

NOMINATION FORM
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION SERVICE LEARNING COMPETITION

Institution

Title of Project

Project Director

Contact Information for Project Director

Establishment Date of Project

Unit That Administers Project

Total Number of Students Involved

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS REGARDING THE NOMINATED PROJECT
(Insert your answer after each question.)

1. For purposes of this competition, the Commission on Higher Education defines service learning as college student learning at any level and in any situation that is *linked* in a direct, hands-on fashion to the resolution of a problem or concern in a target community outside the institution *and is related* to a college course with some type of reflection activity. How does your project meet the parameters of this definition?

2. Specifically, which segments of the college/university community does your project involve?

3. How many students (specify degree levels to the extent possible) does the project affect?

4. Describe the target community or communities your project serves.

5. Describe your project's effectiveness in helping to solve the problems or concerns in the target community.

6. Describe the degree to which your project enhances student learning while providing specific examples of the service learning activities the college students engage in. Also explain how the service learning activities reinforce or apply what the students learn in the classroom.

7. Is there academic credit associated with the project (not necessary for submission)? If so, please explain the particulars.

8. If funding is required, how is the project funded and what is the approximate annual budget for the project?

9. Add any other comments you may have about your project.

You may also include supplemental information about the project (such as brochures, pictures, etc.).

Please return this form via e-mail by **February 27, 2015**, to:

Trena Houp, Program Manager
Academic Affairs
South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
1122 Lady Street, Suite 300
Columbia, SC 29201
803.737.4853
thoup@che.sc.gov



MAKING HIM KNOWN WITHIN THE WALLS

Visit www.ciu.edu/prisoninitiative to learn more about the entire program, objectives, curriculum, and updates. We would like to hear from you. Please send us your thoughts, suggestions, and/or questions.

Contact the Prison Initiative:

Dr. Andre Melvin, Director
CIU Prison Initiative
Columbia International University
7435 Monticello Road
Columbia, SC 29203

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Phone: (803) 807-5020

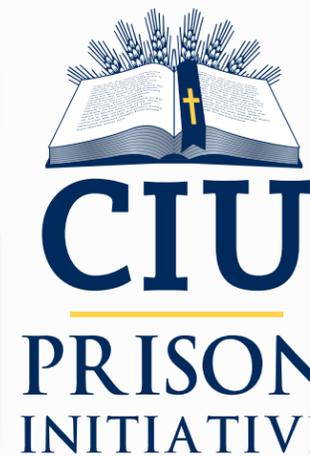
Toll Free: (800) 777-2227

Address Prison Initiative Gifts to:

Mr. Frank Bedell
Director of Development
Prison Initiative
Columbia International University
7435 Monticello Road
Columbia, SC 29203

JANUARY 2015

A WAY OUT OF NO WAY



FROM THE DIRECTOR



Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb. 12:1-2)

As I think of this new year of 2015, I am reminded of this verse. God, by His abundant mercy and grace, has given us more time to run this Christian race. We have another opportunity to perfect that which we have been entrusted. We have been given an extension to fulfill His purpose for our lives and ministry responsibilities.

The Hebrew writer exhorts his believing recipients in the midst of their trials and tests, that despite their challenges, they can run their race effectively by drawing on examples of the saints of old (vs 1) and by following Jesus who is our best model of running a perfect race (vs 2).

In the eighth year of the Prison Initiative, God has given us more opportunity to make an impact within the walls of the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC). The 15 men in the sixth cohort, who graduated in December, have been added to the 79 other CIU Prison Initiative alumni serving in 22 male and female institutions around our state. Meanwhile, the 15 men of cohort #8 have started their two-year training, and will join cohort #7 who are half-way through their program, and are looking forward to graduation at the end of the year.

The students in the second cohort of women are in their second semester, having successfully overcome the many challenges that come with college-level studies.

