

Partnering for Good: Prison Education and the Potential for Transformation



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Presenter

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Council for Christian Colleges and Universities



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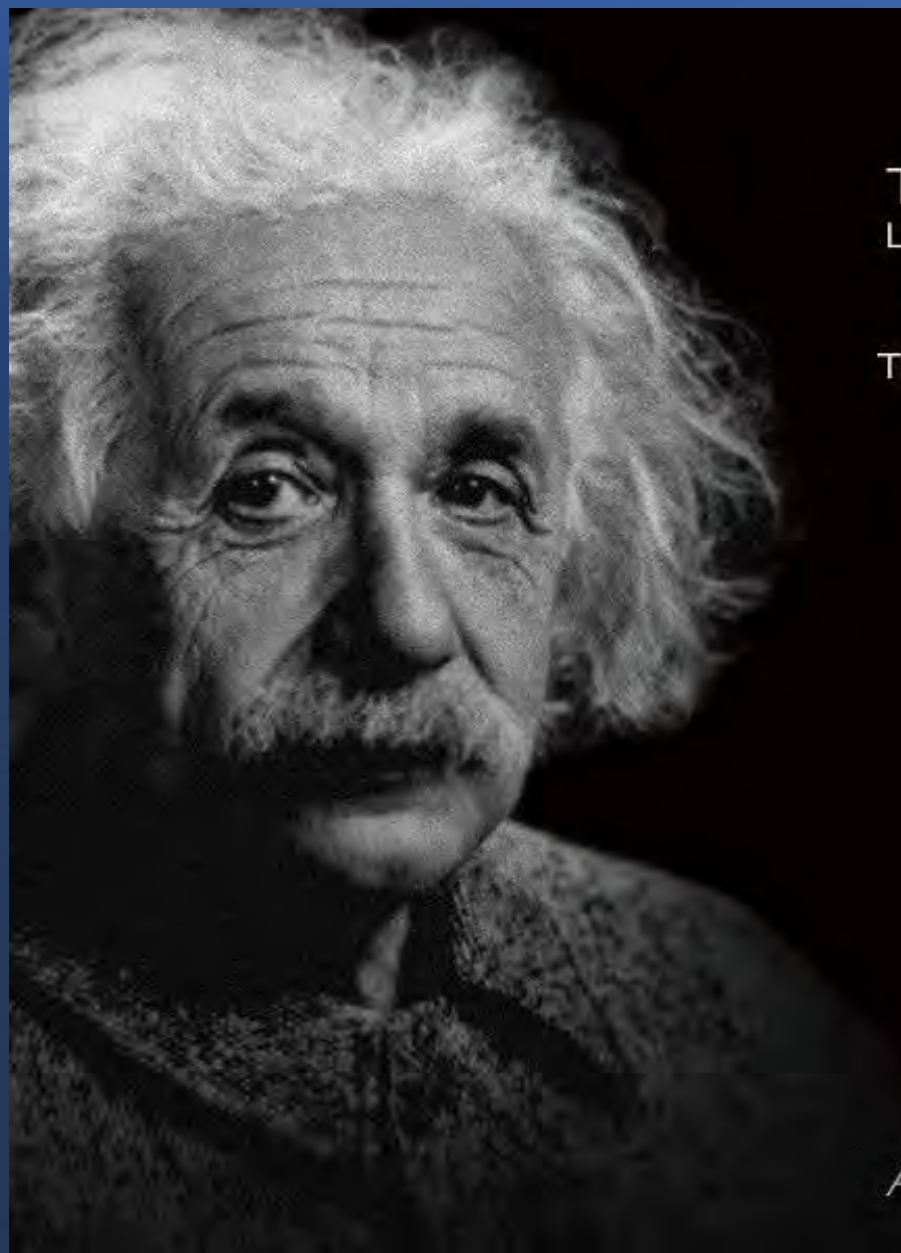


