



**EDUCATION JUSTICE PROJECT**  
an initiative of the University of Illinois



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## Resources @ EJP

# EJP Campus Scan

The campus scan is an examination of the policies and practices of campus units with which formerly incarcerated individuals are likely to have contact. We seek to better understand the obstacles and challenges formerly incarcerated people (FIP) may have in navigating campus, and where on campus they are likely to encounter resources, support, and points of encouragement.

### Why are we performing this research?

The Education Justice Project operates a college-in-prison program at Danville Corrections Center. We have observed our students, released from prison full of promise and ambition, be stymied in their efforts to continue their education because of policies, here and elsewhere, that make it difficult for them to do that. By performing this research, we hope to bring awareness to this demographic on our campus, spread knowledge of the needs and challenges FIP face in higher education, whether as students or employees, and support efforts to address the systemic inequalities that exist on the institutional level.

We intend for the scan to contribute to broader efforts to make Illinois a more just and equitable university

### What we expect to produce:

- A full written report based on the results of the campus scan;
- Shorter policy briefs based on our experience of conducting the scan and on its findings;
- A plan for assisting the university to address these systemic inequities through advocacy at the institutional leadership level;
- A well-designed template that can be adapted by other campuses wishing to conduct their own campus scans.

### Progress to date:

- Launched IRB approved study to interview FIP about their experiences with the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- After conducting several interviews, preliminary findings reveal that criminal history disclosure requirements and criminal background checks are primary and pervasive barriers to pursuing education and employment at the University of Illinois
- Assisted FIP with navigating admissions and hiring processes
- Celebrated first EJP alum to successfully enroll at the University of Illinois post-incarceration

## How to get involved:

If you are a researcher who wants to learn more, a campus unit that wants to contribute, or if you'd like to volunteer your time and expertise, please contact us at [policy@educationjustice.net](mailto:policy@educationjustice.net). If you are a formerly incarcerated person who wants to share their experience with the University of Illinois or wants support in navigating the admissions or hiring process at the University of Illinois, please contact us at [policy@educationjustice.net](mailto:policy@educationjustice.net)

## To Learn More:

**American Studies Association, "Formerly Incarcerated Students & Workers: Best Practices for Universities (Working Paper Draft)"**

<https://www.theasa.net/communities/caucuses/critical-prison-studies-caucus/formerly-incarcerated-students-workers-best>

**Greene, Andrew Cory, "Checking the Box: Enduring the Stigma of Applying to Graduate School Post-Incarceration," 2012**

<https://justiceandopportunity.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Andrew-Cory-Greene.pdf>

**Halkovic, Alexis, et al, "Higher Education and Reentry: The Gifts They Bring," 2013**

<https://justiceandopportunity.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Higher-Education-in-Reentry.pdf>

**Stewart, Robert, and Christopher Uggen, "Criminal Records and College Admissions: A Modified Experimental Audit," 2020**

<https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/kb9dy/>

**Livingston, Lindsey and Jody Miller, "Inequalities of Race, Class, and Place and Their Impact on Postincarceration Higher Education," 2014**

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XOy5BqVuZ9H6HhGa8BsyncMBYHWw\\_k2HV/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XOy5BqVuZ9H6HhGa8BsyncMBYHWw_k2HV/view?usp=sharing)

**Silbert, Rebecca, "Striving for Success: The Academic Achievements of Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Students in California Community Colleges," 2020**

[https://risingscholarsnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/general/StrivingForSuccess\\_4printR1.pdf](https://risingscholarsnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/general/StrivingForSuccess_4printR1.pdf)

**Corrections to College, "Toolkit: Fostering Success for Formerly Incarcerated Students on Campus," 2017**

<https://risingscholarsnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/general/Toolkit-6-29-17.pdf>

**Conway, Patrick Felipe, "Beyond Recidivism: Exploring Formerly Incarcerated Student Perspectives on the Value of Higher Education in Prison," 2023**

<https://discovery.researcher.life/article/beyond-recidivism-exploring-formerly-incarcerated-student-perspectives-on-the-value-of-higher-education-in-prison/71b19bcc9830368e9c0afcc323c3a366>

**Couloute, Lucius, "Getting Back on Course: Educational exclusion and attainment among formerly incarcerated people," 2018**

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/education.html>

**Donaldson, Vernisa M. and Christopher Viera, "College After Prison: A Review of the Literature on Barriers and Supports to Postsecondary Education for Formerly Incarcerated College Students," 2021**

<https://justiceandopportunity.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/College-After-Prison-Whitepaper.pdf>

**U.S. Department of Education Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, "Beyond the Box," 2023**

<https://lincs.ed.gov/sites/default/files/2023-04/beyond-the-box.pdf>

**Vera Institute of Justice, "You Can Make Your Campus More Welcoming to Justice-Involved Students," 2024**

<https://vera-institute.files.svdcdn.com/production/downloads/pdfdownloads/make-your-campus-more-welcoming.pdf?dm=1707148339>