

USDOE Launches Second Chance Pell Pilot Program for Incarcerated Individuals

"America is a nation of second chances," stated U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, "Giving people who have made mistakes in their lives a chance to get back on track and become contributing members of society is fundamental to who we are – it can also be a cost-saver for taxpayers."

A 2014 RAND Corporation Study analyzed dozens of smaller studies of local correctional education programs over the last 30 years. It found that prisoners who had taken classes in prison had a 13 percent lower rate of re-incarceration and higher rates of post-incarceration employment than those who had not. According to the study these outcomes resulted in significant cost savings to the state. The authors concluded for every dollar spent on correctional education, the state got \$5 back in reduced spending on corrections. It should be noted that neither study was limited to college and both included vocational classes, adult education, GED programs, and other types of education.