

Higher Education in Prison Programs in Illinois

2023 Edition

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EDUCATION JUSTICE PROJECT
an initiative of Education at Illinois



Introduction

Higher Education in Prison Programs in Illinois: 2023 Edition is produced by the Education Justice Project's Policy and Research Division. The Education Justice Project (EJP) is a unit of the College of Education at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Since 2008, we have hosted a higher education in prison (HEP) program at Danville Correctional Center. We produce this resource to highlight existing higher education programs in Illinois state prisons and uplift the need for additional programs and supportive policies across our state.

To report inaccurate information or higher education programs that are not listed, please contact us at the address below. Updates will be included in the 2024 edition of this directory.

1001 S. Wright Street
Champaign, IL 61820
policy@educationjustice.net
217.300.5150

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Written by: Ashton Hoselton, EJP Policy & Research Director

Designed by: Ashley Jung, EJP Graphic Designer

Photos from: EJP

Special thanks for assistance from:

- Diana Wu and Valentina Mosca, EJP Interns
- Maria Miller, Manager of the Illinois Department of Corrections' Office of Adult Education and Vocational Services
- All HEP programs in Illinois that provided information about their offerings to inform this resource

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A faded background image showing a healthcare worker in a light blue uniform and a white face mask, sitting at a desk in a library. The worker is looking down at papers on the desk. Bookshelves filled with books are visible in the background.

I. Current State of HEP in Illinois

Current State of HEP in Illinois

Higher education in prison (HEP) refers to the provision of academic, postsecondary education to incarcerated individuals. HEP programs offer courses by or in close partnership with a regionally accredited two- or four-year college or university. HEP can include credit and not-for-credit coursework, degree and non-degree granting pathways, and extracurricular activities.

The State of Illinois became a national leader in HEP in the early 1950s and 1960s. By 1962, it was the first state in the nation to offer a full-time, degree-granting college-in-prison program and, by 1992, every prison in the state of Illinois offered some form of HEP. Unfortunately, implementation of restrictions on state funding in 1989 and federal funding in 1994 caused nearly all of these early HEP programs to collapse. To read more about the history of higher education in prison, click [here](#).

Much has changed in the intervening decades. As of January 2023, 14 HEP programs exist in Illinois and offer courses to incarcerated students at eight different Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) facilities. Their curricula range widely - from one that puts on annual Shakespeare performances to another that supports students in designing their own individualized, competency-based bachelor's degrees to another that offers a masters' degree in Christian ministry and restorative arts.



In addition to the recent growth in HEP programs, important policy developments related to HEP have occurred at the federal, state, and agency level. 2022 was a particularly significant year for HEP in Illinois for several reasons:

- Federal action to reinstate Pell Grants for incarcerated scholars created new funding for HEP programs. Two HEP programs in Illinois were approved to receive these funds: Augustana Prison Education Program and Lewis University Prison Education Program.
- Three new HEP programs launched in Illinois: Knox College at Hill Correctional Center, Lewis University at Sheridan Correctional Center, and University of Chicago at Stateville Correctional Center.
- One HEP program closed down. Benedictine University no longer offers courses at Sheridan Correctional Center.
- The Illinois Department of Corrections adopted a comprehensive college education in prison policy that aims to ensure that all students have access to an education comparable to what is available on campus. The IDOC press release outlining this new policy is available [here](#).
- Illinois established the first-ever statewide HEP task force. The Illinois Higher Education in Prison Task Force met from February to July of 2022 to address four primary objectives: analyze existing data on HEP in Illinois; identify data points that should be collected to allow for meaningful, statewide evaluation of HEP; assess barriers and opportunities to HEP in Illinois; and, recommend a legislative action plan to expand access to HEP in Illinois. The Task Force adopted 31 recommendations, which were forwarded to Governor Pritzker and made publicly available in October 2022. The full final report is available [here](#).

There is much to celebrate and much more work to do! We invite you to continue reading to learn more about the rich offerings of existing HEP programs in Illinois and the need for additional HEP programs across our state. This edition includes detailed information on each of those programs, maps of where HEP is offered and where it is still needed, and information on where to learn more about HEP in Illinois.

Whether you are a faculty member, student, or community member, all Illinoisans can play a role in expanding access to HEP and establishing supportive, statewide policies.

The background of the slide is a faded, semi-transparent photograph of several police officers in light blue uniforms. They are wearing white face masks and have identification badges clipped to their shirts. One badge in the foreground clearly shows the words "IN CUSTODY" and a name that appears to be "WALKER". The officers are looking down, possibly at a document or a device, which is partially visible in the lower left corner.

