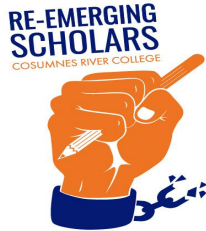


# Prison Reentry Education Program: Supporting Currently & Formerly Incarcerated Students



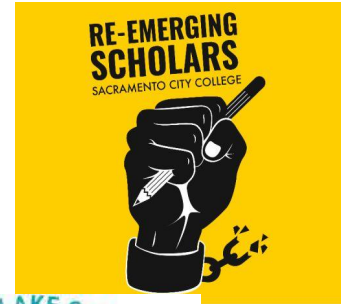
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Parrish Geary, Dean, Student Services

Dr. Veronica Lopez, Nutrition Faculty



Dr. Mari Peshon McGarry, Dean, El Dorado  
Center & Prison and Reentry Education Program



# Incarceration in California

**95,000**

People Incarcerated in  
CDCR (State Prisons)

**60,000**

People Incarcerated in  
county jails

**405,505**

Adults on post-release or court  
mandated supervision (2018)

**95%**

Of all incarcerated people will come  
home

**8 Million**

Californians are estimated to be living  
with an arrest or conviction record

**“Who  
could we  
become?”**

# Background on Prison and Reentry Education Program

## SB 1391 (2015)

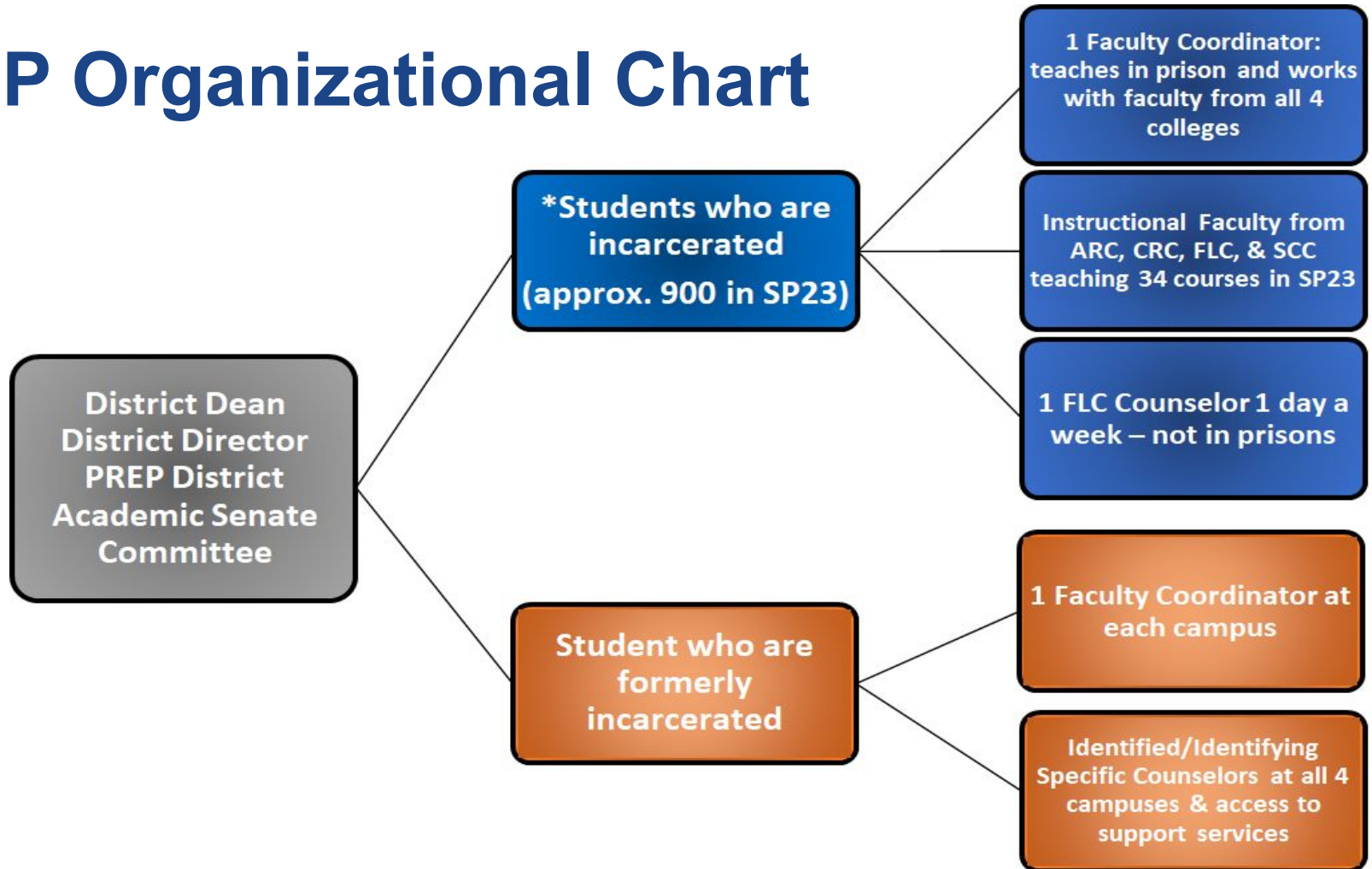
- California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) & California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO)
- Face-to-Face college instruction

