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NYS Higher Education in Prison 101

December 5th, 2019

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Agenda:

1. Why Are We Here?

Historical Context

2. What Is the Present Landscape?

Public/Private Programming

SUNY's Footprint and Stake in the
Game

Academic Reentry

3. The Politics of College in Prison

Bills in the Legislature

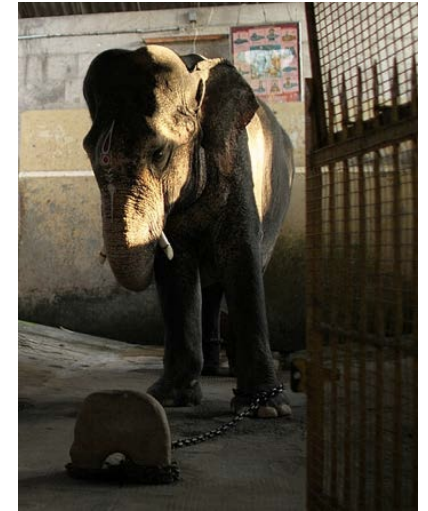
9/23 Roundtable

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History of Mass Incarceration

- The U.S. incarcerates more people than any nation in the world. America's approach to punishment often lacks a public safety rationale, disproportionately affects minorities, and inflicts overly harsh sentences.
- The prison population began to grow in the 1970s, when politicians from both parties used fear and thinly veiled racial rhetoric to push increasingly punitive policies. Nixon started this trend-- "war on drugs" utilizing "tough on crime" rhetoric. But the prison population truly exploded during President Ronald Reagan's administration. When Reagan took office in 1980, the total prison population was 329,000, and when he left office eight years later, the prison population had essentially doubled, to 627,000.



Pertinent History Regarding Access to Higher Ed. In Prison

In 1994 the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act became federal law. A stipulation of the law was rescinding Pell eligibility to adults who were incarcerated.

Governor Pataki followed suit rescinding tap eligibility in NY. This very quickly eradicated most college in prison programming in New York State.



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At least 95 percent of people incarcerated in state prisons will be released back to their communities.



Corrections and Community Supervision

DOCCS FACT SHEET

December 1, 2019

The management and operation of prisons is difficult work. It requires an equal measure of patience, discipline and creativity. DOCCS is responsible for the care, custody, and treatment of individuals sentenced to state prison, working with these inmates to ensure successful re-entry into the community and supervising those who are placed on parole. That's our Department's mission and it's the guide we follow to carry out the very serious responsibility entrusted to us.

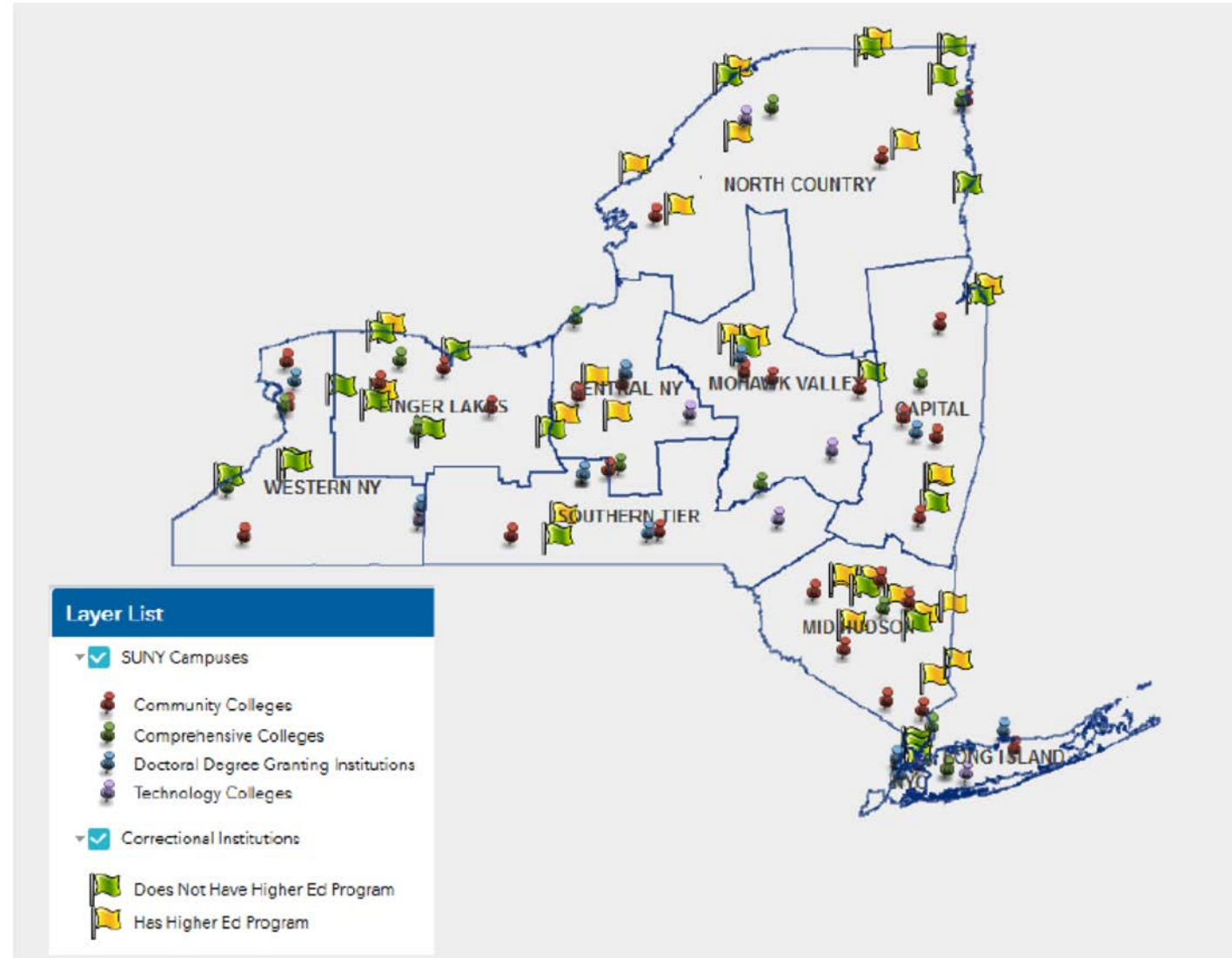
The material contained within this Fact Sheet is based on statistical information compiled by DOCCS and it is intended to provide insight into the function and operation of the Department's 52 facilities that house 44,550 inmates and 35,924 parolees under DOCCS' responsibility.