II. Listing of Illinois HEP Programs

Listing of Illinois HEP Programs

As of January 2023, there are 14 HEP programs in Illinois. Thirteen of these programs are provided by Illinois colleges and universities and one is an independent non-profit organization that involves faculty from several institutions of higher education.

1. [Adler University](#): Bachelor's Completion Program
2. [Augustana College](#): Augustana Prison Education Program
3. [Danville Area Community College](#)
4. [DePaul University](#): Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program
5. [Eastern Illinois University](#)
6. [Knox College](#)
7. [Lewis University](#): Prison Education Program
8. [Millikin University](#): Shakespeare Corrected
9. [North Park University](#): School of Restorative Arts
10. [Northeastern Illinois University](#): University Without Walls
11. [Northwestern University](#): Northwestern Prison Education Program
12. [Prison + Neighborhood Arts/Education Project](#)
13. [University of Chicago](#)
14. [University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign](#): Education Justice Project

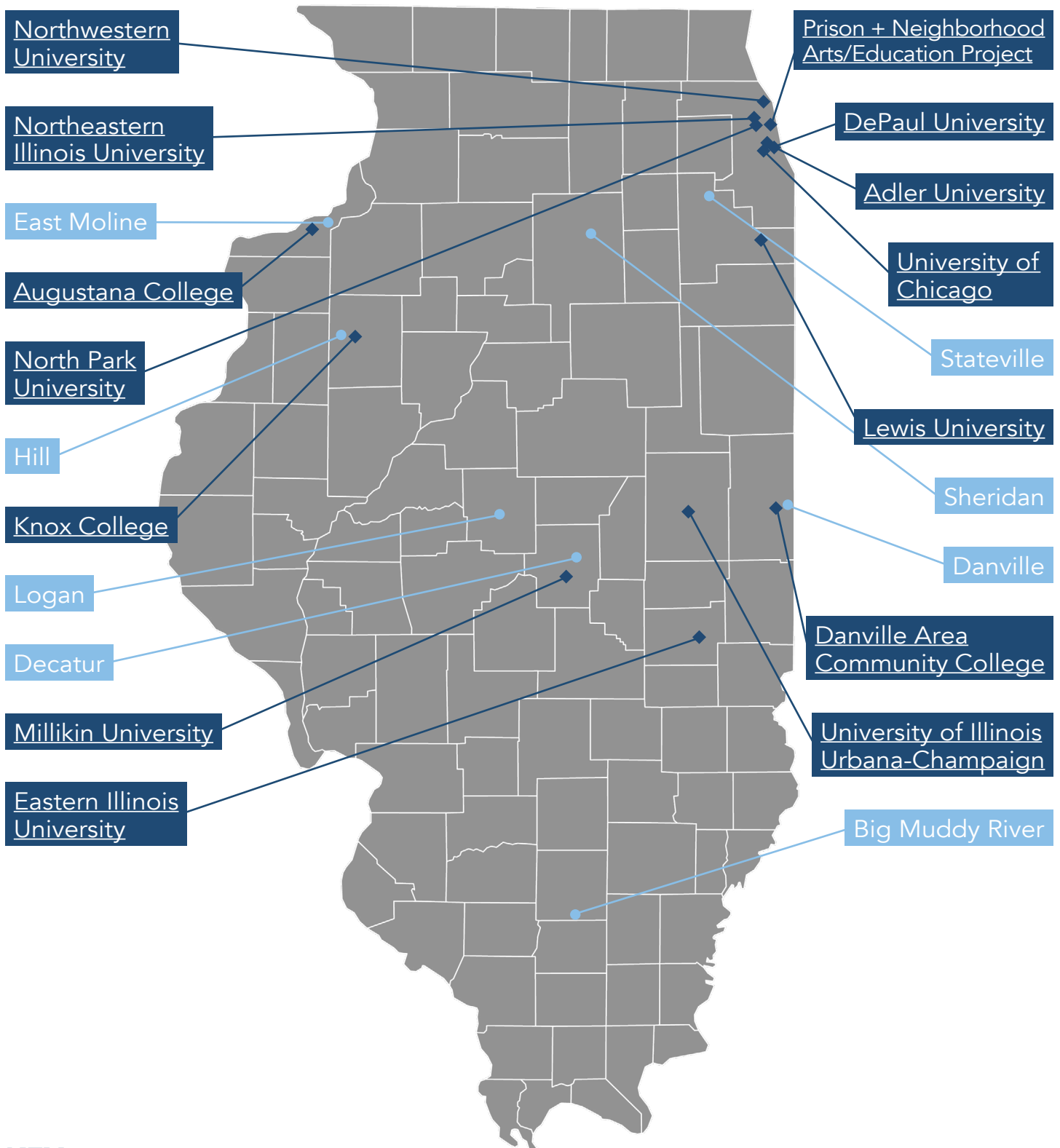
See the Directory of IL HEP Programs on pg. 15 for a detailed description of each program and ways to get involved.

