

Las Positas College Media Advisory

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Media Advisory Las Positas College Partners with Dublin Women's Federal Correctional Institute providing non-credit courses to incarcerated women

LIVERMORE, CA - Las Positas College (LPC) is bringing college to the women of Dublin's Women's Federal Correctional Institute (FCI) this spring.

As part of the outreach of LPC's Adult Education Project, the college will offer seven, nine-hour courses over 16 weeks to incarcerated women at FCI. These non-credit courses will be completed as a cohort and will result in participants being eligible to receive two career certificates in the fall: Customer Service and Small Business Management.

"These courses complement and expand their existing educational program, since many of the inmates/students will leave FCI and work in the service industry," said LPC's Vice President of Academic Services Kristina Whalen. "Through our partnership they will also leave with important skills and a credential that will increase employability."

According to Whalen, the program was conceived when LPC's Adult Education Project manager reached out to the FCI's educational director, Loanne Tran. LPC and FCI then met multiple times to discuss ways the project could be implemented, explored the LPC catalog for courses that could be beneficial to the inmates and had faculty interested in teaching, including LPC's Business professor Drew Patterson, tour the facility.

I am pleased to be given the opportunity to deliver marketable skills and certifications that will help with their transitions back to civilian life, and future career goals. We strongly believe that if given an opportunity, this segment of our society will be a productive part of the workforce," said, Patterson.

The initial spring 2020 cohort of LPC's Inmate Education Project will serve as a pilot program that LPC hopes to build upon in the future.

"This is a great thing for Las Positas College and the students," said Whalen. "Reputable studies conclude that nearly half of all individuals released from federal prisons are rearrested within a short time of their release. The recidivism rate for those employed is significantly less. Our partnership furthers the objective of getting career opportunities to those already facing a serious hurdle to employment."

About Las Positas College

Las Positas College currently enrolls 9,300 students and offers curriculum for students seeking transfer to a four-year college or university, career preparation, or basic skills education. The College provides university transfer classes, retraining classes for those in need of employment or career advancement, a first-time educational opportunity for many adults, enrichment classes for those seeking a broader perspective, and career and technical training for those entering the technical and paraprofessional workforce

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