

Reentry in the Inland Empire: Exploring The Prison to College Pipeline with Project Rebound

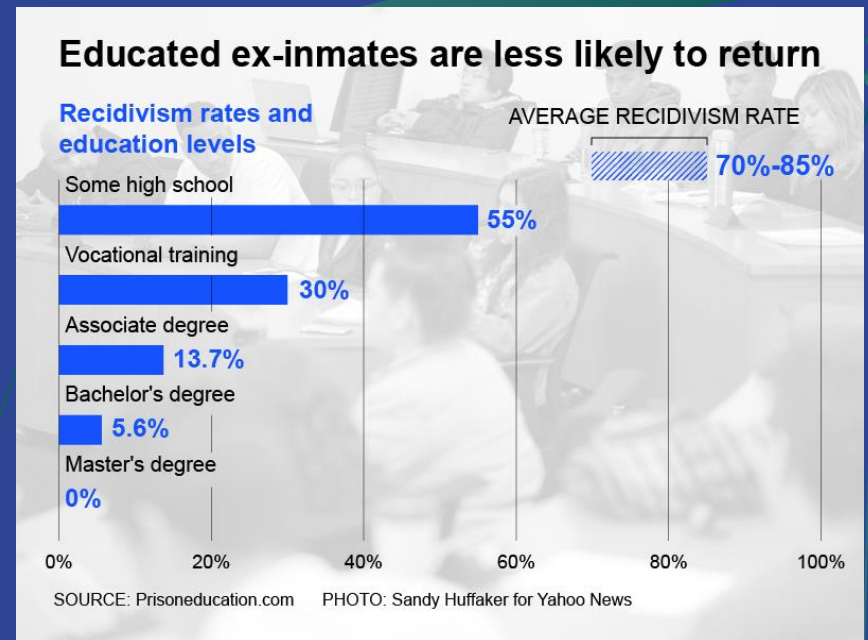


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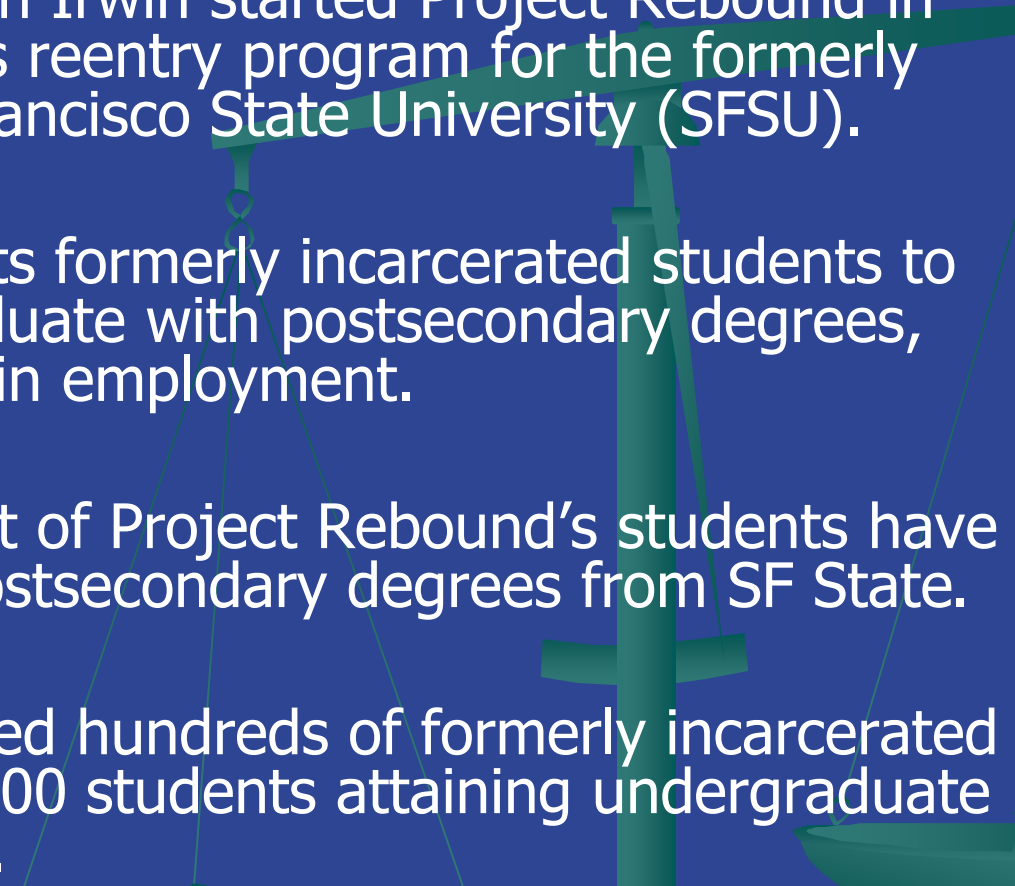
Prepared for The Prison to School to Work Pipeline
UCR Robert Presley Center of Crime and Justice Studies
March 1, 2019