Which Facilities HEP Programs Operate In

Illinois' 14 programs provide academic higher education at eight of the 27 IDOC facilities. Some programs operate in a single IDOC facility while others operate at multiple IDOC facilities.

IDOC Facility	Higher Education Program
Big Muddy River Correctional Center	Adler University: Bachelor's Completion Program
Danville Correctional Center	Danville Area Community College Eastern Illinois University University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign: Education Justice Project
Decatur Correctional Center	Millikin University: Shakespeare Corrected
East Moline Correctional Center	Augustana College: Augustana Prison Education Program
Hill Correctional Center	Knox College
Logan Correctional Center	North Park University: School of Restorative Arts Northwestern University: Northwestern Prison Education Program
Sheridan Correctional Center	Lewis University: Prison Education Program
Stateville Correctional Center	DePaul University: Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program North Park University: School of Restorative Arts Northeastern Illinois University: University Without Walls Northwestern University: Northwestern Prison Education Program Prison + Neighborhood Arts/Education Project University of Chicago

Map Indicating the Location of Higher Education Institutions and IDOC Facilities Offering HEP in Illinois



KEY

◇ University

○ IDOC Facility

The background of the slide features a faded photograph of a group of people, primarily men of African descent, seated around a conference table. They appear to be in a professional meeting, with some looking at documents and others at laptops. A prominent blue horizontal bar is positioned below the title. In the bottom right corner, there is a small, white silhouette of the state of Illinois.

III. Opportunities to Expand Access to HEP in Illinois

Opportunities to Expand Access to Higher Education in Prison in Illinois

The number of HEP programs in Illinois has grown over the last decade, but the vast majority of incarcerated people in IDOC facilities still do not have access to higher education.

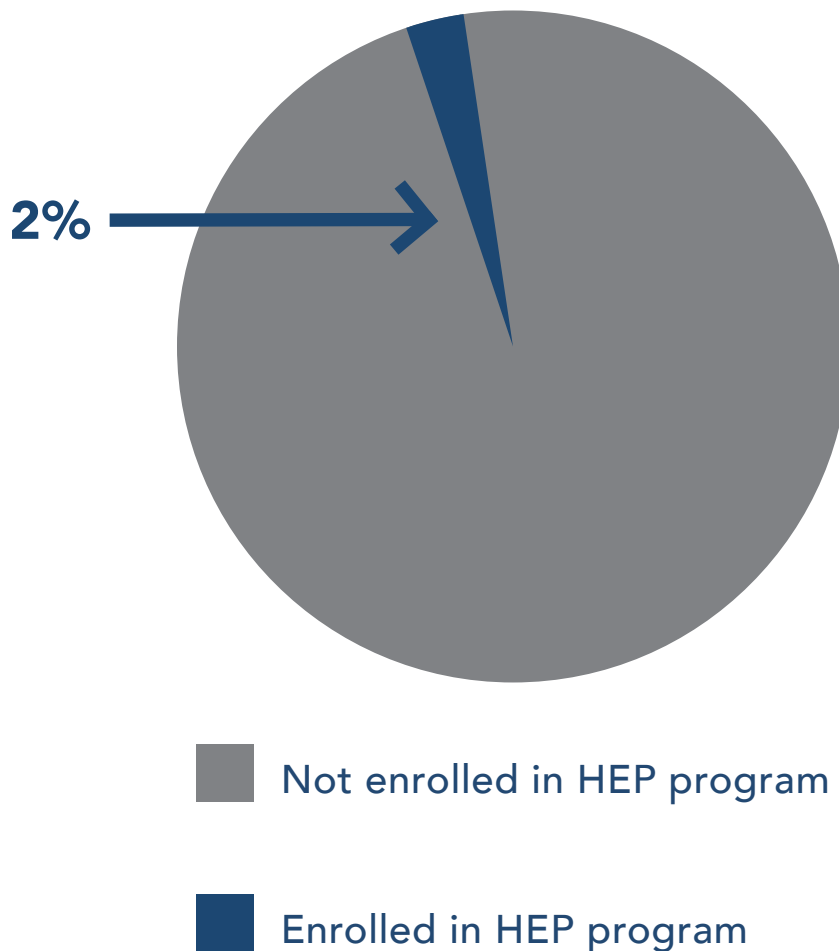
Currently, 19 IDOC facilities do not host any academic higher education program:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Centralia Correctional Center | 11. Pinckneyville Correctional Center |
| 2. Dixon Correctional Center | 12. Pontiac Correctional Center |
| 3. Graham Correctional Center | 13. Robinson Correctional Center |
| 4. Illinois River Correctional Center | 14. Shawnee Correctional Center |
| 5. Jacksonville Correctional Center | 15. Southwestern Correctional Center |
| 6. Joliet Correctional Center | 16. Taylorville Correctional Center |
| 7. Lawrence Correctional Center | 17. Vandalia Correctional Center |
| 8. Lincoln Correctional Center | 18. Vienna Correctional Center |
| 9. Menard Correctional Center* | 19. Western Illinois Correctional Center |
| 10. Menard Medium Security Unit | |