## Prop 57 (2016)

### Milestones:

- 3 units = 1 week off sentence
- Associate degree = 6 months off sentence
- 1.9% recidivism rate
- Community Impact

# PREP Organizational Chart



# In Prison/Facility Education

**\*Students who are  
incarcerated  
(approx. 900 in SP23)**

**1 Faculty Coordinator:  
teaches in prison and works  
with faculty from all 4  
colleges**

**Instructional Faculty from  
ARC, CRC, FLC, & SCC  
teaching 34 courses in SP23**

**1 FLC Counselor 1 day a  
week – not in prisons**

**District Dean  
District Director  
PREP District  
Academic Senate  
Committee**



# Los Rios Students Who are Incarcerated

- Two prisons (Mule Creek & Folsom men's)
- Six distinct yards (like centers on campuses but no movement between)
- Approximately 900 current students; undetermined # of past students who may or may not have completed degrees
- No internet access; little to no access to college catalogs

- Four-eight classes offered from Los Rios each semester (on each yard)
- Many also take courses from correspondence colleges
- Completion of A.A degree = 6 months off sentence (+\$54,000 taxpayer savings per person)
- 2 yards B.A. degree (Sac State at Mule Creek & Folsom)



# Who are Los Rios Scholars?

- 16 - 80 years old
  - Parents, grandparents
  - Children, siblings, grandchildren
  - Spouses
  - Friends
- Artists, entrepreneurs, paraprofessionals
- Survivors
- Beings of untapped power





**"What would happen if educators are empowered to meet the academic, as well as the social and emotional needs of students by implementing early prevention strategies, culturally responsive pedagogy, and restorative justice practices?"**

# Teaching in Prison: Current Courses by ARC Faculty

Department	Courses	Faculty
Math	STATS 300 (all with support class attached)	Anwar Safvi (Adjunct) Vitaliy Supin (Adjunct) Dung Nguyen (Adjunct)
Math	STATS 300*	Karsten Stemmann (Adjunct) Sandy McKaig (Adjunct)
Biology	BIO 352	Jennifer Neale (Full-time)

\*New co-teaching model started Spring 2023

# Faculty Recruitment & Training

- 1 Day Training, College While Incarcerated - this semester 60 Faculty, student led
- Areas of Need
  - Communications
  - Science with Lab Course
  - Psychology
  - Ethnic Studies
  - Foreign Language (ASL and Spanish)
  - Social Work/Human Services
  - Accounting
  - Economics



# Advocacy Campaign: Students' Concerns

“For too long we have gone without access to a counselor or other critical support services to guide us on a successful path through college...We cannot build collegiate excellence without the simple ability to inquire about what courses are needed from a counselor. We would appreciate the same opportunities afforded other students per the law. We are in an environment due to our violating the law, yet laws protecting us are being violated daily: ‘Counseling programs shall include the following: academic counseling, in which the student is assisted in assessing, planning and implementing his or her immediate and long-term academic goals (California Code of Regulations, 1991).’ ”

- Christopher Purtill & Raul Torres, Los Rios Students (have taken classes from ARC, CRC, FLC, & SCC)

