



correctional services

Department:
Correctional Services
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



A Prison-University Educational Partnership : Promoting Social Justice and Empowerment Through Rehumanising Learning

Age of Hope : A National effort for correction , rehabilitation and social reintegration

DCS PERSPECTIVE ON THE POTENTIAL OF THE INITIATIVE

- ❑ Hopeful and confident about the potential of the dynamic educational partnership.
- ❑ Together with Universities we have a role to contribute to safer communities.
- ❑ Those who participate in correctional education are less likely to return to prison after release.
- ❑ Its also an investment to the children, families and communities to which incarcerated offenders eventually returns to.
- ❑ Affords our offenders the opportunity to learn alongside their counterparts from Stellenbosch University across all faculties.
- ❑ Provides them the structure and the support within which they can grow and develop.

HOW DOES THE PARTNERSHIP FITS INTO DCS AIMS AND PHILOSOPHY

- ❑ The Department Correctional Services focuses on needs based interventions to reach its fundamental goal of rehabilitation in a safe and secure environment.
- ❑ Seeks to address recidivism by providing offenders with access to public university level education.
- ❑ Facilitate offenders re-entry into society and help better relationship with communities suffering from high crime rate.

HOW DOES THE INITIATIVE SUPPLEMENTING THE CURRENT EDUCATIONAL OFFERING

- Will ensure quality of service already offered by UNISA.
- Support and mentor students in various study fields.
- Initiative will have a dual impact on our clients
- Firstly those who are directly involved in the project and the rest of the prison population through peer mentoring and support services rendered by the UNISA students.

HOW THE STUDENTS EXPERIENCE THEIR INVOLVEMENT SO FAR

- ❑ Students have shown their interest in the partnership by participating in discussions , interviews , etc.
- ❑ Honored to be associated with Stellenbosch University.
- ❑ Will be a dream to some of them to study through Stellenbosch University upon release.
- ❑ Give them a platform where they can share opinions and give their views on how they perceive certain issues.
- ❑ Boosts their self-esteem and gives them more confidence to such an extent that a lot of them have given testimonies during the recent launch of the Prison To College Pipeline initiative as part of the Nelson Mandela centenary Birthday Celebrations.

WAY FORWARD FROM STUDENTS PERSPECTIVE

- ❑ Expect a educational experience in partnership with Stellenbosch University. That support and mentor students in various fields and subjects to make the most of the opportunities that are being created.
- ❑ Will work if Stellenbosch University stay committed to ensure sustainability.

CONCLUSION

``NO CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM CAN ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVE IF IT DOES NOT HAVE A RANGE OF HEALTHY EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIP – FAMILIES , COMMUNITIES , OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS , THE PRIVATE SECTOR , THE JCPS CLUSTER , NGO`s , FBO`s AND CBO`S.``

Thank you



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