** indicates IDOC facility where EJP is planning to start a program in Fall 2023*

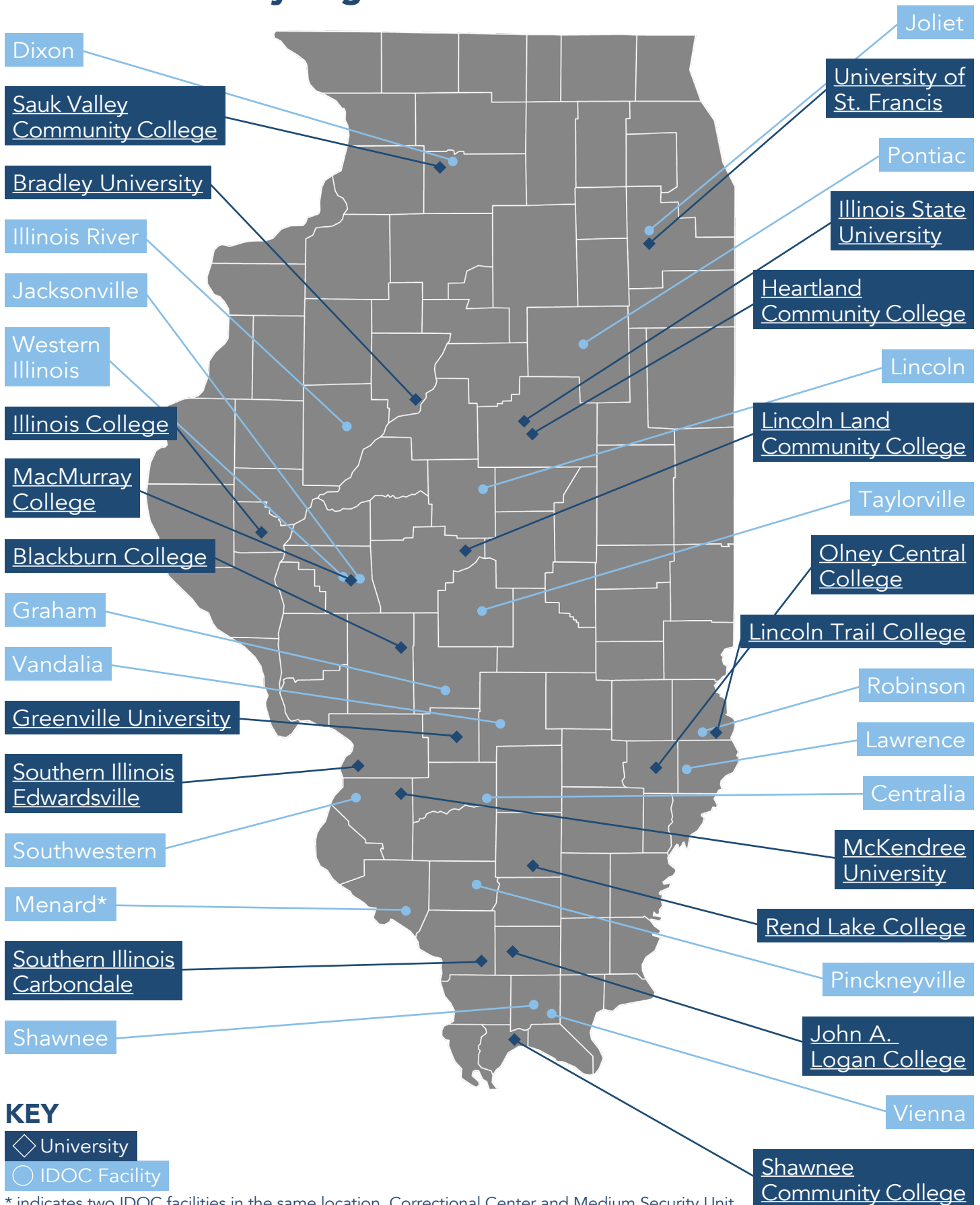
According to IDOC's March 2023 Prison Population Data Set, there are 29,470 individuals incarcerated in IDOC facilities. Over two-thirds (20,035) of these individuals are incarcerated in one of the 19 facilities listed above and, as a result, have no access to the HEP programs listed in this resource. Some of these facilities offer other educational programs, including career and technical education and vocational programs. However, the vast majority of incarcerated individuals in Illinois lack both access and pathways to academic higher education.

