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

**Chicago/Community Anti-Violence Education (C.A.V.E.)**

**Due October 1, 2021**

**COVID-19 Update**

We are happy to announce that we plan to offer in-person programming for the 2021-22 academic year!  EJP is implementing the following safety precautions:

* **Vaccination** –submit proof of vaccination or weekly COVID-19 test results *(required by EJP)*;
* **Temperature checks** – at the front gate of the prison *(required by the prison)*;
* **Masks** – prison requires that each volunteer wears the mask provided at the front gate. We encourage you to double mask, by wearing your own mask, brought from home, on top of the one supplied by the prison *(required by both EJP and the prison)*;
* **Social Distancing** – 6-feet social distancing at the prison *(required by EJP).*

Please be aware that in-person programming at the program is dependent on the status of COVID-19. EJP, the University of Illinois, or the Department of Corrections may decide to suspend programming as deemed appropriate for the safety of our members and/or incarcerated individuals. Thanks for your flexibility and understanding!

**About C.A.V.E.**

Thank you for your interest in the Education Justice Project’s Chicago/Community Anti-Violence Education program. We are grateful that you want to learn more about this exciting program.

C.A.V.E. started in 2010 when students of the Education Justice Project expressed a desire to contribute to putting an end to violence on the streets of Chicago. They were especially concerned about the impact of violence on Chicago youth. Committing themselves to work slowly and deliberately through literature on urban violence, human development, and various intervention models, they selected a curriculum, proposed a program, and recruited members. Full implementation of C.A.V.E. began in fall 2014, reaching out to other incarcerated men at the Danville Correctional Center. This is our mission statement:

“C.A.V.E. is a peer-driven anti-violence program that empowers incarcerated men through mentoring, education, and character-building to return to their communities as peacemakers.”

They seek your participation in their work. Outside members (i.e. those who are not incarcerated) will serve the program as facilitators alongside the EJP students.

C.A.V.E. has adopted a structured but open-ended counseling curriculum rooted in understanding trauma, with room for input from everyone. The program consists of regular meetings at the prison with both EJP students and men from the prison population who commit to completing a year of meetings, and to continuing contact with released EJP students once they are released. Everyone who works with C.A.V.E. will be expected to go through a training program and to contribute to shaping the training for future members.

C.A.V.E. has been meeting on Monday afternoons and Friday mornings at the prison. This will not necessarily be the schedule permanently; that will depend on prison scheduling and the availability of C.A.V.E. members. There are also occasional online meetings.

**Application Process**

Please take several minutes to fill out this form and provide some information about yourself. If you can, please fill it out in a word processing program so that your answers can be as extensive and complete as possible. We want to know more about you.

There are no special qualifications for being a member of C.A.V.E. We are looking generally for seriousness of purpose, sophistication about the social contexts from which incarcerated people come from (particularly in Chicago), and commitment to anti-violence. Flexibility, humility, a high level of emotional intelligence, and the ability to work collaboratively will be helpful. Both men and women are welcome to apply. You must have a bachelor’s degree. Experience in violence prevention work, with programs for young adults, or therapeutic or counseling experience is not necessary, but definitely a plus.

All applications are welcome. However, because EJP aims to create a supportive learning environment for our incarcerated students, we especially encourage applications from individuals whose backgrounds align with those of our students. This includes members of racial minority groups, first-generation degree holders, and individuals from low socioeconomic status backgrounds. EJP programs are held in the education building at the Danville Correctional Center on the second floor. Unfortunately, there is no elevator to the second floor.

Completion of Department of Corrections clearance application, a lengthy process, is required for all C.A.V.E. members. It includes paperwork and at least two visits to the prison.

After we receive your form, we will contact you to discuss your application. Those who end up working with the program will be required to attend a half-day training (online), in addition to the general EJP-wide introduction sessions for new members.

Thank you again.

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Mailing Address:

Today’s date:

1. How did you hear about the Education Justice Project?

2. What interests you about getting involved with EJP and C.A.V.E.?

3. What commitment do you have to nonviolence?

4. What experience do you bring working with issues of:  a) mass incarceration b) mental health c) violence prevention?  Please answer for all 3.

5. EJP represents a significant time commitment. Are you able to participate at least once every week in C.A.V.E. meetings at the prison, in addition to attending other EJP events at least once every two weeks?

6. Please tell us anything else you’d like to share about your personal background that you have not addressed yet.

Please send this form as an attachment to Eva Rogaar (rogaar2@illinois.edu), coordinator of C.A.V.E., along with three names and phone numbers for personal and/or professional references.

Education Justice Project

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