

# COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROJECT

## Florida Prisons in Uncertain Times: A Virtual Conference

On April 9 and 10, 2021, the Community Education Project (CEP) will host its first virtual conference at Stetson University. The intent of the conference is to bring together multiple stakeholders focused on incarceration and its impacts on communities in Florida for fresh insights and conversation. Further, this conference provides a space for dialogue among diverse groups in support of higher education in prison (HEP) in Florida.

The theme of “uncertain times” includes but is not limited to the impact of COVID-19 on incarcerated persons and prisons in Florida. Since CEP is a higher education in prison program, we are especially interested in the changing faces of prison education and the multiple and diverse coalitions and collaborations that support education in prisons. Yet, we explicitly invite activist groups and organizations engaged in work on incarceration beyond or outside of education to take part in this conference.

### **Our specific goals include:**

- 1) To generate crucial conversations among Florida lawmakers and policymakers, HEP programs, justice-impacted individuals, and other community organizations across the state. This conversation should help identify ways to support each other’s work on issues related to incarceration and to expand access to quality higher education for currently and formerly incarcerated people across Florida.
- 2) To educate attendees on emerging matters in Florida prisons during uncertain times by engaging in dialogue with currently and formerly incarcerated persons, including students in HEP programs and other relevant stakeholders.

3) To build a sense of community among organizations working on issues related to incarceration and among statewide HEP programs by providing networking opportunities and spaces to share ideas. Building a strong movement to strengthen HEP across the state requires the collaboration of many stakeholders.

Again, we specifically invite organizations and activists engaging in work on incarceration to join this conversation. We also specifically invite currently and formerly incarcerated students, current HEP instructors and administrators, state legislators and policymakers, college and university administrators, community members, and individuals from institutions of higher education interested in bringing HEP programs to their respective institutions to attend this conference.

Indeed, if your work focuses on issues directly related to incarceration and post-incarceration, and you have an interest in this conference, please feel welcome to submit to this conference and to circulate this CFP further. To submit, fill out this [Google form](#) and include your proposal before **December 7th**.

### **We welcome proposals on the following topics:**

- “School to prison” pipeline
- “Prison to school” pipeline
- Education and reentry
- Work from formerly incarcerated persons, including creative work
- Work from currently incarcerated students, including creative work
- Florida First Step Act
- Legislative priorities in the state of Florida
- Abolition
- COVID-19
- Unique partnerships and ecosystems for education in prison setting
- The future of education in Florida prisons
- Varied models for offering education in prison
- Technology in prison classrooms
- High impact practices in prison classrooms