Introduction

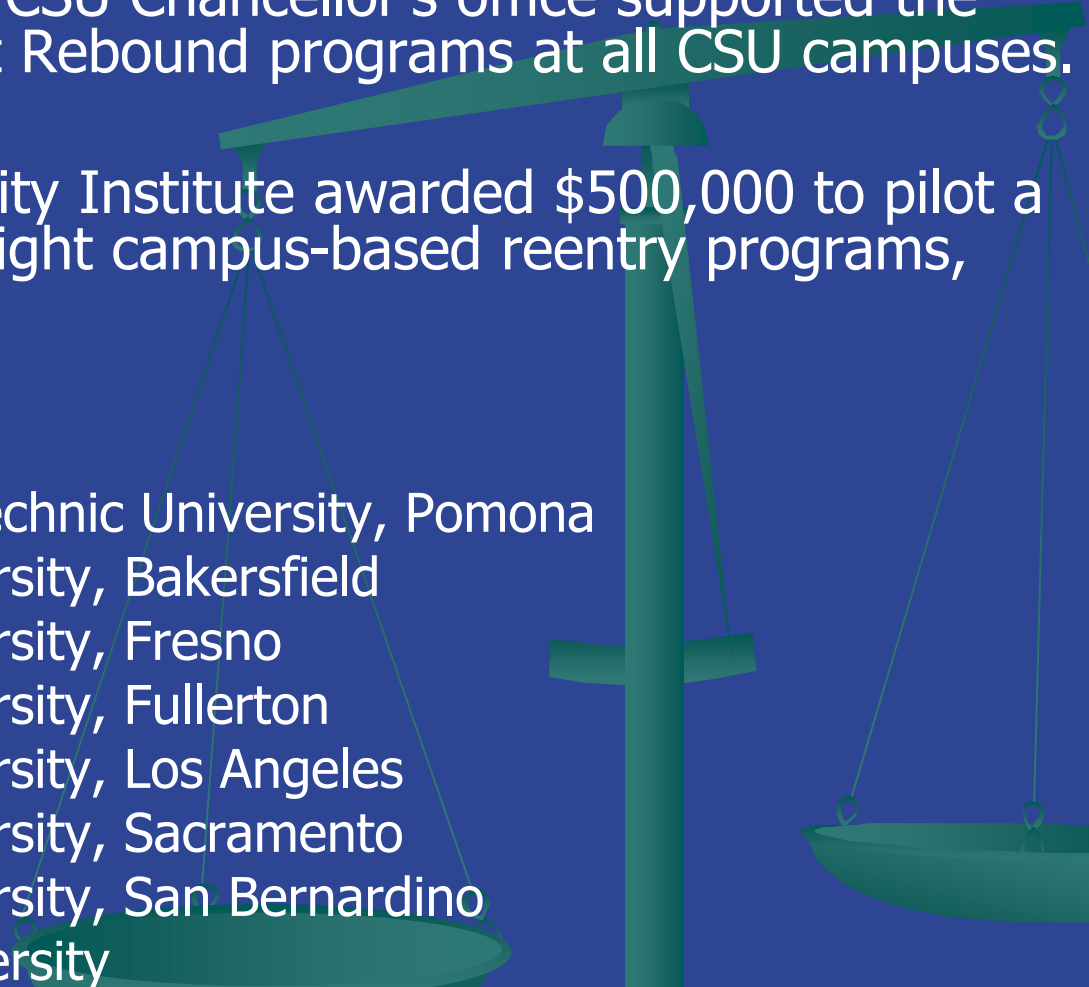
- College education is one of the most effective ways to reduce recidivism and to increase employment and earnings for criminal-justice involved individuals.
- The mission of the CSU of providing access to a quality education to those who desire it and to change the lives of our students and their families is in line with the goals of Project Rebound.



