

SHATTERING THE CONCRETE SO THE ROSES CAN RISE THROUGH THE CRACKS

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PRESENTERS



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RISING SCHOLARS IN NONCREDIT IS KEY



CONTEXT & DATA

Incarceration

- The U.S. accounts for 5% of the world population, but **accounts for 25% of the world's incarcerated population** with **7.3 million people under supervision** (Hawkings, 2011).
- 95% percent of those that are incarcerated will come home (Murillio, 2021).
- **Racial disparities** – African Americans and Latinx individuals make up 32% of the US population, but 56% of the incarcerated population.
- Educational Disparities of those incarcerated 75% of state, 59% of federal, 69% of Jail did not finish high school diploma (BJS, 2021).

Familial Impact

- **One in two** adults in the United States have experienced incarceration in their family (FWD.US, 2018).

CONTEXT & DATA

Release policies in CA

- Approximately 40,000 individuals are released per year in CA.
- Latest policies impacting release:
 - **CA Assembly Bill 109 (2011)** designed to reduce the prison population and recidivism rates to comply with the U.S. Supreme Court's mandate to reduce prison overcrowding and implement rehabilitation.
 - **Proposition 47 (2014)** was passed to reduce the felonies of nonviolent incarcerated individuals to misdemeanors.
 - **Proposition 57 (2016)** was passed to increase parole and good behavior opportunities for individuals convicted with felonies of nonviolent crimes.

LITERATURE AND WHY?

A close-up photograph of a vibrant red rose with green leaves and a long stem, growing out of a crack in a light-colored concrete sidewalk. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the sidewalk and the rose's base.

Educational Impact on Recidivism

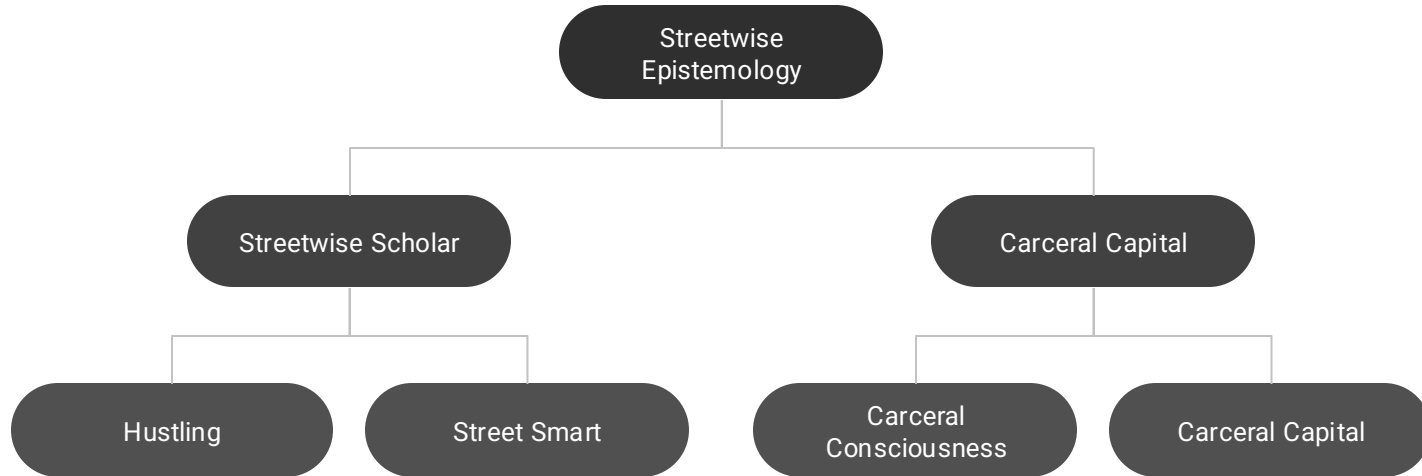
- Educational participation after release further **reduces recidivism by up to 60 percent** (Cho & Tyler, 2013).

Anti-Deficit Perspective

- Understanding how students **can utilize lived experience to be seen as holders of knowledge fostering a Streetwise Scholar identify leading to success in higher education** versus being viewed as unprepared to succeed in post-secondary education (Harper, 2010; Hernandez, 2019).

