

COLLEGE OF SAN MATEO

PROJECTCHANGE

BRIDGING THE GAP FROM INCARCERATION TO EDUCATION

Community Partners

**“What lies behind us,
and what lies before us,
are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”
-Ralph Waldo Emerson**

- San Mateo County Community College District: Lead Organization
- San Mateo County Probation Department
- San Mateo County Private Defenders Program
- Superior Court of California, San Mateo County Branch, Juvenile Justice Judges
- San Mateo County Office of Education
- Nonprofit Organization: Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)



Partnerships

Partnerships between community colleges and Probation can be mutually beneficial. The college is able to reach students who are incarcerated and cannot come to campus; Probation provides programming that can reduce recidivism. There are thousands of potential students in the juvenile justice system who can be served through these partnerships, and nearly 90% are incarcerated within 10 miles of a community college.

These partnerships make sense: higher education reduces recidivism, changes lives, and builds stronger communities.



Impact of Higher Education

- Research has shown that participation in educational programs during incarceration reduces the likelihood of recidivism by 43%; those who participate in higher education programs while confined were 51% less likely to recidivate than their incarcerated peers.
- Higher education improves critical thinking skills, exposes youth to a diverse range of supportive adults, helps youth develop positive self-identity, greater expectations for themselves, and belief in the possibility of different paths forward.
- By 2020, 63% of new jobs will require postsecondary credentials.

Juvenile Hall Admissions/Visiting



Access, Equity, Achievement

“The engaged voice must never be fixed and absolute but always changing, always evolving in dialogue with a world beyond itself”

- *Bell Hooks, Teaching to Transgress: Education as Means for Freedom*



College Programming Inside the San Mateo County Juvenile Detention Facilities



College Courses Offered

Fall and Spring Semesters

- ✓ Psychology (Introduction and Abnormal)
 - ✓ Sociology (Introduction)
 - ✓ English (Introduction and Creative Writing)
 - ✓ History (History of Ethnic Groups in the U.S.)
 - ✓ Communications (Introduction to Speech)
 - ✓ Drama (Improv)
 - ✓ College-Readiness: “Keys to Success.”
- ❖ All Courses are taught in person by professors from the college for UC/CSU transferable credit and high school credit



Support Services Inside JJ College Program

Financial Aid:

- ✓ Free Tuition
- ✓ Book stipends and material costs covered
- ✓ Assistance with financial aid (workshops and one-on-one support)

Academic Support:

- ✓ Designated academic counselors with case-load model
- ✓ County office of education staff and Probation assist with enrollment and student selection for courses
- ✓ Volunteers in each college class to assist with student's academic needs

Technology:

- ✓ Computer lab and laptops available for college courses in the juvenile hall
- ✓ Individual laptops provided to students



Students

- Population: High school students and graduates, ages 16-21. Concurrent enrollment in college courses.
- 15-20 students on average per class.
- Students choose if they want to enroll, and they are selected by both Probation and county office of education for the course.

Location

- Courses take place at the SMC Juvenile Hall during school hours. Both local camps (Camp Kemp and Camp Glenwood) are transported to the juvenile hall for the classes.
- Each college class mixes various units, genders, and camps in one classroom successfully.

Preparation

- Workshop/Speaker Series: Financial aid, academic counseling, faculty staff speakers pathways on campus

Transition

- Probation brings students out of custody to the college campus for classes, events and activities, and “Welcome Day,” which gives students priority enrollment

College Programming for Formerly Incarcerated Youth at College of San Mateo



Support Services On Campus College Program

Design

The on campus component of Project Change is a comprehensive, multiyear program, which offers streamlined support to students to transition to campus through outreach efforts at local court and community schools, the juvenile hall, and local high schools, to assist formerly incarcerated students in preparing to successfully enroll in college while they are still juniors and seniors in high school.

Financial Aid:

- ✓ Free Tuition
- ✓ Book stipends and material costs covered
- ✓ Public transport and food stipends
- ✓ Assistance with financial aid (workshops and one-on-one support)



Academic Support:

- ✓ Designated academic counselors with case-load model
- ✓ Priority enrollment
- ✓ Early connections to social support wrap-around services on and off campus
- ✓ Direct support for on campus jobs and work-study, and positions to work as a student Ambassador for Project Change (one of the highest paid student positions on the campus).
- ✓ Designated space on campus (a large office and full learning center specifically for Project Change students).

Leadership:

- ✓ Project Change students return to the juvenile hall classes to share about their experience transitioning to college
- ✓ Students in Project Change have their own club on campus
- ✓ Students attend and present at local, state, and national conferences
- ✓ Students join other clubs and student government on campus



Student Success

Students Served 2018/19:

149 students have participated in Project Change Programming this year inside the juvenile hall and on the college campus.

Persistence Rate of New and Continuing Students:

76%

Completion Rate of New and Continuing Students:

75%

Note: The completion and retention rate of Project Chan students is above the rate of the average College of San Mateo student.



Positive Strides and New Identity

- Two Students transferred to UC Berkeley; four to SF State; One to San Jose State; One to UC Davis; One to UC Santa Cruz; One to Menlo College; Two students completed certificates (one in Building Inspection and one in the early childhood education program); three completed their Associates Degrees.
- Two Project Change students currently serve as Commissioners for the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Commission (JJDCP)
- Students spoke on multiple panels in the county to highlight ways to best serve youth in the justice system
- Students spoke on a panel at the first statewide conference on higher education and incarceration in January to state leaders, Probation, education, and policy makers.



WELCOME TO OUR ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



SAN MATEO COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGES
FOUNDATION

2016 SMCCCF GOLF EVENT

SCORE

11A
DODGE AARON
DODGE FRED
DODGE KURT
FOSTER BEN

11B
HENRI DENIS
KWAN SYLVIA
MCPIERSON BRIAN
WELLS GARY

12A
AUCH DAVE
DEISS GUSTAV
KEPLER-KORN JE
MOORE DENISE

12B
DELEHANTY BRIAN
GREENBERG SCOTT
PICKERING STEVE
SILLA STEVE

13A
KRUTTSCHNITT TED
MINNICH WILL
PEARL RICH
SCHWARZ FRANK

13B
RICEVES ARON
MAREY GREG
MORE BANK
RIVIN

SMCCCF GOLF EVENT

73
61