Percent of Incarcerated Individuals Enrolled in HEP Across IDOC Facilities



Total enrollment in HEP programs as of January 2023 was 615 unique students. In other words, 2.1% of the 29,470 individuals incarcerated in IDOC facilities at that time were pursuing college. Below we offer a map of IDOC facilities in need of HEP and nearby higher education institutions. We present this information in an effort to identify potential partnerships that could expand HEP to additional IDOC facilities and foster collaboration that, one day, could allow access to HEP for all.

Map of IDOC Facilities Without HEP Programs and Nearby Higher Education Institutions



* indicates two IDOC facilities in the same location, Correctional Center and Medium Security Unit

A background image showing three people in a meeting. A woman in a purple shirt is standing and pointing at a document held by a man in a light blue shirt. Another man in a light blue shirt is seated in the foreground, looking at a document. The image is faded and has a light blue horizontal bar across the middle.

IV. Directory of IL HEP Programs

Directory: Adler University Bachelor's Completion Program

College/University: [Adler University](#)

IDOC Facility: Big Muddy River Correctional Center

Founded: 2021

Contact Info: Maléka Ingram, mingram2@adler.edu, (312) 662-4145

Program Description

Administered through Adler University's Online Campus, Adler offers a Bachelor of Science in Applied Psychology degree program. Adler's program is the only HEP program in Illinois that provides instruction primarily through remote means. Students are provided with university laptops to access instruction and materials. Coursework includes recorded instruction, virtual and in-person advising, live sessions, and individual and group-based assignments. In addition to academic programming at Big Muddy River, Adler provides coordination and communication support for the Illinois Coalition for Higher Education in Prison and, through the [Quintana Last Mile Scholarship](#), offers scholarships to incarcerated or formerly incarcerated individuals who started their college education while incarcerated and require funding to proceed with their educational goals.

Get Involved

Adler's Online Campus welcomes adjunct faculty. To learn more, view employment opportunities [here](#). Anyone from the Ina, IL region can apply to serve as an in-person tutor. If interested, contact Irene Jones at irjones@adler.edu.

Directory: Augustana College

Augustana Prison Education Program

College/University: [Augustana College](#)

IDOC Facility: East Moline Correctional Center

Founded: 2021

Contact Info: Jason Mahn, jasonmahn@augustana.edu, (309) 794-7324 or
Bonnie Jessee, bonniejessee@augustana.edu, (309) 794-7335

Program Description

The [Augustana Prison Education Program](#) (APEP) is a full-time, four-year bachelor's degree program at East Moline Correctional Center and one of the first HEP programs in Illinois to qualify for federal Pell funding. APEP is modeled after the [Bard Prison Initiative](#) and its curriculum mirrors Augustana's liberal arts focus; courses include: history, literature, mathematics, foreign languages, religion, science, and the arts. Currently, the program offers a communications studies major, with plans to add American Studies as a new major choice. Beyond expanding major choices, APEP continues to build a more comprehensive and transitional experience by increasing guided research and internship opportunities and expanding its library and technological resources.

Get Involved

This program accepts monetary donations. To make a financial contribution, click [here](#).

Directory: Danville Area Community College

College/University: [Danville Area Community College](#)

IDOC Facility: Danville Correctional Center

Founded: 2014

Contact Info: Bailey Maxey, Bailey.Maxey@illinois.gov

Program Description

Danville Area Community College (DACC) offers a wide variety of postsecondary programs at Danville Correctional Center. DACC's programs are designed to prepare students for the workplace or to continue their education. This year, DACC is the only Illinois community college offering academic and vocational programs to incarcerated students. DACC's associate degree programs include an Associate in Arts degree and an Associate in General Studies degree. In addition to coursework, DACC provides a tutoring program for students enrolled in academic courses, a peer-to-peer tutoring program for students enrolled in an adult literacy program, and a career tech course that provides training in job preparedness and life skills for incarcerated people nearing their release date.