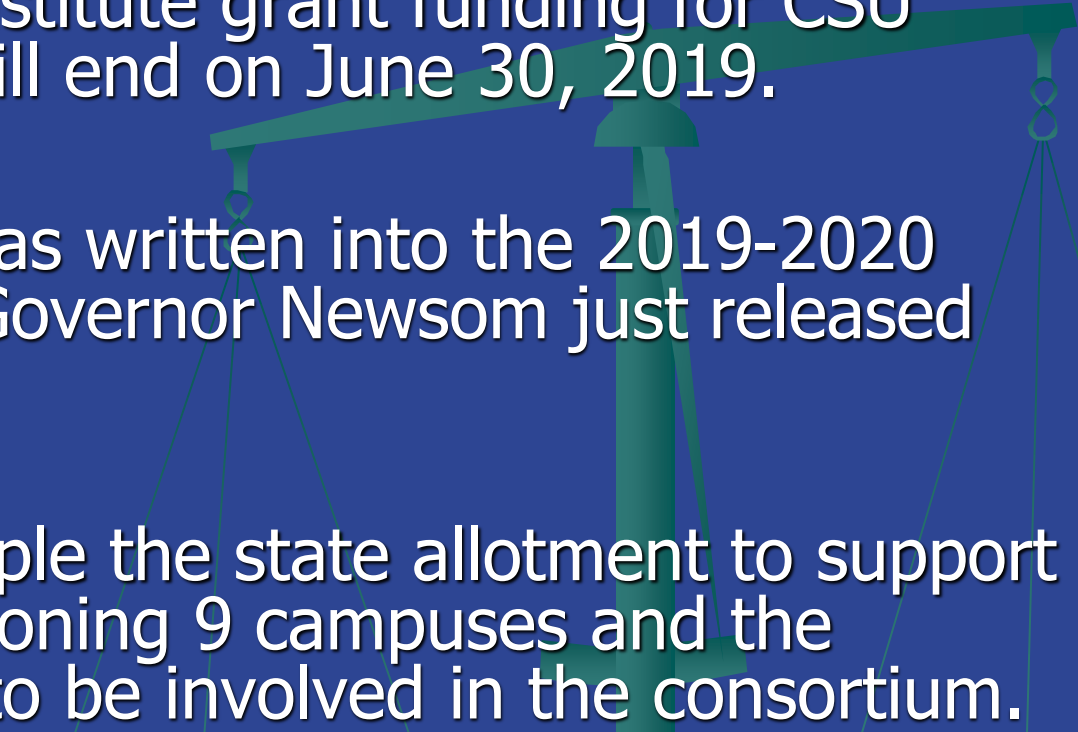
Project Rebound: SFSU

- The late Professor John Irwin started Project Rebound in 1967 as an on-campus reentry program for the formerly incarcerated at San Francisco State University (SFSU).
 - Project Rebound assists formerly incarcerated students to apply, enroll, and graduate with postsecondary degrees, and subsequently attain employment.
 - Since 2005, 95 percent of Project Rebound's students have successfully earned postsecondary degrees from SF State.
 - The program has helped hundreds of formerly incarcerated individuals with over 300 students attaining undergraduate and graduate degrees.
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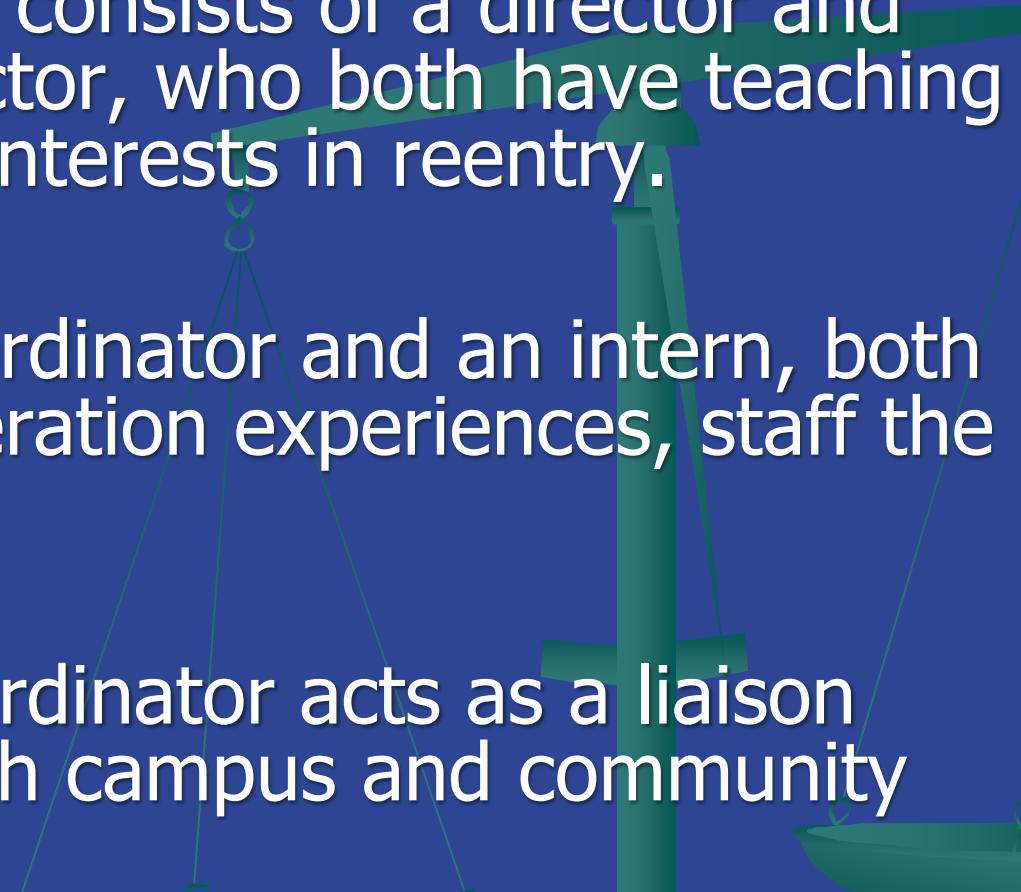
Project Rebound: Expansion

