



# EDUCATION IS A HUMAN RIGHT FOR ALL.

We are the Illinois Coalition for Higher Education in Prison (IL-CHEP). IL-CHEP advocates for greater access to quality higher education opportunities for all people who are incarcerated in Illinois while supporting policies that will abolish our state's and nation's reliance on criminalization and incarceration.

## Why is Higher Education in Prison (HEP) Important?

HEP matters not only to incarcerated people, but also to society.



### Impacts Families Positively

Children with parents that have a college degree are more likely to attend college.



### Increases Employment Opportunities

Postsecondary education in prison increases employment and earnings for formerly incarcerated people, most of whom will leave prisons and jails and return to their communities.



### Empowers Students to Give Back

Students in HEP programs report greater well-being. Many students go on to form advocacy groups to give back in their communities – benefiting all people in Illinois.



### Creates Opportunities for Individual and Community Transformation

Higher education helps incarcerated and formerly incarcerated students develop and share their unique and valuable insights with the world.

## What We Do

- ▶ **Engage** IDOC leaders
- ▶ **Support** Higher Education in Prison programs
- ▶ **Develop** policy related to higher education in prisons
- ▶ **Advocate** for legislation at the state level
- ▶ **Support** formerly incarcerated people as they reenter society
- ▶ **Offer** college and career guidance to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people

## IL-CHEP Priorities

- ▶ Support programs and instructors that offer higher education to people in prisons.
- ▶ Participate in, and advocate for, research and educating the public.
- ▶ Establish clear and consistent policies regarding access and administration of higher ed across facilities.
- ▶ Focus on higher education as a significant path toward reentry.
- ▶ Disseminate college and career resources to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated students.
- ▶ Advocate with state entities for access to IDOC data related to HEP.



## Illinois Colleges and Universities with HEP Programs

- ▶ Adler University at Big Muddy Correctional Center
- ▶ Augustana College at East Moline Correctional Center
- ▶ Benedictine College at Sheridan Correctional Center
- ▶ DePaul University at Stateville Correctional Center
- ▶ Eastern Illinois University at Danville Correctional Center
- ▶ Education Justice Project & Danville Area Community College at Danville Correctional Center
- ▶ Kaskaskia College at Centralia Correctional Center
- ▶ Lake Land Community College
- ▶ Northwestern University at Stateville Correctional Center
- ▶ North Park University, Northwestern University at Logan Correctional Center
- ▶ North Park University at Stateville Correctional Center
- ▶ Prison + Neighborhood Arts/Education Project, Northeastern Illinois University Without Walls at Stateville Correctional Center

<sup>1</sup> How Prison Education Can Save Taxpayers Money.  
<https://bpi.bard.edu/press-clip/how-prison-education-can-save-taxpayers-money>