Partnering for Good: Prison Education and the Potential for Transformation

By Shirley Hoogstra

Value of Liberal Arts Education





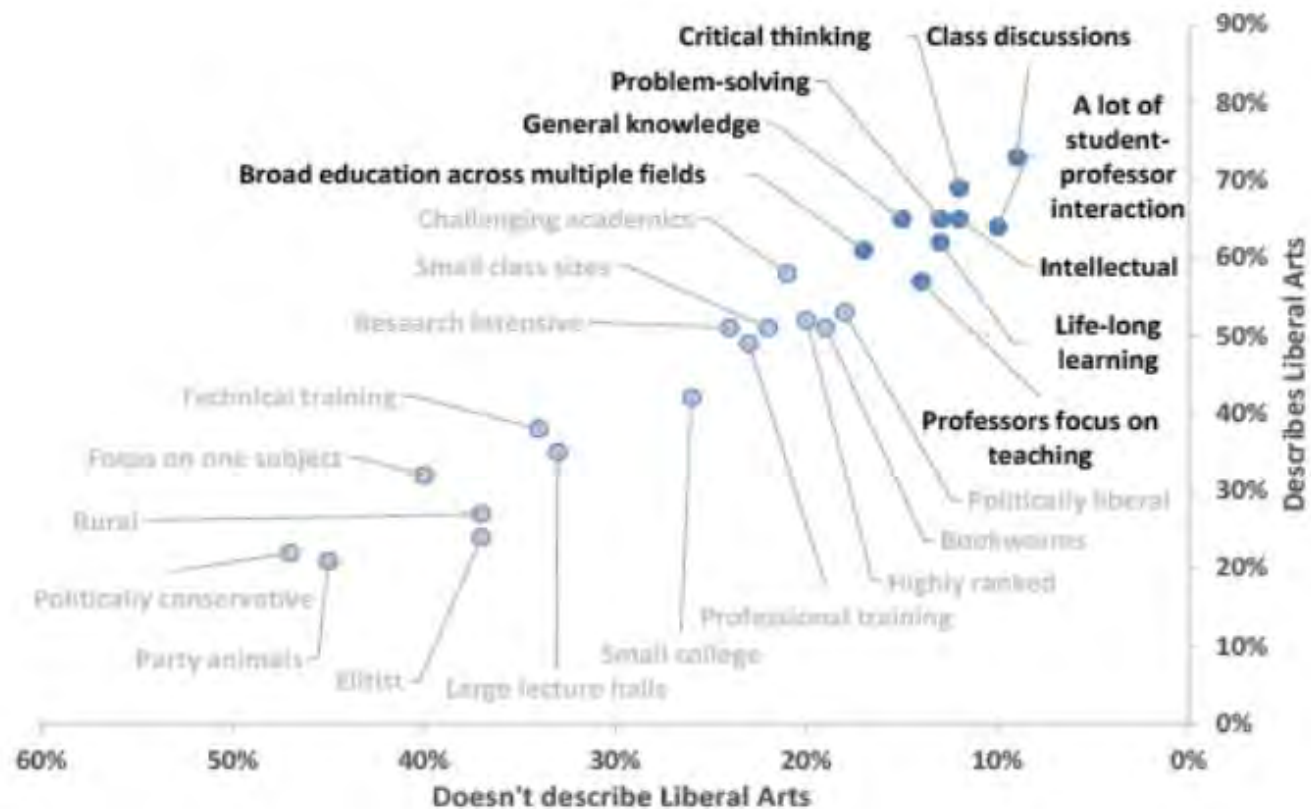
THE VALUE OF AN EDUCATION IN A
LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE IS NOT THE
LEARNING OF MANY FACTS, BUT
THE TRAINING OF THE MIND TO
THINK SOMETHING THAT CANNOT BE
LEARNED FROM TEXTBOOKS.

-ALBERT EINSTEIN

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What is a Liberal Arts Education?

