

Chabot College

For Immediate Release

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Chabot College's RISE Program Making a Difference for Formerly Incarcerated Students

Addressing the significant needs of formerly incarcerated students seeking vocational training or who are planning to transfer, Chabot College's RISE (Restorative Integrated Self-Education) program is making a difference in the lives of an overlooked population. This May, the first time since the program began, 10 RISE scholars graduated with an Associate degree.

"My goal for the program is to provide formerly incarcerated students, including students who have been impacted by the criminal justice system, an opportunity to move beyond where they are, where they have been, and support them in their efforts to achieve their education and career goals," said Chabot's Vice President of Academic Services Dr. Stacy Thompson. "I am inspired by the determination of our RISE scholars."

The program, which began in 2016, is part of a 10 partner consortium that serves between 300 and 400 students. Chabot's RISE connects potential RISE scholars to college by creating a pipeline for low-risk formerly incarcerated students recently released from the Santa Rita correctional facility. RISE supports students in meeting the educational requirements for Career and Technical Education (CTE) or transfer and provides wrap-around services through program partner Open Gate, Inc., counseling, mentoring and other Chabot college support services to students through their educational journey and transitional period.

RISE students are provided with the time, space and guidance to explore career paths through educational opportunities. They receive on-campus support through orientation, drug counseling, bus passes, book access, cohort meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays, mentoring, academic advising and leadership development training.

"Personally, it helps to have a group of people who have been where I've been and we can talk about our experiences and sit in a group and just discuss things about college, life and how we're going to overcome those hurdles," said RISE scholar Leron "Abdul Haqq" Edwards.

RISE participants vary in age and demographics, but have one thing in common: the desire to move beyond their past to create a solid future through the power of education. To participate, students must be low-risk parolees released on probation who seek to gain educational or vocational training and are committed to successfully re-enter society and their community. To remain in the program, they must maintain a 2.0 grade-point average.

Although the program began only two years ago, RISE was recently recognized in the Lumina Foundation's spring 2019 grant report, "Corrections to College-Reversing the School to Prison Pipeline" and Chabot has plans to expand the program to serve more students, begin a women's cohort, offer for-credit classes inside Santa Rita correctional facility and seek funding that will employ a full-time coordinator to better assist RISE scholars.

About Chabot College

Chabot College in Hayward is a comprehensive community college in the heart of a thriving, diverse community where students of all ages and backgrounds can get a high quality education at an affordable price. The college awards associate degrees and certificates, and specializes in university transfer, workforce training, and lifelong learning opportunities. <http://www.chabotcollege.edu/>