- Due to its success, the CSU Chancellor's office supported the development of Project Rebound programs at all CSU campuses.
 - In 2016, The Opportunity Institute awarded \$500,000 to pilot a statewide network of eight campus-based reentry programs, over three years.
 - The pilot sites include:
 - California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
 - California State University, Bakersfield
 - California State University, Fresno
 - California State University, Fullerton
 - California State University, Los Angeles
 - California State University, Sacramento
 - California State University, San Bernardino
 - San Diego State University
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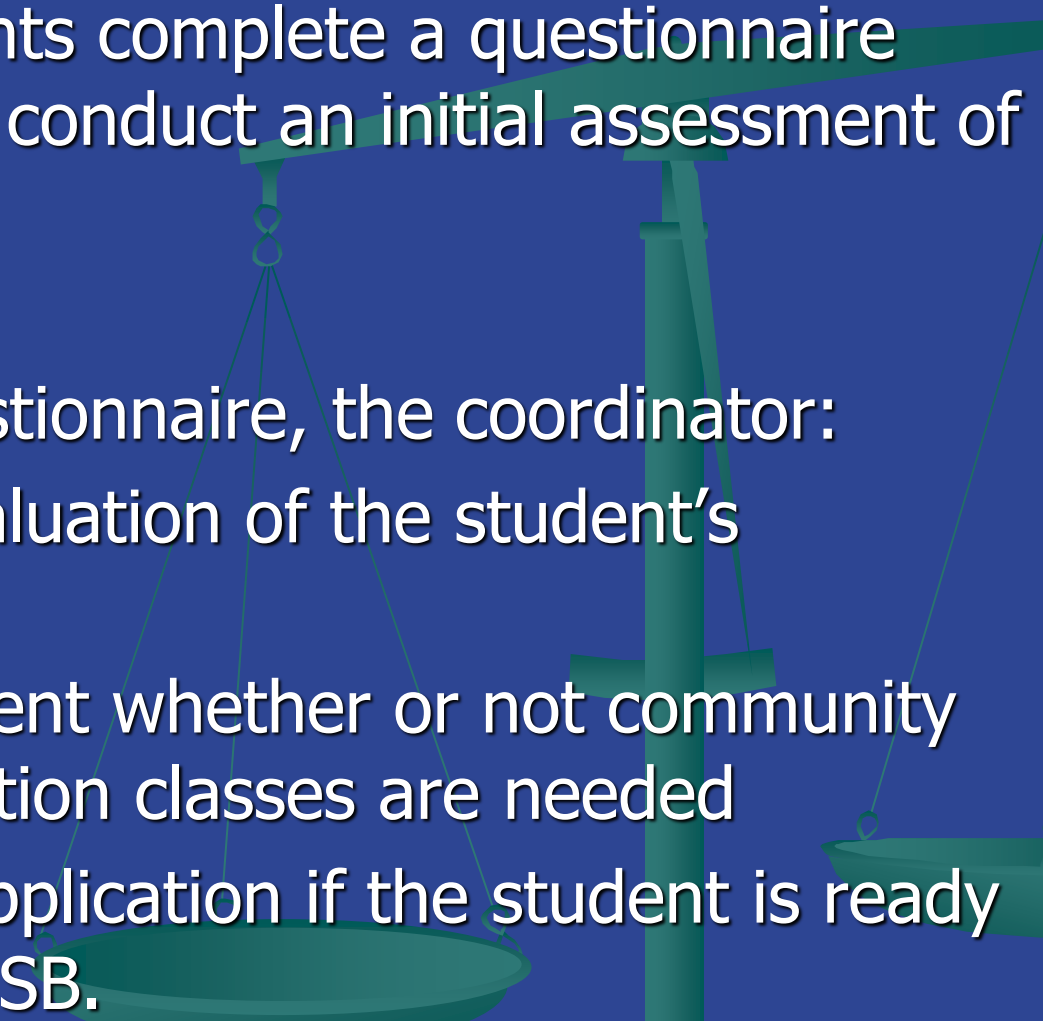
Statement of Need