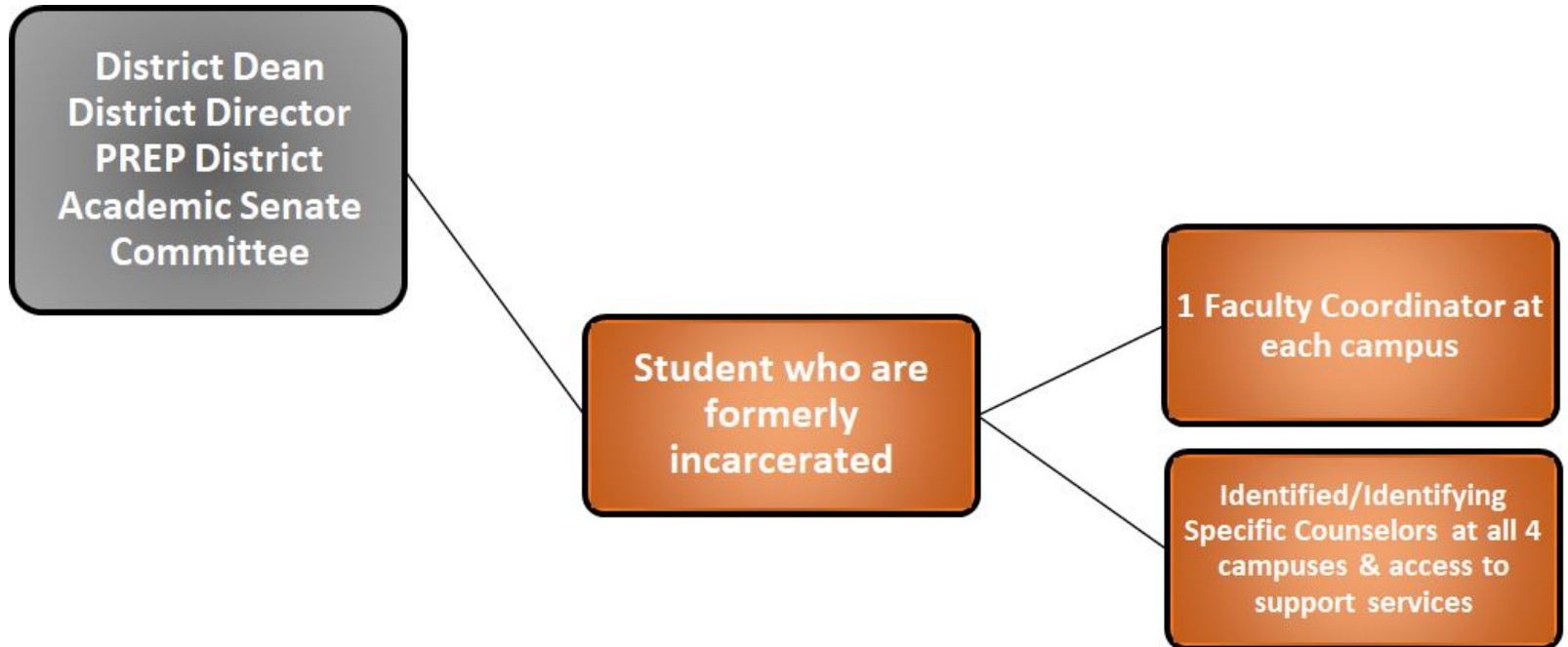
# Unmet Counseling Needs

- No clear access to counseling services
- No access to face-to-face counseling
- Ed Plans (which and how many classes to take, when they are ready/have completed courses for certificate/degree)
- Certificate & Degrees completed but students are unaware or have not petitioned
- Lack of holistic counseling services (e.g., career/education alignment, transitioning to 4 year upon release, etc.)

# Additional Concerns

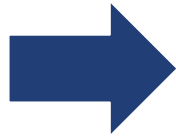
- Accreditation
- Collecting apportionment (approximately 130% of general population students) but no services
- Compliance with Ed Code

# Campus Programs: Rising or Re-emerging Scholars



# Rising Scholars at ARC:

- Sp22 Started ARC Re-Emerging Scholars
- Supported through Innovation grant (Shasta College, Mari)
- Los Rios PREP Faculty Coordinator Training
- Created Re-Emerging Scholars website



- F22 Applied and Awarded 3 yr Grant
- AVP Office of Equity and Inclusion, and Dean of Student Services
- Located in UNITE Center
- Updated name/website to Rising Scholars
- Student facing ARC on-boarding questionnaire & Canvas Site
- 14 Active Students (2 transferring)
- 14 Prospective Students



