



EDUCATION JUSTICE PROJECT
an initiative of Education at Illinois



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Resources @ EJP

EJP Strategic Objectives 2022-25

Key Strategic Goals for the next three years:

1. ***Continue excellence in college-in-prison programming***

Building on the success of our college-in-prison program, we will continue to evolve and deliver an exceptional higher education program at Danville Correctional Center. This includes strategic development of each of our 12 programs at the prison, responding to the evolving needs of EJP students. We will build strong relationships with other educational institutions at Danville, centering the needs of students in these collaborations. We will continue to offer support to students transitioning out of prison, in order to assist their continued success in college and life, and commit to exploring innovative ways of supporting them.

Through on-going reflection and systematic evaluation among its stakeholders, EJP will ensure that our educational programming meets the needs of students and serves as an exemplar of quality prison higher education.

2. ***Develop a continuum of post-release resources and initiatives***

In recognition of the challenges faced by formerly incarcerated individuals who seek to pursue their educational goals and generally build healthy lives upon release, we will continue to develop reentry resources and initiatives that fill existing gaps in the reentry landscape and that grow out of our engagement with incarcerated scholars. These include a prison to gown initiative that provides pathways to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, an expanded scholarship program, and a strong reentry resource website. Acknowledging that deportation constitutes part of the American carceral system, we will continue to develop our deportation guide and turn it into a national resource. We will explore the feasibility of developing or supporting others' efforts to create a reentry warmline. We will advocate for best practices in reentry guide production and support other jurisdictions' efforts to create excellent guides. We will continue to explore what it means to produce reentry resources in an abolitionist spirit.

3. ***Design and become a campus center***

Institutional stability, greater visibility, and a secure funding stream will support EJP's medium- and long-term planning and, accordingly, our ability to act proactively and ambitiously. To that end, we will continue to seek to become a campus center. This step will also put us in a strong position to expand EJP's impact on campus, especially on undergraduate education. We will continue to develop strong relationships with a range of external funders who will become committed partners of EJP's work. We will strive to become a model center—mission-driven, committed to inclusion, racial equity, and justice, and committed to building a sense of community and purpose.

4. ***Provide support and assistance at national scale***

EJP will strive to be a valued partner and thought leader for higher education in prison, reentry resources, and other aspects of our work. We will seed other programs, be a driver in policy work at the state level, provide technical assistance, host convenings, and develop and share evaluation protocols. In doing so, we will continue to amplify the voices of EJP scholars and alumni. EJP has a role to play in the current climate of debates and discussions around prison higher education, reentry, and equity on college campuses. Our students, alumni, and instructors can offer critical, powerful perspectives on these matters. They are in an ideal position to generate scholarship that adds critical nuance and hard data. This is an important time to be active contributors to discussions and other forums for sharing knowledge that impacts our society.