Our students are running their race. They are learning to draw upon the faithfulness of those who have gone before them. They are learning how to lay aside all distractions and how to acknowledge and address sin in their lives. They are learning how to persevere in their race despite all obstacles and hurdles that stand before them. But more importantly, they are learning how to keep their focus on the One that called them to run, Jesus Christ, who will coach them through each leg of their experience.

Thank you for your prayers and support for our students and for our program. God continues to show His hand of provision and favor. May He bless you for joining Him in this Kingdom driven endeavor.

Andre T. Melvin, M.Div.
Director
CIU Prison Initiative

GRADUATE TESTIMONIES

How has God shaped and molded you over the last two years in the Prison Initiative Program?

"In these two years, God has helped me to learn how to communicate with people: believers and unbelievers in a most effective way...Through academic testing I have learned how to trust in God and I can also apply this not only in academics but also in life. God is faithful. It's been a challenge these two years but it is God's victory." –C.P.

"God has allowed me to see that I do not need to follow anybody but Him. He has shown me through others that I can be a leader as long as I am following after the Son and let the light inside me shine ever bright! I have also learned that the past is the past and I am pressing towards the future; the future is found in Christ." –A.S.

"I believe the program helped to solidify my personal theology—my "creed," if you will. My faith has been challenged through the learning process and at times I felt it was more than I could bear. But seeing the progress in all areas of my Christian development, I know God has equipped me with whatever I'll need as a platform for relationships, higher education and lay ministry as well as whatever calling He places in my heart for the future. In knowing Him more intimately, I believe I am able to more confidently and more effectively serve Him, to bring others to know Him too...but more importantly, to be known by Him." –J.C.

"One of the biggest ways God has shaped and molded me would be learning to love others and also to receive love. Having an open mind to listen to other views but not compromising my own values." –A.G.

"It has given me a greater understanding and appreciation of grace, along with a better understanding of my identity in Christ." –H.B.

"God has shown me His presence in such a way that I have been overwhelmed by His grace and mercy. He has led me to review my life and address those things that have kept me in sin all my life. He has given me the desire to fulfill His Word in my life, to live as He has called me and to serve." –B.R.

"Coming to the CIU program has shaped and molded me in a way that I never dreamed or even imagined. I was a Christian before coming to the program but since being in the Initiative, I have really come to know God. I now have a relationship with Him that compels me to want to make Him known to everyone I meet." –W.J.

"God has helped me to understand my need for Him, to embrace my weaknesses as an opportunity to learn. I've grown in an appreciation for God's Word and have met an amazing group of men who I now recognize as tools that God has used to shape and mold me." –A.B.



"There have been times here in school when God would reveal a certain truth or concept pertaining to life as His child, that have just absolutely blown me away. Everything is all about who we are in Christ." –T.R.



EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION

Subscribe!



In an effort to use the financial resources that God has blessed us with as wisely and effectively as possible, we are transitioning a couple of our scheduled newsletters to e-newsletters. We don't want you to miss these updates. If you would like to receive the e-newsletter (two-four times a year!) please let us know by emailing Grace Dye at gdye@ciu.edu or calling (803) 807-5020.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please Pray...



- Pray for our students to be diligent in their studies and not to grow weary as they faithfully prepare for ministry.
- Pray for our faculty and staff as they juggle many responsibilities and seek to be an encouragement to both students and graduates as well as SCDC staff.
- Pray for our graduates as they continue to serve in their respective institutions. Life there is not always easy and they need the grace of God to persevere and be a light in the darkness.
- Pray for the men and women who are being initiated into prison with whom our students have the opportunity to share the gospel weekly.
- Pray that the hearts of the new inmates will be softened to the gospel and that our students will have the blessing of seeing souls saved.
- Praise the Lord for His grace in giving our staff wisdom during the selection process for Cohort #8.
- Pray that the Lord will provide for the financial needs of the ministry.