Descriptors commonly associated with Liberal Arts Education



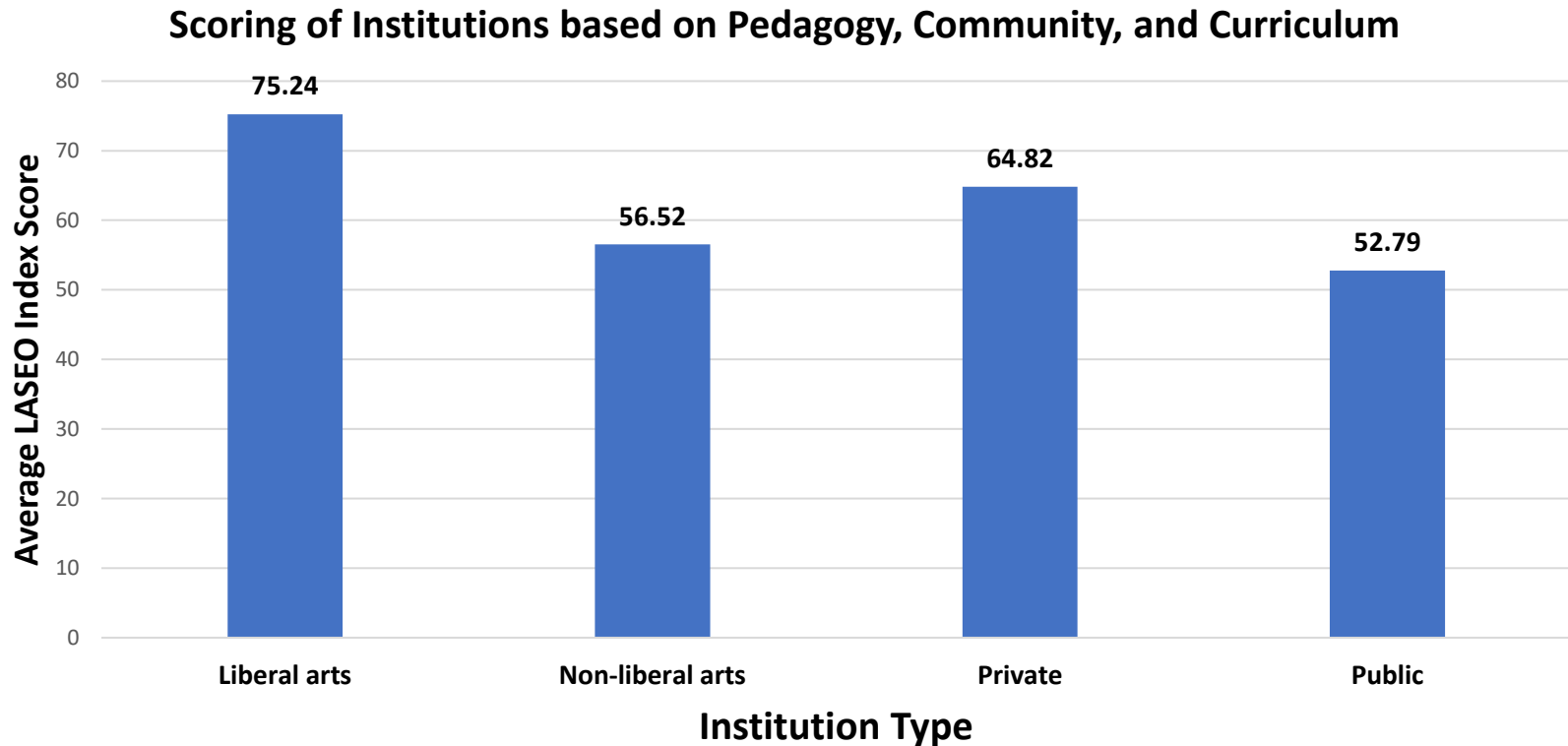
Source: Art & Science Group LLC. "Student POLL: The Liberal Arts...Is That Still a Thing?" September 2022.

The Value of Liberal Arts

“The question to ask about education is not ‘What can I do with it?’ that is the wrong question. The right question is rather ‘What can it do to me?’”

“Liberal education is an open invitation to join the human race and become more fully human.”

