Second Chance Pell & Prison Education Programs
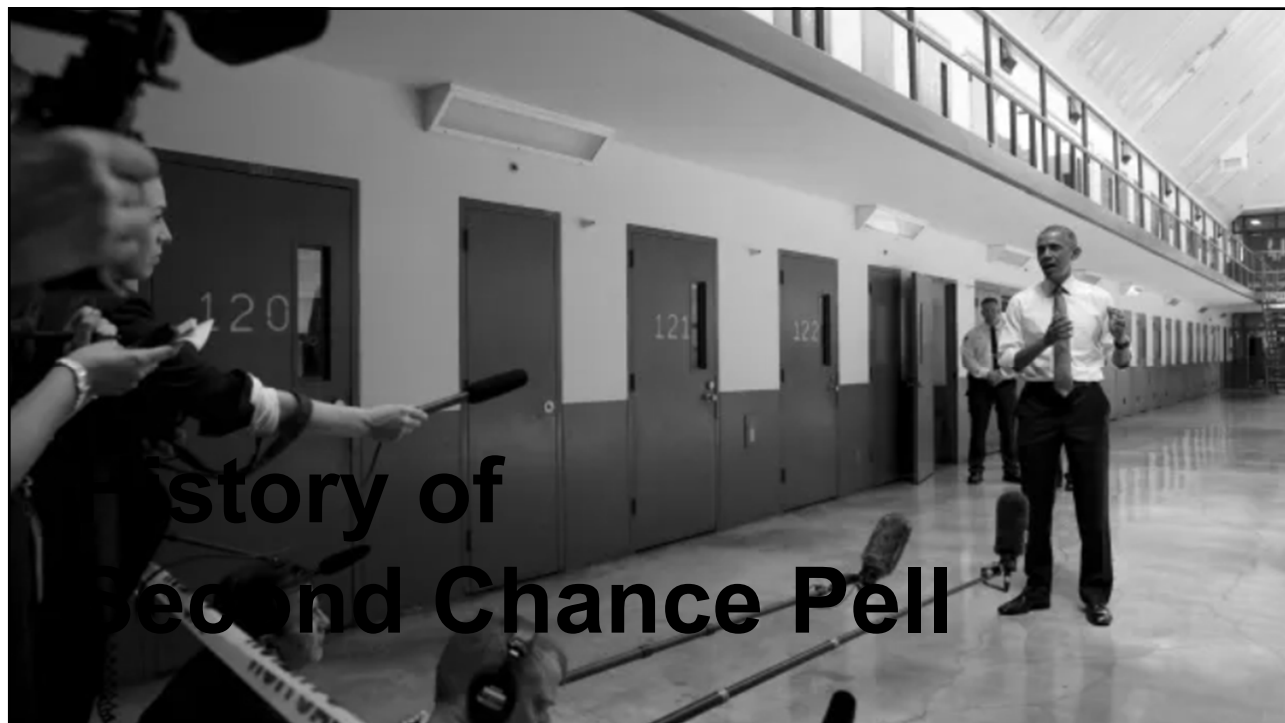
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Western Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

Agenda

- ❏ Why Prison Education?
- ❏ History of Second Chance Pell
- ❏ Prison Education Programs (PEPs)
- ❏ Program Structure & Process
- ❏ Partnerships Needed
- ❏ Pell Nuts & Bolts
- ❏ Resources, Questions & Contact Information

Second Chance Pell Experiment @ IDOC
Lewis-Clark State College

IDAHO CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION OROFINO

History of
Second Chance Pell

History of Second Chance Pell (SCP)

❏ Pell Grant eligibility for Adults in Custody (AIC) was ended in 1994

❏ Second-Chance Pell Experiment began in 2015; Chemeketa was one of 67 programs in the original experiment

❏ Experiment was expanded multiple times to a total of 200 schools

❏ Over 7,000 credentials earned through spring 2022 under SCP

Prison Education Programs (PEP)

❏ The FAFSA Simplification Act passed in 2021 reinstating Pell eligibility for incarcerated students starting in the 2023-24 school year

❏ Negotiated Rulemaking Fall 2021 on Prison Education Programs

❏ Department of Education issued final rules October 27, 2022 to take effect July 1, 2023

PEP Requirements - Accreditation

❏ Accrediting Agency and the US Department of Education must approve an institution's first prison education programs at the first two correctional facilities where the institution operates.