Directory: DePaul University Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program

College/University: [DePaul University](#)

IDOC Facility: Stateville Correctional Center

Founded: 2012

Contact Info: Helen Damon-Moore, hdamonmo@depaul.edu or
Nila Ginger Hofman, nhofman@depaul.edu

Program Description

Administered by the Steans Center for Community-Based Service Learning & Community Service Studies, DePaul University's [Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program](#) operates as part of the national [Inside-Out Center](#) at Temple University. DePaul's program brings together free and incarcerated students at Stateville Correctional Center to learn as peers and from each other's perspectives and life experiences. Courses focus on restorative justice and are centered on reciprocity and mobilization of knowledge. After participating in a DePaul Inside-Out course, students have the opportunity to participate in a think tank to delve deeper into course topics, develop new courses, and continue to dialogue on social justice issues.

Get Involved

Students Against Incarceration is a club on campus where people interested in fighting against issues in the criminal justice system can be in community, educate themselves and others, and take action. To learn more, click [here](#).

Directory: Eastern Illinois University

College/University: [Eastern Illinois University](#)

IDOC Facility: Danville Correctional Center

Founded: 2021

Contact Info: Kim Redfern, karedfern2@eiu.edu, (217) 581-5618

Program Description

Eastern Illinois University offers a flexible, transfer-friendly, Interdisciplinary Studies bachelor's degree program at Danville Correctional Center. The program is an individualized, nontraditional degree program designed for students with prior college experience. Eastern will accept up to 100 semester hours in transfer, including credits earned at a community college and credits earned through military and other professional training. After admission to the program, students meet with their academic advisor to review degree requirements.

Get Involved

This program accepts monetary donations. To make a financial contribution, reach out to Hannah Radnitzer Bell at heradnitzer@eiu.edu.

Directory: Knox College

College/University: [Knox College](#)

IDOC Facility: Hill Correctional Center

Founded: 2022

Contact Info: Leanne Trapedo Sims, ltrapedosims@knox.edu

Program Description

Knox College offered its first course at Hill Correctional Center in Winter 2022. The inaugural class, a creative writing course, employed critical pedagogy and spanned all literary genres from: poetry, rap, and spoken word to fiction and creative non-fiction. In addition to traditional courses, Knox plans to introduce [Walls to Bridges](#) classes that involve incarcerated students and university-based students learning together as peers. Walls to Bridges is a Canadian based program, inspired by the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program, that emphasizes experiential learning and collaborative scholarly inquiry. A central feature of a Walls to Bridges course is the use of circle pedagogy as informed by Indigenous epistemologies and Talking Circles. In Spring 2023, Trapedo Sims will bring Knox students to study alongside students at Hill in a Peace and Justice Studies Course, Life Writing as Social Engagement: Lived Experience and Transformation.

Get Involved

This program accepts monetary donations. To make a financial contribution, reach out to Leanne Trapedo Sims at ltrapedosims@knox.edu. Beyond courses offered at Hill, Trapedo Sims offers a course at Knox every year that addresses mass incarceration in the US with a focus on race.

Directory: Lewis University Prison Education Program

College/University: [Lewis University](#)

IDOC Facility: Sheridan Correctional Center

Founded: 2023

Contact Info: Michelle Clifton-Soderstrom, mcliftonsoderstrom@lewisu.edu, (773) 750-9971

Program Description

Administered through the School of Graduate, Professional, & Continuing Education, Lewis University provides a full-time Bachelor of Arts degree program in Professional Studies at Sheridan Correctional Center. Students move through the degree in a cohort format and have the opportunity to take general education courses, including English, philosophy, sociology, science, and communications, and earn a minor in business administration. The program is transfer-friendly and allows students to earn college credit from prior experience and non-credit learning. Beyond providing postsecondary coursework, Lewis strives to create a learning community that is academically and culturally supportive; additional programs and supports include advising, peer mentoring, a writing center, and more to come.

Get Involved

This program accepts monetary donations. To make a financial contribution, click [here](#), select "Other" under "Designation," and specify "prison education" or contact Colleen Ahearn at cahearn@lewisu.edu. To get involved with related campus initiatives, check out the [Gros Institute](#) which has initiatives and events around restorative justice, peace circles, and community organizing.