- Arthur Holmes



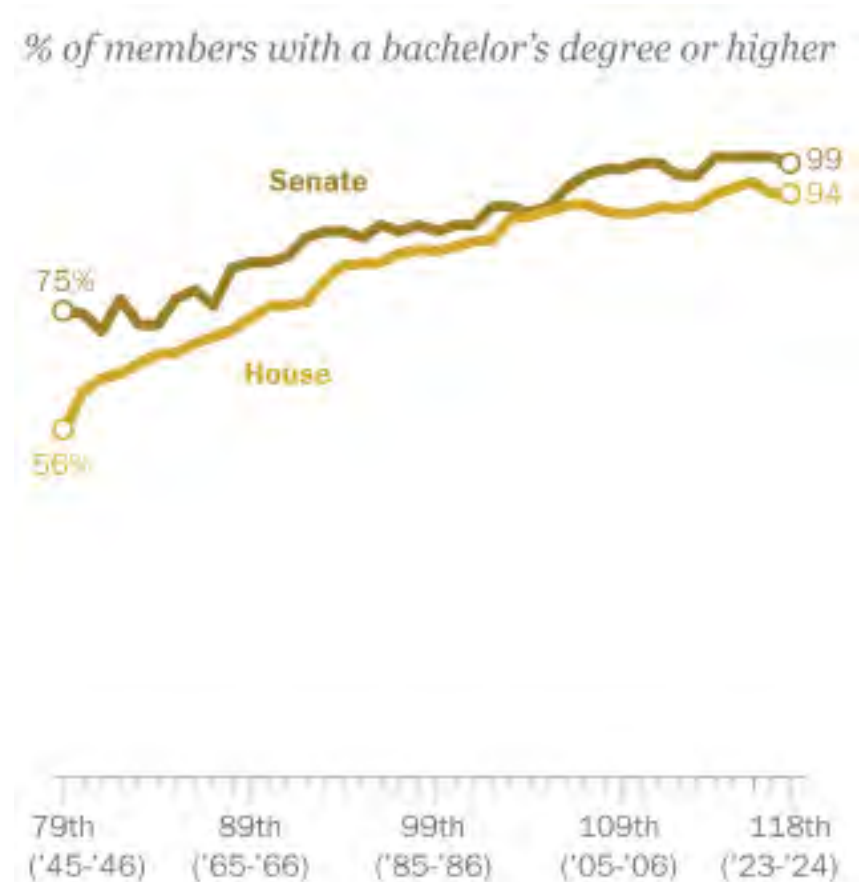
Data from: Rossman, Daniel, et. al. “Measuring a Liberal Education and its Relationship with Labor Market Outcomes” Ithaka S+R. September 29, 2020.

Nearly all Members of Congress have a bachelor's degree

99% of Senators and **94%** of Representatives in the **118th Congress** have at least a bachelor's degree.

Among these, several elite liberal arts universities are well-represented:

- **9%** of House members have at least one degree from **Harvard**
- **13%** of Senators have a degree from **Harvard**
- **9%** of Senators have a degree from **Yale**
- **7%** of Senators have a degree from **Georgetown**



Source: Schaeffer, Katherine. "Nearly all members of the 118th Congress have a bachelor's degree – and most have a graduate degree, too." Pew Research. February 2, 2023.



Prison Education in the United States

Prison Education Changes Lives

Bureau of Justice Statistics:

82% of individuals released from state prisons are rearrested **within 10 years**

A 2018 analysis of correctional education programs found that inmates who participated in an educational program had on average a **28% lower** chance of ending up back in prison than those who did not.

Source: Davis, Lois. "Higher Education Programs in Prison" The RAND Corporation. August 28, 2019



Prison Education Changes Lives

- **Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison:** This program in New York has a three-year recidivism rate of less than 1% for graduates.
- **Bard Prison Initiative (BPI):** This program in upstate New York has a recidivism rate of 2.5% for students who complete a degree.
- **Chemeketa Community College:** This program in Oregon has a recidivism rate of 6% for graduates

Source: BPI: How Prison Education Can Save Taxpayers Money & Corrections Education at Chemeketa





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Behind Our Walls Documentary



