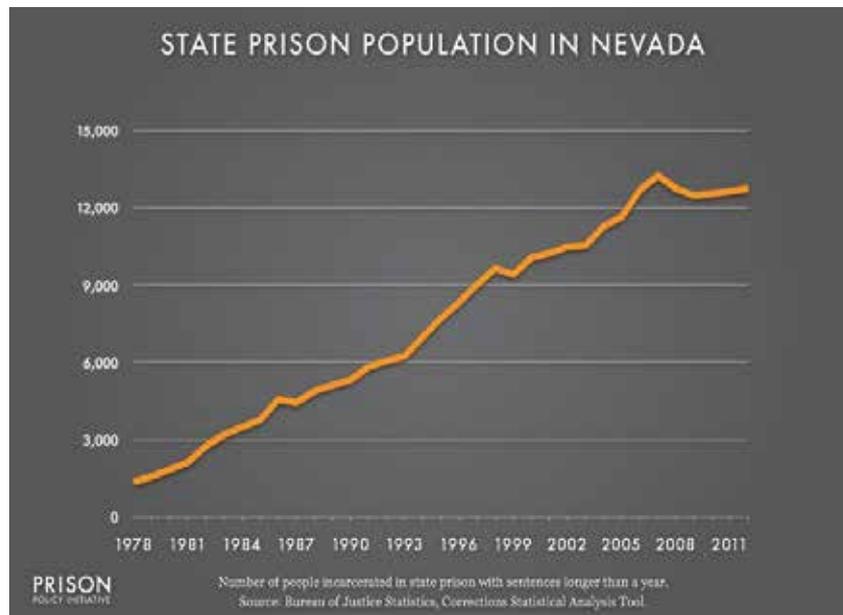




CSN PRISON EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM PROPOSAL

Training in targeted career fields with an estimated cost-savings of \$2 million per year

Nationwide, more than two-thirds of the 700,000 state prisoners released each year are arrested within three years of leaving prison because they lack employability skills, cannot find work due to their criminal records and have no support system to help them re-enter society¹. While Nevada has piecemeal programs to facilitate prison education, it lacks a systematic approach to implement a cost-effective strategy to break the catch-and-release cycle.



CSN Proposed Pilot Program

Researchers have found prison education can reduce re-incarceration rates². States that have coupled their corrections departments with their community colleges have successfully reduced recidivism and increased the employability of ex-offenders, giving them a second chance³.

¹U.S. Department of Education (2009). Partnerships between community colleges and prisons: Providing workforce education and training to reduce recidivism. Available at: https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/AdultEd/prison-cc-partnerships_2009.pdf

²Davis, L.M.; Bozick, R.; Steele, J.L.; Suanders, J.; Miles, J. (2013). Evaluating the effectiveness of correctional education. Rand Corp. Available at: http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR266.html

³See U.S. Department of Education (2009).

The proposed pilot program would save Nevadans an estimated \$2 million each year and allow the College of Southern Nevada, in partnership with the state Department of Corrections, to provide career assessments and training to 50 inmates at Southern Desert Correctional Center and 50 at Florence McClure Women's Correctional Center. Participants will be near to release and will receive training and adult basic education, leading to successful completion of a high school equivalency exam and careers in high-demand fields appropriate for individuals with criminal histories. The proposed pilot program would provide training on site and online, using secure and cost-effective tablets created by a company specializing in prison education technology⁴.

Cost: \$340,000

CSN has a well-established record of providing prison education services when funding is available. This estimate includes the cost of career assessment (ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate), instruction, technology and materials to provide adult basic education, non-credit and/or credit coursework to obtain industry recognized or academically accredited certificates or degrees.

Economic Impact

Nevadans spend an average of \$20,175 a year on each incarcerated inmate, according to the Nevada Department of Corrections. The proposed pilot program would save the state an estimated \$2,017,500 a year and \$10,087,500 over five years⁵.

Proposed Measurable Outcomes

- Completed career readiness assessments using ACT WorkKeys
- Increased educational attainment
- Increased high school equivalency exam completion
- Increased career placement for ex offenders
- Reduced recidivism as compared to similar non-treated cohort
- Reduced costs to state for services to ex-offenders

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⁴ CSN has researched tablets provided by Edovo, a Chicago-based technology company that specializes in providing education technology.

⁵ This figure was calculated by multiplying the yearly cost to the state by 100 representing the number of participants in the pilot. Available at:
http://doc.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/docnv.gov/content/About/Statistics/Annual_Abstracts_by_Fiscal_Year/fy2012.pdf