Where we Stand Today

Since 1994 many campuses have developed partnerships with neighboring correctional facilities. These are financially supported mostly by private foundations other than a few that are supported by the NYS Legislature, Criminal Justice Investment Initiative, and Second Chance Pell. It is important to note that private institutions within NYS administer most of the programs and hold the highest enrollments compared to SUNY campuses.

- 29 out of 52 facilities currently have access
- Less than 2k students statewide, potential for 13k based off DOCCS estimates



SUNY campuses that are currently providing college courses and/or degrees at several correctional facilities. 12 campuses 17 correctional facilities

- SUNY North Country Community College: Adirondack Correctional Facility, Bare Hill Correctional Facility, and Franklin Correctional Facility
- SUNY Genesee Community College: Attica Correctional Facility
- SUNY Cayuga Community College: Auburn Correctional Facility, Five Points Correctional Facility, and Cayuga Correctional Facility (Consortium Model)
- SUNY Corning County Community College: Elmira Correctional facility
- SUNY Jefferson Community College: Cape Vincent Correctional Facility, Gouverneur Correctional Facility, and Watertown Correctional Facility
- SUNY Columbia-Greene County Community College: Greene Correctional Facility
- SUNY Mohawk Community College: Marcy Correctional Facility
- SUNY Sullivan County Community College: Sullivan Correctional Facility
- SUNY Purchase: Bedford Hills Correctional Facility (Consortium Model)
- SUNY Herkimer County Community College: Mohawk Correctional Facility and Midstate Correctional Facility (Consortium Model)
- SUNY Potsdam: Riverview Correctional Facility (Consortium Model, no degree offered)
- SUNY Ulster: Shawangunk Correctional Facility

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SUNY is working in partnership with the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision on a shared goal. Both state agencies are committed to creating and ensuring sustainable and equitable access to quality higher education for those who are currently and **formerly incarcerated**.



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They Ways in Which Politics have been a Gatekeeper and an Open Door

Expansion of the Obama Era Second Chance Pell Program

Criminal Justice Investment Initiative

Federal Advocacy, Unlock Higher Education:
Higher Education Reauthorization Act
or
Real Act

NYS S790 (Montgomery)
"A3975 (Aubry)"
NYS S02206 (Bailey)
"A04011 (Aubry)"

September 23rd Roundtable at John Jay College

College and Community Fellowship, Advocacy Campaign of Providers



Prison Education Team

- Rebecca Grace - *Director of Strategic Planning and Analysis*
- Daniel Knox - *Director of Student Mobility*
- Phillip Ortiz - *Assistant Provost for Undergraduate and STEM Education & Coordinator, Empire State STEM Learning Network*
- Klarisse Torriente - *Prison Education Coordinator*

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~Question Time~

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