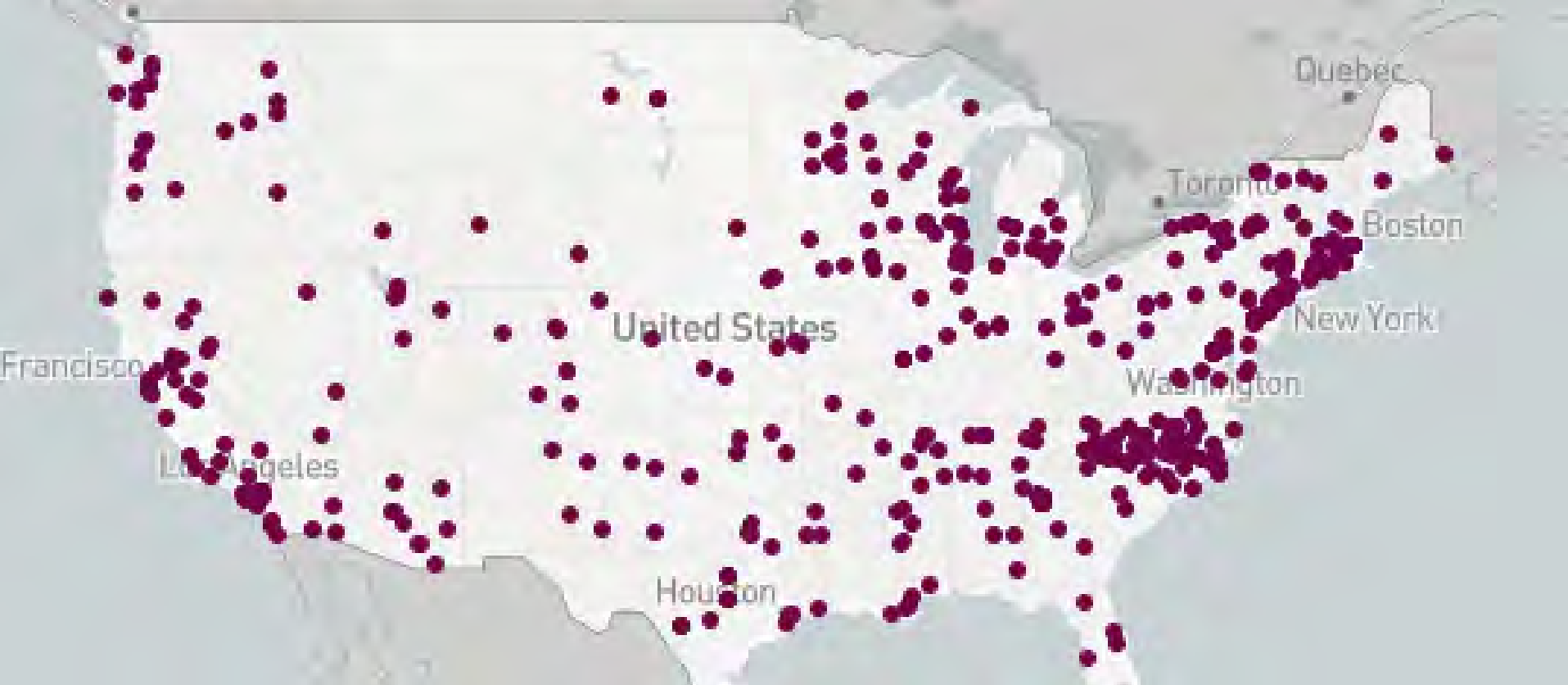
The Individual Impact





Calvin Prison Initiative





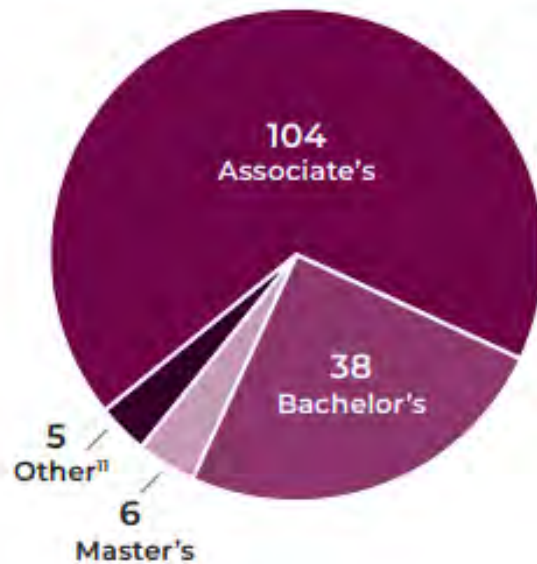
Institutions with Prison Education Programs

As of May 2023, the National Directory of Higher Education in Prison Programs lists a total of 465 academic institutions offering educational opportunities at 589 of 1,664 U.S. correctional facilities.

