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

**Business Workshops Application**

Application due March 1, 2023

Please Email to Jessica Thornton at [jat11@illinois.edu](mailto:jat11@illinois.edu)

**EJP Mission**

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, their families, the neighborhoods from which they come, the host institution, and society.

**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.

**Business Workshops Description**

Thank you for your interest in the Education Justice Project. Our Business Workshops will explore a wide number of business and related subjects including but not limited to entrepreneurship, business start-ups, accounting, management and administration, advertising and marketing, business and the law, business and academics, business, and non-profits.

**Workshop Facilitator Responsibilities**

* Attend all onboarding meetings and orientations offered through EJP and the prison;
* Commit to offering at least one in-person business-related workshop at the prison;
* Attend an EJP critical climate discussion once per academic year.

You are also encouraged to consider offering multiple workshops in different business topics or offering a workshops series (several workshops that build on the same topic). In addition, we encourage you to attend EJP community events beyond required meetings.

**Workshop Facilitator Experience**

Required

* Bachelor’s degree
* Experience facilitating group discussions
* Excellent communication skills

**How to apply?**

To apply to the Business Workshops program, please send your CV or resume, to Jessica Thornton jat11@illinois.edu. Please contact Jessica Thornton at the above email if you have any questions. Thank you for your interest!

Individuals must be approved by the Illinois Department of Corrections to participate in in-person EJP programming. Part of the clearance includes passing the background security check and IDOC (Illinois Dept of Corrections) security clearance requirements. Typically, applicants to EJP do not gain clearance to enter the prison until at least 6 months after they apply.

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

According to Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) policy, if you are formerly incarcerated within Illinois or are actively visiting a friend or family who is incarcerated in IDOC, it is unlikely you will be able to receive IDOC clearance. Unfortunately, this is beyond our control.

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**Business Workshops 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 offering a workshop 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.

4. Please tell us about any other skills, work experiences, or volunteer experiences that you believe have prepared you for offering a business workshop in a prison.

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. If you have an idea of what kind of Business Workshop you’d like to offer, please describe it below

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 for this work.

EJP encourages applicants to apply for full clearance and sustain a long-term working relationship with EJP. 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?