  ❏ Must include a site visit
  ❏ Thorough review to ensure education meets same standards as substantially similar programs offered outside of prison
  ❏ Add additional location to your ECAR

PEP Requirements - Oversight Entities

❏ The state department of corrections or Federal Bureau of Prisons is generally the oversight entity that must:

  ❏ Assess & approve prison education programs
  ❏ Collect and review feedback on the programs from all concerned stakeholders, including incarcerated individuals
  ❏ Consider key program inputs & details about program operations such as whether instructors and credit transfer options are similar for incarcerated and non-incarcerated students

Expanded definition

❏ Previously the Pell Grant prohibition only applied to adults in custody of a state or federal prison

❏ New definition is broader in scope and encompasses juvenile justice facilities as well as people in custody at a county or local jail

Prison Education Implementation

❏ Program of study
❏ Curriculum
❏ Modality
    ❏ Online
    ❏ In person
    ❏ Hybrid
    ❏ Correspondence (not an option)
❏ Restrictions from DOC-May vary by state or facility

It's not just a financial aid thing…

- ❏ How do you offer courses?
    - ❏ In-Person
        - ❏ Need to take into consideration space, faculty staffing levels, and if the facility will allow it
        - ❏ Faculty/Instructors that visit the correctional facility will need to go through additional requirements for badge access
- ❏ New Learning Management Software (LMS) System for Tablets/Laptops
    - ❏ Students may not have internet access and if they do it is very limited
    - ❏ Courses will need to be built in an LMS System that is allowed/approved by the correctional facility
    - ❏ Institution may need to provide students the tablets or laptops
    - ❏ What kind of tech support will the students receive from the LMS Vendor?
- ❏ Hybrid

It's not just a financial aid thing…

- ❏ Admissions Office
    - ❏ Paper applications?
- ❏ Registrar's Office
    - ❏ Paper registration forms?
- ❏ Advising Center
    - ❏ Picking appropriate classes and being realistic about abilities
- ❏ Student Accounts (Billing Office)
    - ❏ Special billing codes
    - ❏ Sponsored payments

It's not just a financial aid thing…

- ❏ Bookstore
  - ❏ How are participants going to order?
  - ❏ How are they going to deliver?
- ❏ School library
  - ❏ Is there a plan in place to offer additional materials?
- ❏ E Learning Services/IT
  - ❏ Special copy of Canvas
  - ❏ Are there functionalities that are not allowed?
  - ❏ Provide a list of required web addresses
- ❏ Faculty groups
  - ❏ Need to have buy in

It's not just a financial aid thing…

- ❏ Dean's Office
  - ❏ What classes will be offered?
  - ❏ Who will teach the classes?
  - ❏ How will they be taught?
- ❏ President's Office
  - ❏ PR win!
- ❏ Legal
  - ❏ Can you do that?
- ❏ Department of Corrections/Individual Prison Staff
  - ❏ No way for a program to succeed without internal DOC buy-in and partnership

FAFSA Application for SCP

❑ FAFSA Application

    ❑ Who will be assisting the students in completing the application?

❑ Consider if FERPA releases may be needed

PEP Pell Limitations

- Regular Pell Grant calculations & eligibility apply
- Pell Grant no more than actual Tuition, Fees, Books, Supplies, Equipment and Licensure Costs
- No excess Pell Grant refund to student
- Pell Grant may be insufficient to cover amounts due
- Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) applies as normal

Prison Education Pell Reporting

❏ Reporting for the experimental site is required

    ❏ Monthly reporting

    ❏ Annual reporting

❏ <u>2022-23 Annual Reporting requirements</u>

❏ Work with your institution and DOC to ensure you can gather the required student data for reporting purposes

Resources

Department of Education
- 2023 Virtual FSA Conference Session BO11 – Update on Prison Education Programs
- US Department of Education's Experimental Sites Second Chance Pell FAQs: https://experimentalsites.ed.gov/exp/pdf/SecondChancePellFAQ.pdf

Federal Student Aid Prison Education Program Resources

- https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/topics/prison-education-programs

Vera Institute of Justice (www.vera.org)

- General resources related to incarceration and Prison Education Programs

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Thank You!