

Collective Transformation: Building Just Communities from the Inside Out

A Special ASC Pre-Conference Seminar to be Held at Graterford Prison

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Sponsored by the Department of Criminal Justice and The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program of Temple University, in Cooperation with the Lifers' Public Safety Initiative

This day-long seminar is a unique opportunity to engage in rich dialogue around some of the most critical crime and justice issues of the day with people who are working on the ground to bridge prison and outside communities. Participants will include ASC colleagues along with incarcerated men and outside volunteers who are participants in these two cutting-edge programs.

The Public Safety Initiative, a project of the lifers' organization at Graterford state prison, aims to eradicate the crime and violence that participants once helped to perpetuate. PSI members work to achieve cognitive transformation through positive peer intervention, to equip men returning to the community with the skills necessary to help prevent youth from being drawn into the culture of street crime* and to empower those currently involved in crime to give up those activities. The group also has crafted a multi-directional approach to building safer communities that includes transformed members working in partnership with community members, public officials, and other stakeholders.

The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program† works across the country to bring incarcerated men and women together with college students to learn as peers in the same classrooms. The program emphasizes collaboration and dialogue that inspires all participants to be leaders in addressing crime, justice, and related issues of social inequality. Offered in a variety of disciplines and correctional settings, these courses make higher education more available to people who are incarcerated and expose university students to issues in a 'real world' context. The 'Think Tank' at SCI-Graterford helps conduct the National Inside-Out Training Program for instructors who want to teach courses.

What to expect:

- A chance to sit at the table with influential incarcerated stakeholders to engage in serious work to refine and enhance PSI's innovative approach to crime reduction and collective transformation
- An experience of the educational methods and programs of Inside-Out

What you'll leave with:

- New knowledge and understanding of two ground-breaking initiatives
- Having had the chance to provide feedback and input on future activities and visions
- Awareness of opportunities for further education, training and action or research partnerships

This workshop will benefit ASC members who are engaged in issues of re-entry, crime prevention, community-building, community justice, social justice and grassroots change or experiential learning.

- **Attendance limited to 100 ASC participants and by advance registration only**
- **Buses depart downtown Philadelphia at 7:00 AM and return by 5:00 PM**
- **Workshop takes place the Tuesday before the ASC conference begins (Nov. 3rd)**
- **\$ 30 per person (including lunch) payable by check made out to Temple University**

For questions or registration please email prisonworkshop@temple.edu or call 215-204-5163.

*An article by PSI members, 'Ending the Culture of Street Crime,' was published in *The Prison Journal* in December of 2004 (84:4, pp. 48S-68S).

† For more information, see the Inside-Out website at <http://www.temple.edu/inside-out>