# On Campus: Current Focus

- In-reach

- Two student peer mentors
- Consultant (Rodney Pope, Anti-Recidivism Coalition)
- Student Club (Dedicated to Change)
- Identify/Identifying currently enrolled students
- Workshops (Free Expungement Clinics)
- Campus Community meetings, Karaoke Tuesday and Paint-n-sip events)
- Campus jobs
- Collaborate with CRC (Christina Washington), FLC (Stephanie Karas), SCC (Nic Miller & Shane Logan)

- Outreach

- Collaborate with Dr. Mari Peshon and Molly Stafford (Director) and their local connections
- Connected/connecting with numerous community partners (Parole and Community Team Meeting (CDCR) and Youth Detention Facilities (YDF))
- Prison student onboarding to ARC
- Housing resources through Community partnerships
- Tattoo removal resources

# On Campus: Students Concerns

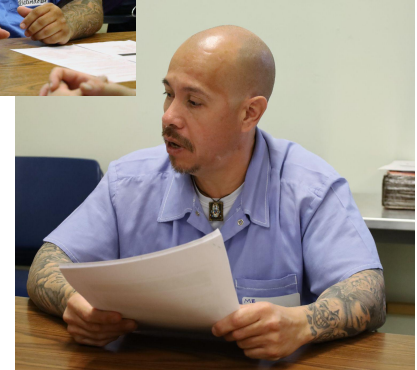
- Enrollment - applications need to also be provided in paper format
  - Admissions & Records - need someone that is willing to learn about the unique challenges and willing untangle the messy
  - Financial Aid - applications need to also be provided in paper format and need someone that is willing to learn about and help smooth-out the bumps along the way
  - Walk-in counselor appointments
  - Housing Resources
- 
- Dedicated Counselor
  - Institutional processes are slow;
    - Purchasing of gift cards



# Advocacy Campaign: Students' Concerns

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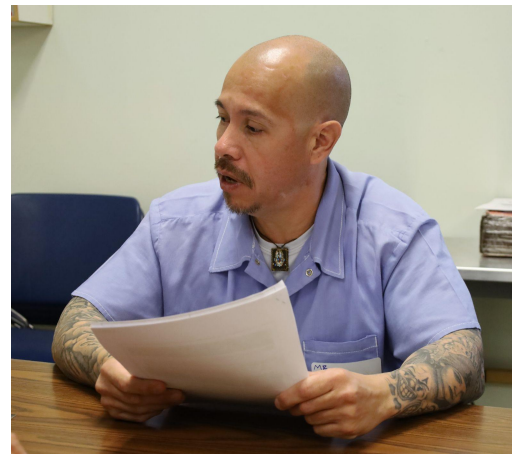


## Resources

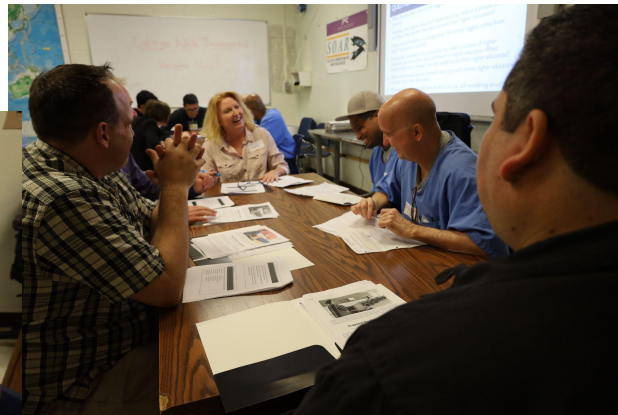


A screenshot of the Kanopy website interface. At the top, the Kanopy logo is on the left, and 'Browse' and 'Q Search' links are on the right. The main content area features the movie title 'Life After Life: Personal Stories of Adjusting to Life After Incarceration' in large white text. Below the title is an orange 'Play' button. Underneath the button, it shows the year '2017', a duration of '1hr 11min', a Creative Commons license icon, and a star rating of four stars with a half star. A short synopsis follows: 'This documentary follows the stories of Harrison, Noel, and Chris as they return home from San Quentin State Prison. After spending most of their lives incarcerated, they are forced to...'. At the bottom left is a 'Read More' button. On the right side of the page is a movie poster for 'LIFE AFTER LIFE' by Tamara Perkins. The poster includes several award laurels from festivals like the San Francisco International Film Festival and the New York Film Festival, and a photo of a man in a prison uniform looking out a window.









Student led Faculty Training at Mule Creek State Prison Sp23