

Policy

Practice

PRISONER REENTRY INSTITUTE

Partnerships

**JOHN
JAY** COLLEGE
OF
CRIMINAL
JUSTICE

PRI PRISONER REENTRY
INSTITUTE

**CU
NY** The City
University
of
New York



The Prisoner Reentry Institute (PRI) is one of twelve institutes that collectively comprise the Research Consortium of John Jay College of Criminal Justice. PRI undertakes innovative reentry projects that contribute to a deeper understanding of what it takes for justice-involved people to live successfully in the community, as well as to develop the necessary knowledge and skills for the professionals who support them in doing so.

PRI works towards this mission by focusing its efforts on the following types of projects and activities:

Policy

Providing Practitioners and Policymakers with Cutting Edge Tools and Expertise

Practice

Developing, Managing, and Evaluating Innovative Reentry Projects

Partnerships

Identifying Opportunities and Building Collaboration Across Fields and Disciplines

The mission of the Prisoner Reentry Institute (PRI) at John Jay College of Criminal Justice is to spur innovation and improve practice in the field of reentry by advancing knowledge; translating research into effective policy and service delivery; and fostering effective partnerships between criminal justice and non-criminal justice disciplines.

OUR WORK

Educational Initiatives

Improving access to higher education for people with criminal records was one of the founding purposes of the Prisoner Reentry Institute. We accomplish this through a number of activities, namely our Prison-to-College Pipeline (P2CP) program, which includes services from college preparation and CUNY assessment testing through accredited in-prison college courses and education-focused aftercare. In the summer of 2015, the non-profit organization College Initiative, which has helped returning citizens connect to higher education opportunities in the community since 2002, joined the Educational Initiatives department.

Student Fellowships

We also offer a number of fellowships for exceptional undergraduate and graduate students of John Jay College, are placed in paid service learning positions throughout an extensive network of partner agencies. While gaining hands-on experience in fields such as juvenile justice, forensic psychology, and policy advocacy, students engage in coursework designed to complement their practical work. Our fellowship initiatives allow us to shape the next generation of justice policymakers and practitioners while offering support to organizations in these communities of practice.



NYC Justice Corps aims to reduce recidivism among young adults, ages 18-24, who have been involved in the criminal justice system, and put them on a path to education and employment. Justice-involved young people participate in Community Benefit Projects in underserved communities to create a sense of civic responsibility, build employment readiness skills, and develop positive relationships with community members. The NYCJC serves young adults in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Harlem and Queens with the support of the NYC Center for Economic Opportunity and the NYC Young Men's Initiative.

Convenings, Research, and Publications

PRI is engaged in a number of research initiatives on subjects affecting justice-involved and returning citizens. This includes Reentry Research in the First Person as well as program evaluations, technical assistance, and conference-based research programs. One such program is the Occasional Series on Research in Reentry, a monthly lecture and discussion series that features the presentation of emerging reentry research followed by discussion among a distinguished speakers from a wide variety of disciplines and areas of expertise.

History of PRI

The Prisoner Reentry Institute was founded in 2005 as one of twelve institutes that collectively comprise the Research Consortium of John Jay College of Criminal Justice. The term “reentry” gained traction at the federal level following a conversation between then National Institute of Justice Director Jeremy Travis, Assistant Attorney General for Justice Programs Laurie Robinson, and Attorney General Janet Reno in the spring of 1999. The Attorney General had asked Travis and Robinson to find out what was being done for and about “all the people coming out of prison” – a population that, as they soon discovered, was approaching 600,000 people per year. It also became clear during that initial inquiry that many individuals were being reincarcerated after release, and that understanding and addressing the challenges of the post-release period would be crucial to combatting the problem of recidivism. “Reentry”, a term that had been used previously in John Irwin’s 1970 writings on the prison experience, was widely adopted by Travis and many others as the name for the burgeoning field of social services and rehabilitative supports for people returning from incarceration.

Jeremy Travis continued to work on prisoner reentry as a senior fellow at the Urban Institute before taking up the post of President of John Jay College of Criminal Justice in 2004. A year later, along with Founding Director Debbie Mukamal, the Prisoner Reentry Institute (PRI) was established as a part of John Jay’s Research Consortium. Now under the leadership of Ann Jacobs, PRI has expanded to include educational initiatives for currently and formerly incarcerated individuals, fellowships for undergraduate and graduate students at John Jay, the New York City Justice Corps, and a number of research projects and convenings on topics related to reentry.

Physical address

Prisoner Reentry Institute
555 West 57th Street, Suite
609B-BMW
New York, NY 10019

Mailing address

Prisoner Reentry Institute
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
524 West 59th Street, Room 609B-BMW
New York, NY 10019

www.johnjaypri.org

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