Two Locations... One Mission

God has given CIU the privilege of starting a Bible degree program in two maximum security prisons in South Carolina.

The program began with its first cohort of men at the **Kirkland Correctional Facility** in 2007. We have more than 60 graduates serving in 18 facilities around the state. We are currently graduating one cohort and introducing a new cohort to Kirkland every year—meaning there are two cohorts going at any given time.

After several years of learning and growing at the Kirkland Facility, the Lord opened the door to begin teaching our first cohort of women at the **Camille Graham Correctional Facility**. Our first cohort at Camille will graduate in August 2014. Since there are fewer women in the prison system than men, we stagger the women's cohorts every two years.

While the dynamics at each prison is different, the heart and mission is the same: *To train inmates to live in accordance with biblical principles and to equip them for the unique ministry opportunities afforded by their incarceration.*

Get Involved!

While your access to this needy people group is limited, you can still be involved! As with any missionary endeavor, we need both prayer and financial support. It requires about \$3,800 a year for one student-inmate to attend the CIU Prison Initiative program.

There are professor salaries, text books, computer upkeep, and classroom supplies. Other costs include mileage, licensing, books, and of course, Bibles.

We ask you to join us in praying for the Lord to provide the resources needed to continue this vital ministry. Also, please pray for our students as they study and prepare for ministry. The challenges are great but God's grace is greater!

If you have questions or would like to get involved, please contact us!

Contact Us

Prison Initiative

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Columbia International University

Prison Initiative Program



Making Him Known Within the Walls

A Hard to Reach People Group

There is a mission field where many in the people group are in a state of apathy, discouragement and hopelessness. They often feel forgotten, abandoned or rejected by family and former friends. Would you like to reach this people group?

How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? (Rom. 10:14-15a)



Dr. Osterlund (Director Emeritus) prays with Kirkland students during class.

The problem is, access to this people group is limited. They're the inmates in the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

But we know someone who can reach them: their fellow inmates.

The Mission: Training Disciples

The mission of the CIU Prison Initiative is: *To train inmates to live in accordance with biblical principles and to equip them for the unique ministry opportunities afforded by their incarceration.*

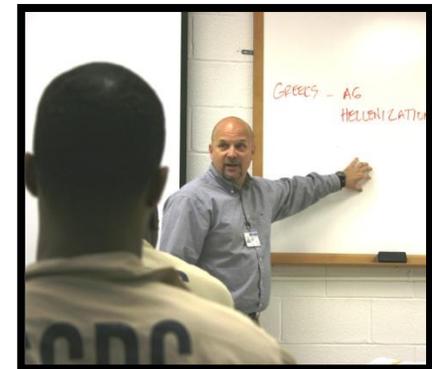
Each year, a new cohort of 15, qualified inmates are selected to take CIU classes leading to an accredited Associate of Arts Degree. Each week the student-inmates are taught behind the walls of the prison grounds by CIU professors and are expected to prepare their lessons and submit to academic standards as high as the standards found on the main CIU campus. They take general education courses such as English, History and Mathematics; Bible, Theology and Evangelism courses; as well as several workshops including Computer Technology, Comparative Religions, and Hospice Training.

The CIU student-inmates then live out their knowledge and deepening spiritual life by going cell to cell, building to building in regularly scheduled times of ministry and interaction with the prison system's newest inmates.

Disciples Sent Out

After the two years of training, CIU Prison Initiative graduates are placed in prisons across the state. They serve as men of peace, compassion, and skill under the local chaplain team. They may teach Bible courses or discipleship classes, assist in the daily ministry of the chaplain's office, or offer a strong testimony while working in prison industries. They are expected to be a positive (salt and light) influence to the men in their dorm or in the prison yard.

The men do not expect to be released because of this special training – they expect to be used within the razor wire as missionaries to their own people group.



Mike Thompson (CIU's Residence Life Director) faithfully teaches one of the cohorts at the Kirkland Correctional Facility.