- The Opportunity Institute grant funding for CSU Project Rebound will end on June 30, 2019.
 - Project Rebound was written into the 2019-2020 state budget that Governor Newsom just released (\$250,000).
 - We seek to quadruple the state allotment to support the currently functioning 9 campuses and the campuses waiting to be involved in the consortium.
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Project Rebound: CSUSB

- The CSUSB team consists of a director and an assistant director, who both have teaching and/or research interests in reentry.
 - One full-time coordinator and an intern, both with prior incarceration experiences, staff the program.
 - The program coordinator acts as a liaison and advocate with campus and community programs.
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Enrollment Process


- Prospective students complete a questionnaire which staff use to conduct an initial assessment of eligibility.
 - Based on the questionnaire, the coordinator:
 - requests an evaluation of the student's transcripts
 - advise the student whether or not community college preparation classes are needed
 - help with the application if the student is ready to apply to CSUSB.
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Student Support Strategies

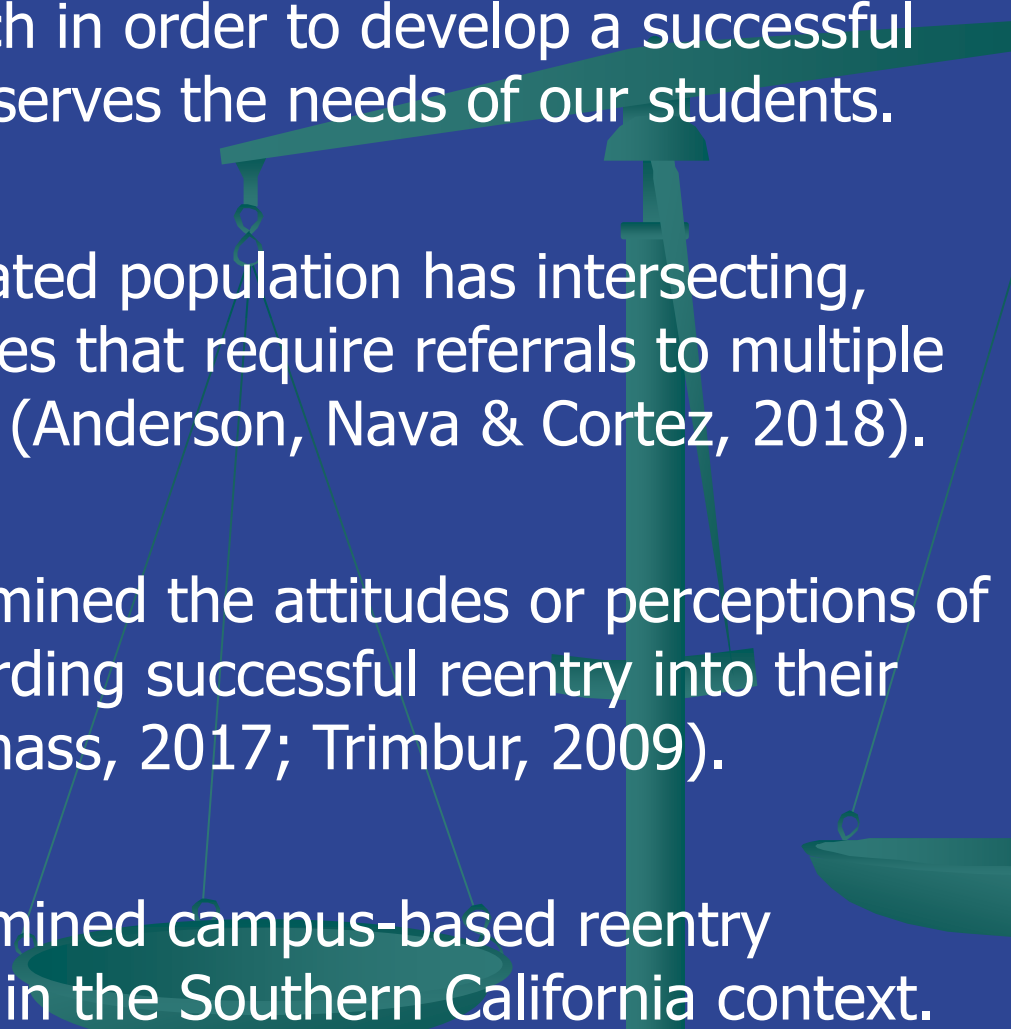


- Once students are enrolled, Project Rebound staff reviews and monitors their progress each academic term and provide case management services.
- Services include:
 - financial support for educational material
 - information and referral for on-campus resources
 - information on work-study positions, paid internships, job opportunities
 - financial support to attend professional conferences

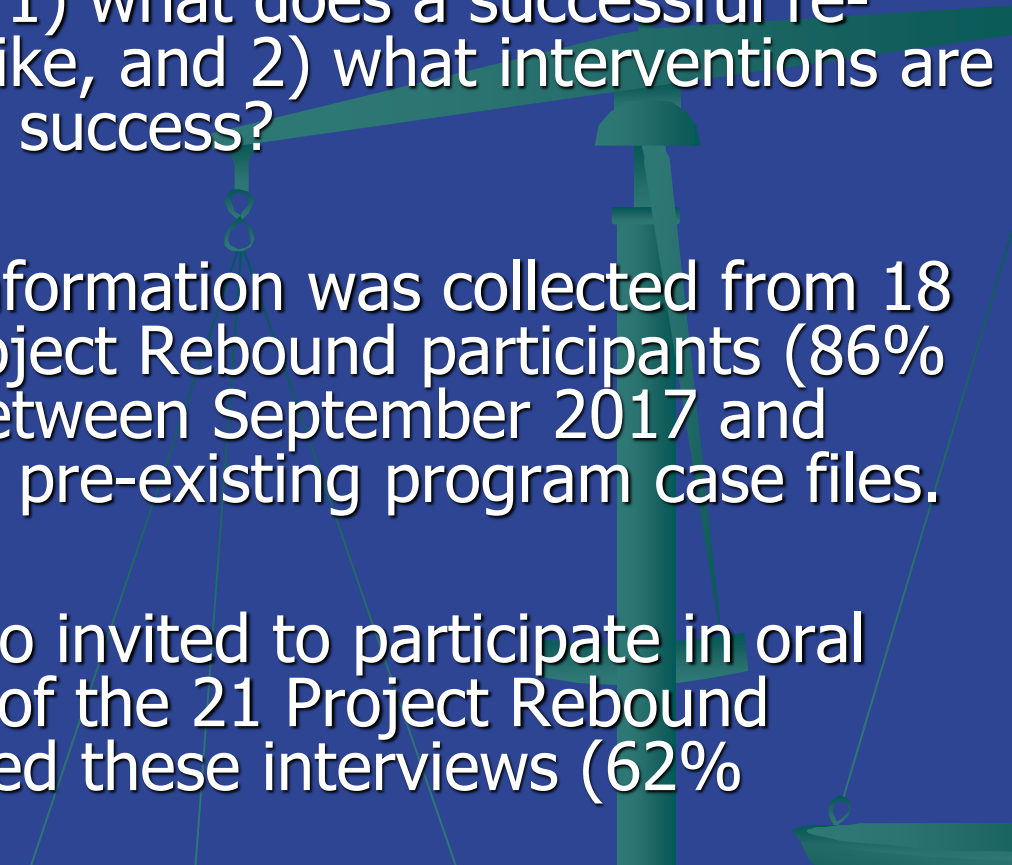
Outreach Strategies

- We held several on-campus events including our annual orientation and a **Yotie Talk**.
 - We are currently developing **collaborative events** with other programs as a result of our outreach efforts (e.g. Film screenings and guest speakers).
 - We launched a [website](#) and a [newsletter](#)
 - Our interns chartered an affiliated **student club**
 - The School of Social Work developed an **internship program** for Project Rebound.
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Research Study

