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

*.***Accounting Certificate Support Partner Application**

Submit application to: Ellen Ritter at esritte2@illinois.edu

*The mission of the Education Justice Project (EJP) is to build a model* [*college-in-prison program*](https://educationjustice.net/programs/) *that demonstrates the positive impacts of higher education upon incarcerated people, their families, the neighborhoods from which they come, the host institution, and society as a whole.*

You’re invited to become part of an exciting new initiative between the Gies School of Business and the Education Justice Project. Together, we plan to offer an Accounting Certificate to incarcerated men at Danville Correctional Center.

We are currently recruiting individuals who will serve as tutors to the accounting students.

This program will be the only one of its kind in the country. We hope you will want to be part of this innovative pilot. Keep reading for more information!

**Background**

Since 2008, the Education Justice Project has been offering educational programs to individuals incarcerated at Danville Correctional Center, a men’s medium security state prison located about 40 miles from the Urbana campus. These include for-credit U of I courses, for which students earn Illinois credit and participate in reading groups, workshops, computing, an anti-violence group, and much more. These programs are offered in the prison’s education building where classrooms are equipped with chalkboards and in some cases computers, projectors, and screens. In a typical year, over 60 EJP instructors from campus and the local community participate in these programs, supporting incarcerated students’ educational goals while educating themselves about incarceration and criminal justice.

We are very excited about our new Accounting Certificate Program. Developed through a partnership between EJP and the Gies College of Business, the certificate will provide the same content as the equivalent Coursera “Fundamentals in Accounting” specialization courses. You can learn more about the Coursera courses [here](https://www.coursera.org/specializations/accounting-fundamentals). The Certificate Program will be open to any incarcerated EJP student at Danville Correctional Center.

**Support Partners**

We anticipate that the courses required for the certificate will be offered once per week for 3 hours each to a cohort of 10 – 15 students. We are looking for 4-6 Support Partners who will provide students with academic support during the course sessions. 10-15 hrs per month is the expected investment. You will be expected to go out twice a month to the prison.

The dates and times have not yet been determined.

Support Partners will not act as formal instructors. Instead, their role is to be there for students when they have questions about the material or need support working through their accounting assignments on the computer. They may also occasionally facilitate study group sessions. Ideally, the same Support Partners will provide academic support as the students advance through the course material, throughout the Spring 2023 semester and beyond. Support Partners will need to coordinate with professors regarding coursework to produce the optimal course experience.

**Compensation**

This is a part-time 10-15 hrs per month volunteer role.

**Application Process**

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.

We invite applicants from individuals who are open to critical discussions of the US prison system while engaging in EJP. We hope that this work will challenge and inspire you.

Please note that the classrooms are on the second floor of the prison and that there is no elevator.

*Minimum requirements*

* Bachelors in Accounting, Business, or related field, or equivalent professional experience;
* A schedule that allows enough time to support students taking the accounting certificate courses every two weeks. Each visit, including travel, will be about 5 hours;
* Interest in criminal justice, reentry, or related topics.
* Excellent communication skills.

*Preferred requirements*

* Previous experience with social justice-oriented programs or similar;
* Experience teaching, tutoring, or similar roles.

We hope you’ll want to be involved! We look forward to hearing from you and learning more about you. Please start the application by completing this application and sending it, with a copy of your CV or resume, to Ellen Ritter, EJP Academic Director, at esritte2@illinois.edu.

Please contact Ellen if you have any questions about the program.

**Education Justice Project**

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

info@educationjustice.net

**Accounting Certificate Support Partner Application**

Please use as much space as you need to answer the following questions. Please return to Ellen Ritter (esritte2@illinois.edu).

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Occupation:

UI Department (if applicable):

What degrees do you hold (if applicable)?

1. How did you hear about the Education Justice Project?
2. Why are you interested in being an Accounting Certificate Support Partner at Danville Correctional Center?
3. Please describe any subject-area or professional expertise you have that relate to accounting.
4. Please tell us about what skills, work experiences, or volunteer experiences that you believe prepare you for the Accounting Certificate Support Partner program.
5. 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.)
6. 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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