

Looking back at Fall 2019

By Kellie Nadler

2019 Leadership Institute

On November 13, teams from 20 California community colleges met in Sacramento for the final convening of the 2019 Leadership Institute for Community Colleges Serving Formerly Incarcerated Students. The teams, comprised of a formerly incarcerated student leader, a college administrator, and a program lead, have been working together over the past ten months to develop, implement, and institutionalize student support programs across the state. The day before the meeting, many of the college participants visited with incarcerated students at Folsom Prison, while the student participants worked with Project Rebound at Sac State. Though the November 12 and 13 meetings marked the final convening for the 2019 Leadership Institute, resources are being created for the colleges that were unable to participate, and professional development will continue at the April 20, 2020 conference of colleges, which will be open to all. The 2019 Leadership Institute was a joint effort by the Stanford Criminal Justice Center, Berkeley Underground Scholars, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, and Corrections to College.

NCHEP

This year's National Conference on Higher Education in Prison took place in St. Louis, Missouri and featured ample opportunities for California colleges to connect with colleagues nationwide. The conference featured presentations on everything from increasing STEM opportunities in correctional settings, to elevating personal wellness for practitioners, to managing cultural competencies and "the White Lady problem." Danny Murillo, our Program and Research Analyst, moderated a panel on the 2019 Leadership Institute featuring five formerly incarcerated community college student leaders. Kellie Nadler, our Deputy Director, participated in a panel with representatives from NYU's McSilver Institute on the Sustaining Futures project. Rebecca Silbert, our Director, hosted a meeting for California colleges and universities teaching in CDCR along with Brant Choate, CDCR's Director of Rehabilitation. The conference is hosted annually, typically in November, by the Alliance for Higher Education in Prison.

Conference of Colleges Teaching in Jails

On October 30, college in jail practitioners from around the state convened in Sacramento for an all-day meeting dedicated to addressing the unique challenges of teaching in county correctional facilities. Practitioners mapped out guided pathways for jail students, including identifying potential points of impact and determining how best to support a warm handoff to campus leading to degree or certificate completion. This working group will continue to meet twice a year in order to build impactful programs that not only provide education in the county jail, but that also help students transition from jail to a supportive college campus. The next conference of colleges for colleges teaching in will take place in Sacramento on April 21.