



## National Lieutenant Governors Association

### NLGA Consensus Resolution Regarding Educational and Vocational Programs for Justice-Involved Individuals

**WHEREAS**, justice-involved persons will re-enter society at a crossroads, with one path leading to incarceration and the other an opportunity for a second chance, and

**WHEREAS**, according to a 2021 study conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, among the 50,000 people released from federal prisons in 2010, 33% remained unemployed four years post-release and had an average of 3.4 jobs which indicates these individuals' employment options did not lead to job security or upward mobility,<sup>1</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, prison-based education pays off in favorable dividends with every \$1 invested in prison-based education yielding \$4 to \$5 of taxpayer savings from reduced incarceration costs,<sup>2</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, according to a Bureau of Justice Statistics study on employment among justice-involved individuals in state and federal prisons prior to incarceration, individuals in state and federal prisons (59% each) with one or more prior incarcerations were less likely to be employed than 69% of those in state prison and 73% in federal prison with no prior incarcerations,<sup>3</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, there is a 43% decrease in recidivism by individuals who participate in prison education programs<sup>4</sup>; 13% increased employment among those who participated in either academic or vocational programs<sup>5</sup>; and a 28% rate of increased employment among those who participated in vocational programs.<sup>6</sup>

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) encourages NLGA Members in the states and territories to be aware of the benefits of proven programs offering educational and vocational training to justice-involved individuals reentering society from penal systems to aid this population in attaining good paying jobs to enable their ability to be contributing citizens and taxpayers in the future.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/eprfp10.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/Publications/RAND\\_Correctional-Education-Meta-Analysis.pdf](https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/Publications/RAND_Correctional-Education-Meta-Analysis.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://bjs.ojp.gov/employment-state-and-federal-prisoners-prior-incarceration-2016>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.justice.gov/archives/prison-reform#:~:text=Research%20shows%20that%20inmates%20who,the%20costs%20of%20re%2Dincarceration.>

<sup>5</sup>

<https://www.rand.org/news/press/2013/08/22.html#:~:text=Employment%20after%20release%20was%2013,did%20not%20recieve%20such%20training.>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.rand.org/news/press/2013/08/22.html>

ADOPTED, this day, the 24<sup>th</sup> of April, 2024.

Co-Sponsors: *TBD*

*Proposed for the docket by:* ACT, NLGA Partner