STREETWISE EPISTEMOLOGY FRAMEWORK

(Abeyta, Hernandez, Torres, & Duran, 2021)



A red rose with a green stem and leaves is growing out of a crack in a light-colored concrete sidewalk. The rose is in the upper right corner of the frame. The crack in the sidewalk runs diagonally from the upper left towards the lower right. The background is a blurred view of the sidewalk and some greenery in the distance.

**MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY ARE
RETURNING HOME.**

WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT IT?

WHY NONCREDIT IS KEY

Noncredit as the most accessible educational systems for our at-risk students, adult returning students, and students returning home.

Why?

- Default access to free education and support services, regardless of status
- Access to key support staff (Counselors, DSS, Basic Needs, Career Center, Tutoring)
- Technology support – laptop loans and basic computer courses
- College and career preparation
- Picking up where they left off.



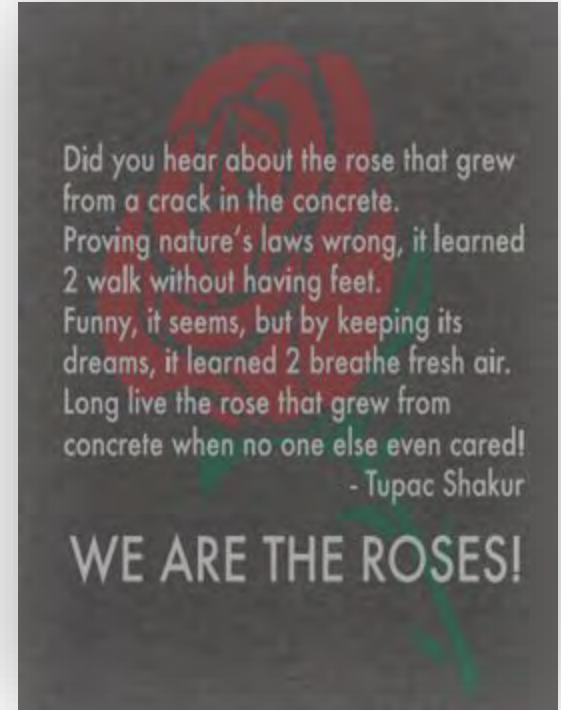
NONCREDIT AS A PATHWAY

Adult/Continuing Education where students can complete:

- High school diploma credits
- GED/HiSET test preparation
- Career Technical Education/Career Education certificates
- Courses for college preparation /remedial education
- Process for college transition
- Parenting courses (specific to NOCE)

Access to adult dual enrollment education

- Tuition-free courses



RISING SCHOLARS- MAIN COMPONENTS

- Intentional hiring
- Case management
- Counseling
- Outreach/Community engagement
- Peer mentoring
- Programming events/workshops
- Tailored support/advocacy



EXAMPLES OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES

- Support from counselors and staff with shared lived experiences
- Meeting students where they are in their educational development/progress
- Assessing:
 - Academic needs/development
 - Basic needs
 - Support services and legal needs
- Supporting and referring out accordingly
- Direct expungement support for cases in local counties (OC/LA)



EXAMPLES OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES

- Workshops tailored to student needs
- Destigmatization and reframing of strengths and skills
 - Anti-deficit and asset-based approach
- Transcript support
- Attend monthly Parole county (PACT) meetings for outreach and support.
- Partner/establish contact with local Probation departments for referrals and support.
- Access to Adult Dual Enrollment



DISTRICT-WIDE COLLABORATION (NONCREDIT & CREDIT)

- District-wide collaboration among all educational institutions to support the success of formerly incarcerated and system impacted students.
- To support, empower, and motivate Rising Scholar students and connect them throughout our district and community.
- Utilizing each campus' strengths to meet students where they are and provide warm hand-offs to each campus and provide direct connections.



THANK YOU. ANY QUESTIONS?

The Rose That grew From Concrete

Autobiographical

Did u Hear about the rose that grew from a crack
in the concrete

Proving Nature's Laws wrong it learned 2 walk
without Having Feet

Funny it seems But By Keeping it's Dreams
it learned 2 Breathe fresh air

Long Live the rose that grew from concrete
when no one else even cared!