- We conducted research in order to develop a successful reentry program that serves the needs of our students.
 - The formerly incarcerated population has intersecting, disadvantaged identities that require referrals to multiple services and agencies (Anderson, Nava & Cortez, 2018).
 - Few studies have examined the attitudes or perceptions of former prisoners regarding successful reentry into their communities (Middlemass, 2017; Trimbur, 2009).
 - Few studies have examined campus-based reentry programs, specifically in the Southern California context.
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Research Study

- Research questions: 1) what does a successful re-entry program look like, and 2) what interventions are most correlated with success?
 - Sociodemographic information was collected from 18 of the 21 current Project Rebound participants (86% participation rate) between September 2017 and February 2018 using pre-existing program case files.
 - Participants were also invited to participate in oral interviews. Thirteen of the 21 Project Rebound participants completed these interviews (62% participation rate).
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Demographic Characteristics

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Age		
31-40	8	44.4%
41-50	5	27.8%
51-60	3	16.7%
61+	2	11.1%
Gender		
Male	14	77.8%
Female	4	22.2%
Ethnicity		
Black/ African American	7	38.9%
Hispanic	5	27.8%
Native American	3	16.7%
White	3	16.7%
Marital Status		
Not Married	11	61.1%
Married	7	38.9%
Housing		
Family	7	38.9%
Rent	5	27.8%
Own	3	16.7%
Communal Living	2	11.1%
Homeless	1	5.6%
Employment Status		
Working	11	61.1%
Not Working	7	38.9%
Children		
At least one child	15	83.3%
No children	3	16.7%

Criminal History

Variable	Mean	Standard Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Age of first Arrest	19.9	7.3	11.0	35.0
Number of Arrests	10.4	6.5	1.0	60.0
Number of Violations	1.7	2.2	0.0	7.0
Number of years Incarcerated	5.7	4.6	0.0	15.0

Participation in Campus Programs

Variables	Frequency	Percent
Services for Students with Disabilities	5	27.8%
Career Center	5	27.8%
Vocational Rehab	4	22.2%
Student Assistance in Learning (SAIL)	4	22.2%
Psychological Counseling	3	16.7%
First People's Center for Indigenous Students	2	11.1%
The Den (Food Assistance Program)	2	11.1%
Veterans Success Center	2	11.1%
Workability	1	5.6%
Other Programs	1	5.6%

Student Perceptions of Program

Program Strengths

Variables	Frequency	Percent
Books/ Supplies	12	92.3%
Relationships with Project Rebound staff	8	61.5%
Informational Meetings	6	46.2%

Areas for Improvement

Variables	Frequency	Percent
Bigger office space	12	92.3%
More interaction with Project Rebound Students	10	76.9%
Benefits towards education (computer use, parking pass, reduced fees)	9	69.2%
Maintaining privacy	7	54.0%

