutor and teach, but also able to learn in collaboration with others and contribute to interdisciplinary study.

WAMP sessions are currently held twice weekly. In the past, typical time slots have been Monday 5:00pm–8:00pm and Friday 12:00pm-2:30pm. Members generally carpool together, and it is a 45-minute drive from Urbana. We ask WAMP members to commit to a minimum of 7 sessions each semester (about twice a month). Please give serious thought as to whether your schedule will allow for this commitment.

Writing and Math Partners come from diverse University of Illinois campus departments, from other campuses, and from the larger community. What we share is a seriousness of purpose about the task of providing higher education to incarcerated students and assisting them in their academic endeavors. WAMP members will receive training on best practices for writing pedagogy and math education, as well as instructing within a prison.

We welcome applications from all qualified applicants. We especially encourage applications from individuals with disabilities, members of historically underrepresented racial groups, first-generation college graduates, and post-traditional students. Please note that the classrooms are on the second floor of the prison and that there is no elevator. Our main criteria in selecting WAMP members are seriousness of purpose, flexibility, and maturity.

Minimum requirements for WAMP members are:

* passing the background security check and IDOC (Illinois Dept of Corrections) security clearance requirements. In general, applicants to EJP do not gain clearance to enter the prison until at least 6 months after they apply. This is due to IDOC’s clearance process and something EJP has no control over, unfortunately.
* a schedule that allows enough time to staff WAMP twice a month. This includes attending a training session and occasional meetings. Optional but highly encouraged are the EJP Convocation and various community-wide events on the Urbana campus.
* a commitment to social justice.

Finally, applicants should be aware that EJP approaches this work from a prison-abolitionist ethic, which informs the pedagogical and organizational values that structure EJP, as well as WAMP. Regardless, we invite applicants who have varied perspectives on the prison system and the role of education and hope that this work will challenge and inspire you, and that your contributions will refine and develop EJP.

To apply to WAMP, please start by completing this application and sending it, with a copy of your CV or resume, to Cristina Schlesier and Adithya Kuchibhotla, WAMP Co-coordinators, at cristina.schlesier@gmail.com **and** kuchibh2@illinois.edu**.**

Please contact Cristina Schlesier and Adithya Kuchibhotla if you have any questions about WAMP.

The deadline for submitting your application is **March 1, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.**

**Education Justice Project**

University of Illinois
1001 S. Wright St
Champaign, IL 61820
217-300-5150

info@educationjustice.net

WAMP Application

Please use as much space as you need to answer the following questions.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Occupation:

Employer:

UI Department (if applicable):

What degrees do you hold (if applicable)?

How did you hear about the Education Justice Project?

1. Why are you interested in instructing at Danville Correctional Center?

2. What organizations have you worked or volunteered with in the past 3-5 years? Please be sure to note any prison work.

3. Please describe any subject-area or professional expertise you have. (Example: foreign languages, writing, mathematics, special education)

4. EJP expects WAMP members to be able to offer either writing support (across disciplines) and/or math support to our students. We currently provide training on writing center practices. Have you worked in or made use of a writing center? Tell us about that experience.

5. Please tell us about any other skills, work experiences, or volunteer experiences that you believe prepare you for tutoring in a prison.

6. Working in a men’s medium high-security prison brings up diverse feelings and presents a range of challenges for volunteers. Please reflect briefly on what you imagine will be the main challenges or concerns for you. (Please note: applicants who answer ‘none’ will not be considered to have the seriousness of purpose required for this position.)

Please make sure that your schedule will allow you the time to commit to EJP. Let us know if you anticipate, for instance, traveling during the semester or being consistently unavailable on Monday evenings.

As of today, how many semesters do you think you would like to work with EJP?

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Your Signature (electronic or by hand)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date

Please list two references we may contact (not family members):

1. Name:

Relationship:

Phone:

E-mail:

How long have you known this person?

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Relationship:

Phone:

E-mail:

How long have you known this person?