WHAT IS THE PRISON EDUCATION PROJECT?

USC’s Prison Education and Exchange Program creates the opportunity for USC and incarcerated students to learn from each other in a rigorous and collaborative learning environment across a variety of academic disciplines. USC students design, teach, and take classes with inmates of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation System. The program aims to provide both USC and incarcerated students opportunities to think critically about themselves and the systems in which they live. Additionally, the program offers training and seminars to USC faculty who wish to teach within the prison system. Above all, the Prison Education and Exchange Program seeks to reinforce the idea of education as a fundamental human right and to facilitate connections that transcend walls both literal and figurative.

For more information please email usclevan@dornsife.usc.edu
WHAT IS THE PRISON EDUCATION PROJECT?

PEP expands educational opportunities for incarcerated individuals in 12 correctional facilities in California.

- 1,000 university student and faculty volunteers
- 6,000 students since 2011

It is the largest prison-based education volunteer program in the US.
WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PRISON EDUCATION?

- Reduces recidivism by 43% (U.S. DoJ)
- Enhances personal development
- Provides work and housing opportunities for incarcerated individuals post-prison

The goal of the program is to create a “prison-to-school” pipeline.
USC LEVAN INSTITUTE’S PUBLIC HUMANITIES PROGRAM

Our belief is in Liberal Arts education for all. Our belief is in experiential learning. **USC Levan Public Humanities Program** is Co-Directed by Kate Levin and Nik de Dominic

**KATE LEVIN**

A Lecturer in the Writing Program at USC, she also teaches in the SCS Noonan Scholars (formerly South Central Scholars) Summer Academy. Her writing appears in a variety of publications and she is the recipient of a 2017 Pushcart Prize. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Michigan.

**NIK DE DOMINIC**

Nik de Dominic is a faculty member in the Writing Program at USC. He has taught in correctional facilities in Alabama and Louisiana as faculty with the Alabama Prison Arts + Education Initiative and the Bard Early College Program, respectively. A poet and essayist, De Dominic holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Alabama and is the Poetry Editor of the New Orleans Review.
WHAT WILL I BE DOING?

- Interactive, experiential activities and discussions
- A lead instructor will guide the session, but you lead one-on-one discussions, ask questions, and **encourage critical thinking among students**
- It is ok if you do not have any background in these subjects!
HOW OFTEN WILL I GO?

We will select a volunteer pool from which 4 to 5 volunteers will be assigned for each session, along with a lead instructor.

- There are seven class periods per course.
- As a volunteer, you will attend 2-3 sessions.

Drivers are highly needed and will be reimbursed.
FALL 2018 COURSES

Santa Fe Springs CCTRP Facility - very small, very low-security facility for women. Courses offered:

- Ethics and Big Philosophical Ideas GED/College Prep Tutoring
- Creative Writing*

Saturdays 5-7 pm (~30 min commute)

California Rehabilitation Center - very large, medium security for men. Courses offered:

- Introduction to College Writing
- Introduction to College Math†

Saturdays 8:30-10:30 am (~60 min commute)
SAFETY AND APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

In-depth details at Cal Poly orientation

- Do not ask questions about circumstances of incarceration
- Do not ask or answer personal questions
- Wear neutral clothing without logos
- You are not permitted to bring anything other than ID and teaching materials inside facility (no cell phones, no wallets, etc)
NEXT STEPS

1. Complete form to sign up
   - Indicate interest on Google Form
   - Complete Doodle to decide assigned sessions
   - Each volunteer will attend 2-3 sessions, depending on size of volunteer pool.

2. Attend mandatory Orientation at Cal Poly Pomona - Sunday, September 16th, 12-5 pm (including travel time)
   - Sign-up via email

3. Submit TB test by September 21st
   - Simple and free walk-in test provided at Engemann Health Center
   - Must be completed next week!

4. Class sessions begin the first week of October
   - Don’t worry if you are not familiar with the material you are assigned to teach--we will ensure everyone completes a training process before beginning.†
   - Worksheets and instructional guides will be provided for sessions.
QUESTIONS AND CONTACT

PRISON EDUCATION PROJECT

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