Directory: Millikin University Shakespeare Corrected

College/University: [Millikin University](#)

IDOC Facility: Decatur Correctional Center

Founded: 2010

Contact Info: Alex Miller, avmiller@millikin.edu

Program Description

[Shakespeare Corrected](#) is a volunteer-based program offered at Decatur Correctional Center. The program brings Millikin students together with incarcerated individuals to create an artistic experience that results in an atmosphere of respectful inclusion and supported expression. The nine-month program hones students' skills through monologues and discussion in the fall, building to a full-scale Shakespeare play in the spring. Cut down from the original versions, the productions are about 90 minutes long and performed for friends, family, and other incarcerated people. Beginning in Spring 2023, Millikin University is also offering credit-bearing courses.

Get Involved

This program accepts monetary donations. To make a financial contribution, click [here](#).

Directory: North Park University School of Restorative Arts

College/University: [North Park University](#)

IDOC Facility: Stateville Correctional Center and Logan Correctional Center

Founded: 2018

Contact Info: Cheryl Lynn Cain, clcain@northpark.edu, (630) 888-5553

Program Description

Administered through North Park Theological Seminary, North Park University's [School of Restorative Arts](#) (SRA) is the only graduate level HEP program in Illinois. SRA offers a 4-year Master of Arts in Christian Ministry with Restorative Arts degree program and a 2-year Transformative Justice certificate program. The program launched at Stateville Correctional Center in 2018 and expanded to Logan Correctional Center in 2021. SRA prepares students for ministries of restoration in contexts susceptible to violence. Students learn in integrated classrooms of both free and incarcerated individuals studying together as a cohort. Beyond coursework, SRA provides several opportunities for free and incarcerated individuals to work collaboratively, including: Thriving Prophetically, a program involving peer-led, group mentoring cohorts; Church Without Walls, a Christian community transforming communities through restorative justice practices; and, [re]story Performing Arts, a redemptive storytelling and theater performance program.

Get Involved

North Park Theological Seminary accepts applications throughout the year. To apply for SRA's degree or certificate program, click [here](#). This program accepts monetary donations. To make a financial contribution, click [here](#).

Directory: Northeastern Illinois University University Without Walls

College/University:	Northeastern Illinois University
IDOC Facility:	Stateville Correctional Center
Founded:	2017
Contact Info:	Timothy Barnett, t-barnett1@neiu.edu , (773) 442-6030

Program Description

Northeastern Illinois University’s [University Without Walls](#) (UWW) works in partnership with the Prison + Neighborhood Arts/Education Project (PNAP) to provide a bachelor’s degree program at Stateville Correctional Center. Through this partnership, UWW offers a non-traditional, competency-based degree-completion program that serves incarcerated individuals who have professional, community, political, and life experiences that have resulted in significant college-level learning. Enrolled students work with advisory teams to design an individualized curriculum; past areas of study include Critical Carceral-Legal Studies, Poetic Justice in Black Culture, Youth Advocacy for Social Justice, and Chicano/a Arts and Restorative Justice. More recently, UWW’s partnership with PNAP expanded to include a Learning Fellows Program (see PNAP description below).

Get Involved

Formerly Incarcerated Standing Together (FIST) is a club on campus that welcomes students and allies who want to provide academic and social support for Northeastern Illinois students affected by mass incarceration. To learn more, click [here](#).

Directory: Northwestern University

Northwestern Prison Education Program

College/University:	Northwestern University
IDOC Facility:	Stateville Correctional Center and Logan Correctional Center
Founded:	2018
Contact Info:	Jennifer Lackey, npep@northwestern.edu

Program Description

The [Northwestern Prison Education Program](#) (NPEP) is a degree-granting program that provides a full liberal arts curriculum to incarcerated individuals at Stateville Correctional Center and Logan Correctional Center. NPEP offers an interdisciplinary program of study that includes humanities, fine arts, social sciences, and STEM courses. In 2018, NPEP launched at Stateville in partnership with Oakton Community College. NPEP students at Stateville can earn an Associate in General Studies degree from Oakton and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Northwestern’s School of Professional Studies. In 2021, NPEP expanded to Logan. NPEP students at Logan receive college credit through Northwestern’s School of Professional Studies. In addition to programs at the prisons, NPEP’s Undergraduate Prison Education Partnership cultivates collaboration between Evanston undergraduates and NPEP students through prison education initiatives.

Get Involved

This program welcomes interns and volunteers for both educational and administrative support at Stateville, as well as on the Evanston and Chicago campuses. Learn more about NPEP’s internships [here](#) and other volunteer opportunities [here](#). This program also accepts monetary donations. To make a financial contribution, click [here](#).