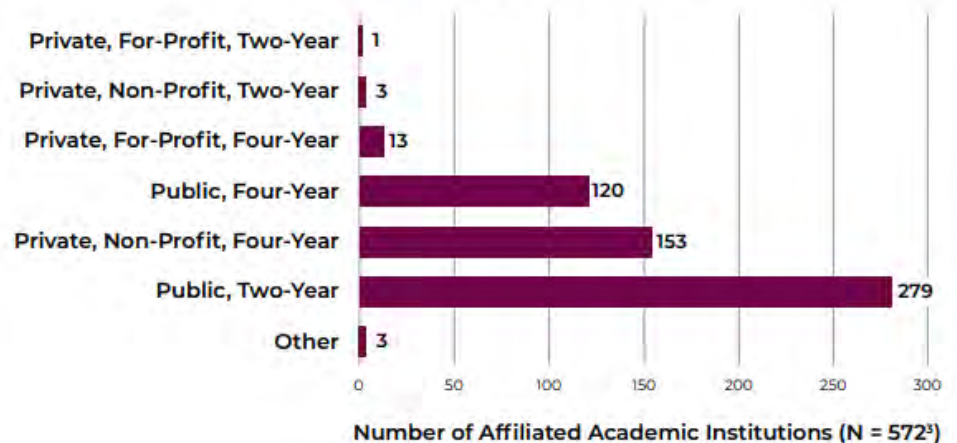
Types of Programs

Most prison education programs only grant certificates; and of the 135 programs that do grant degrees, less than 40 grant a Bachelor's degree.

A total of 135 programs provide 153 degree pathways and include:



What types of academic institutions are affiliated with higher education in prison programs?



17 CCCU Institutions with Prison Education Programs

Baylor University

Bethel University

Calvin University

Campbell University

Crown College

Hannibal-LaGrange University

Indiana Wesleyan University

Lipscomb University

Moody Bible Institute

Oklahoma Baptist University

Oklahoma Christian University

Prairie College

Samford University

Trinity International University

University of the Southwest

Wheaton College

York College



Ashland University

- Offering correctional education since 1964
- Over 1,130 graduates since 2016
- Operating in over 120 facilities in 13 states





The Cultural Impact



CPI Statistics

- 18** students have been released
0 have reoffended since 2017
- 4 were BA grads at the time they were released
 - 5 paroled students completed their BA on Calvin's main campus
 - 1 was commuted and deported and finished an Associate's online



CPI Statistics

14 of 18 paroled CPI students are now employed full-time:

- **3** run businesses that help the formerly incarcerated
- **4** were promoted to entry-level management
- **1** is working on a Master's (MSW), while working in a re-entry organization



Increasing Access to Education

Over 45,000 students participated in Second Chance Pell funded programs 2016 – 2023

Pell Grant restoration took effect July 1, 2023, so we expect this number to grow

Vera Institute of Justice, “The First Year of Pell Restoration” June 2024.

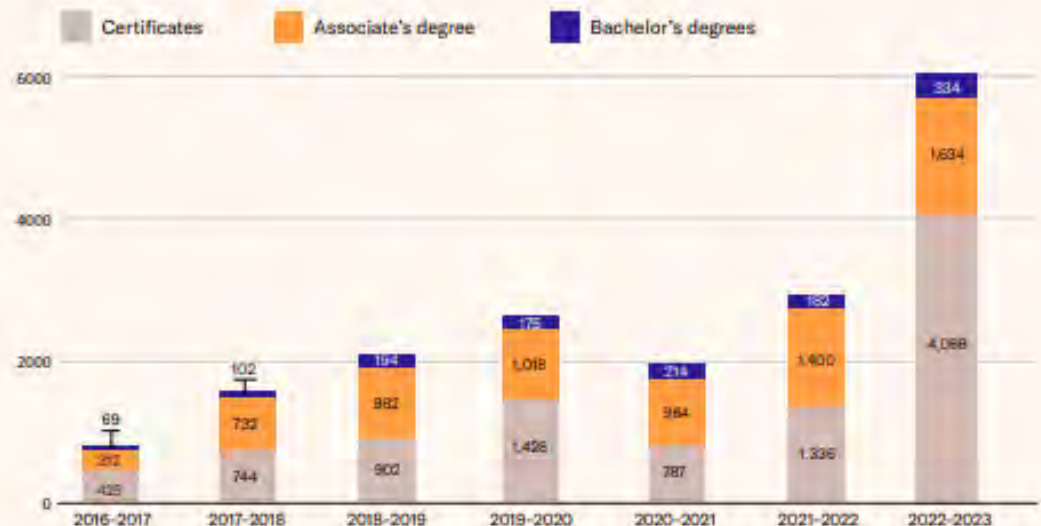
FIGURE 1

Unduplicated students enrolled in Second Chance Pell*



FIGURE 2

Credentials earned by year and type



Since 2017, April is Second Chance Month





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Behind Our Walls Documentary



The Societal Impact



GRADUATION DAY

So, what does it all mean?

“Liberal education is an open invitation to join the human race and become more fully human.”

- Arthur Holmes



Resources



Thank you for attending
this session!



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