Directory: Prison + Neighborhood Arts/Education Project

College/University:	N/A
IDOC Facility:	Stateville Correctional Center
Founded:	2011
Contact Info:	Sarah Ross, contactpnap@gmail.com

**Program
Description**

The [Prison + Neighborhood Arts/Education Project](#) (PNAP) is a visual arts and education project that connects artists and scholars to incarcerated students. Every year, PNAP offers 13-15 non-credit college-level courses at Stateville Correctional Center, as well as cultural projects, a policy think tank, and guest lectures. PNAP has expanded its program in recent years to include a degree-granting program with Northeastern Illinois University at Stateville (see Northeastern Illinois description above), a correspondence art exchange with artists at Hill Correctional Center, and a monthly education project with students at Logan Correctional Center. In 2021, PNAP also expanded their collaborative work with Northeastern Illinois to include a Learning Fellows Program that provides financial and academic support to current Northeastern students who help to create events that highlight the importance of education as a human right for all. PNAP also creates spaces to hold critical conversations about the prison industrial complex and access to art and education. In 2023, PNAP expects to open Walls Turned Sideways, an art gallery and community space dedicated to artists and communities impacted by incarceration.

Get Involved

This program accepts monetary donations. To make a financial contribution, click [here](#).

Directory: University of Chicago

College/University: [University of Chicago](#)

IDOC Facility: Stateville Correctional Center

Founded: 2022

Contact Info: Alice Kim, alicekim@uchicago.edu, (773) 834-4207

Program Description

The Pozen Family Center for Human Rights' Human Rights Lab at the University of Chicago (UChicago) offered its first class at Stateville Correctional Center during the fall quarter of 2022. The pilot course, Narrating Social Change, was a mixed enrollment class that brought UChicago students and incarcerated students together to learn, dialogue, and knowledge-build across the prison wall. UChicago is now assessing student feedback and outcomes with a goal of continuing to offer mixed-enrollment courses. In addition to courses at Stateville, the Human Rights Lab engages UChicago students and community members in community-building initiatives and other solutions to human rights problems, including a Mass Incarceration Working Group.

Get Involved

The Human Rights Lab provides residencies for individuals in a variety of disciplines whose work and advocacy confronts the criminal legal system. To learn more, click [here](#).

Directory: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Education Justice Project

College/University: [University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign](#)

IDOC Facility: Danville Correctional Center

Founded: 2008

Contact Info: Rebecca Ginsburg, info@educationjustice.net,
(217) 300-5150

Program Description

The [Education Justice Project](#) (EJP) is a comprehensive college-in-prison program and a unit of the College of Education at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. EJP offers 12 distinct academic programs at Danville Correctional Center, including for-credit courses, advising and tutoring, English as a Second Language, educational workshops, a mindfulness discussion group, an anti-violence group, and more. The programs at the prison are complemented by other initiatives on campus and in the community. EJP's Reentry Guide Initiative publishes three annual reentry guides; EJP's Prison to Gown Pathway Initiative offers support and services to formerly incarcerated individuals on campus; and EJP's scholarship program provides need-based assistance to students impacted by incarceration in the U.S. and Mexico. To support all of its programs, EJP also engages in research and public education to advance the implementation of thoughtful, evidence-based, ethical policies related to higher education in prison, reentry, and other relevant issues.

Get Involved

There are several ways to get involved with EJP. To learn more, click [here](#). To make a financial contribution, click [here](#).



V. Want to Learn More?

Want to Learn More?

- [Alliance for Higher Education in Prison \(AHEP\)](#). AHEP works to advance the field of HEP by building community, shaping dialogue, supporting quality practice, producing knowledge, and ensuring sustainability. Visit their website to learn more about the national landscape of HEP.
- [Illinois Coalition for Higher Education in Prison \(IL-CHEP\)](#). IL-CHEP supports statewide collaboration of HEP stakeholders in Illinois. The coalition includes HEP instructors, alumni, students, and advocates. Click [here](#) to learn more about individual and organizational IL-CHEP membership. To learn more about starting a college-in-prison program in Illinois, click [here](#) for IL-CHEP's "Steps to Consider When Starting a College-in-Prison Program."
- [Freedom to Learn Campaign \(FTL\)](#). FTL is a campaign of IL-CHEP that advocates for clear and fair Illinois legislation that allows college-in-prison programs to operate free from undue interference or interruption of their students' academic and intellectual pursuits. Click [here](#) to join the campaign and/or subscribe to the FTL newsletter.
- [IDOC Office of Adult Education and Vocational Services](#). If you are ready to establish a college-in-prison program inside an IDOC facility, reach out to Maria Miller, IDOC Manager of the Office of Adult Education and Vocational Services, at Maria.A.Miller@illinois.gov, and request the "New Provider Request to Add New Program/Course" form.



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