Note: Data from interviews of 13 participants

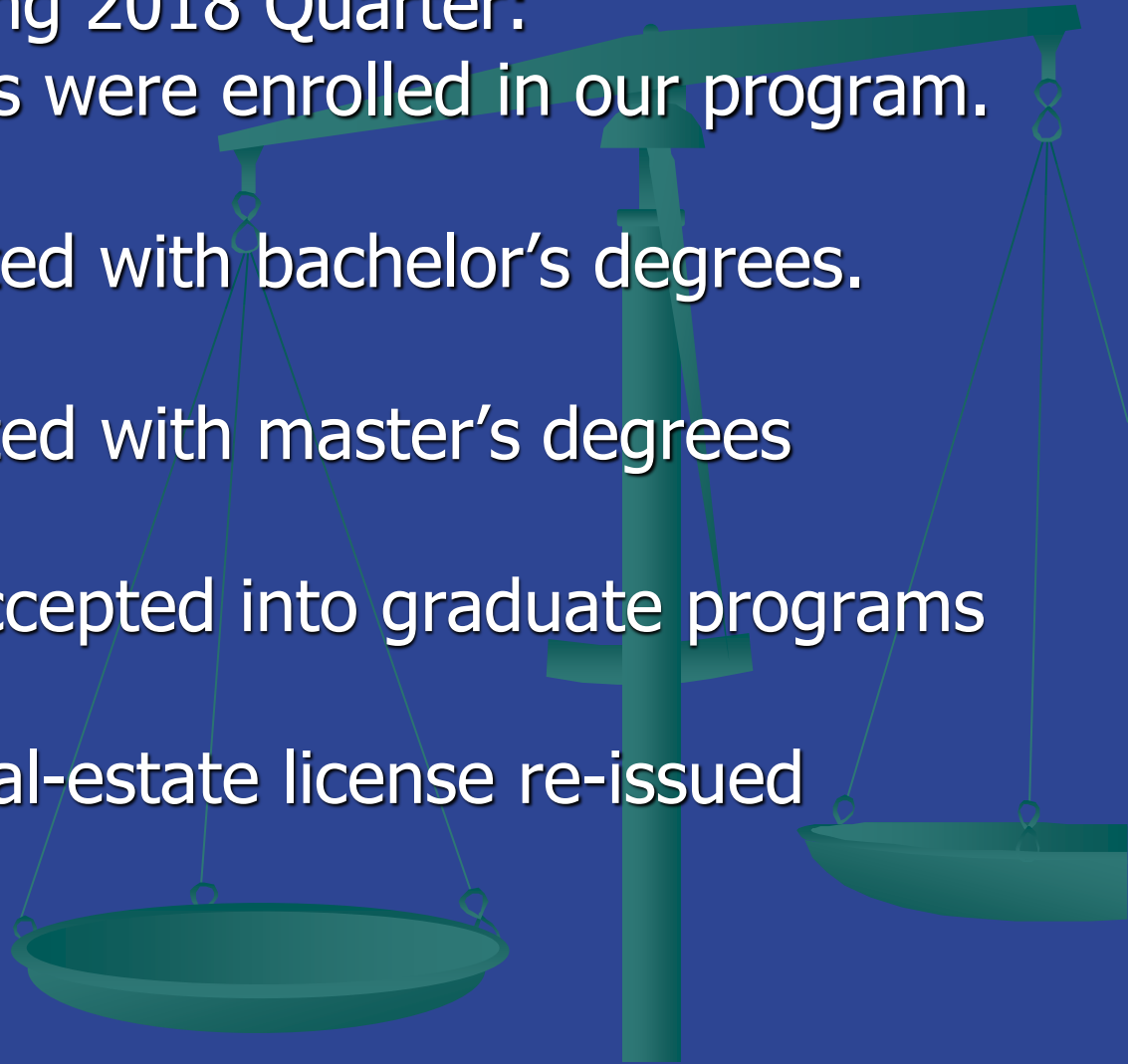
Publications/Conferences

- “Project Rebound: Expanding the Prison to College Pipeline.” Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, PA, *November 2017*.
- “Building Bridges through Prison-University Partnerships.” Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA, *November 2018*.
- “The Conduits to Reentry in the Inland Empire: Exploring the Prison to College Pipeline with Project Rebound” in *Returning Home: Prisoner Reentry in the 21st Century: Critical Perspectives of Returning Home*, edited by Calvin John Smiley and Keesha Middlemass. New York: Routledge.
- Two students presented at The 2018 Social Justice Research Symposium at University of California, Irvine.

Participant Accomplishments

As of the end of Spring 2018 Quarter:

- 21 current students were enrolled in our program.
- 4 students graduated with bachelor's degrees.
- 7 students graduated with master's degrees
- 4 students were accepted into graduate programs
- 1 student had a real-estate license re-issued



Student Testimonial

- Over the last few years I have enjoyed being a part of Project Rebound on our campus. In 2014 I graduated with both of my Bachelor's Degrees, one in Social Sciences and one in Anthropology. Since then I have finished a Masters Degree in Social Sciences and Globalization and I am almost finished with a 2nd advanced degree that is a Masters of Public Administration.
- Currently I am working on my PhD at Claremont Graduate University. This degree is in Cultural Studies with a Concentration on Hemispheric and Transnational Studies. I look forward to writing my dissertation on the educational aspect of mass incarceration and the Prison Industrial Complex in the State of California.
- I am currently working as an adjunct professor at California State University at San Bernardino where I am able to teach subjects related to Ethnic Studies, Race and Racism, and Chicano Studies, that I feel are essential to the success of our students. Project Rebound offers support, encouragement, and opportunities to advance education and succeed at the university level.

- Charlene Eaton

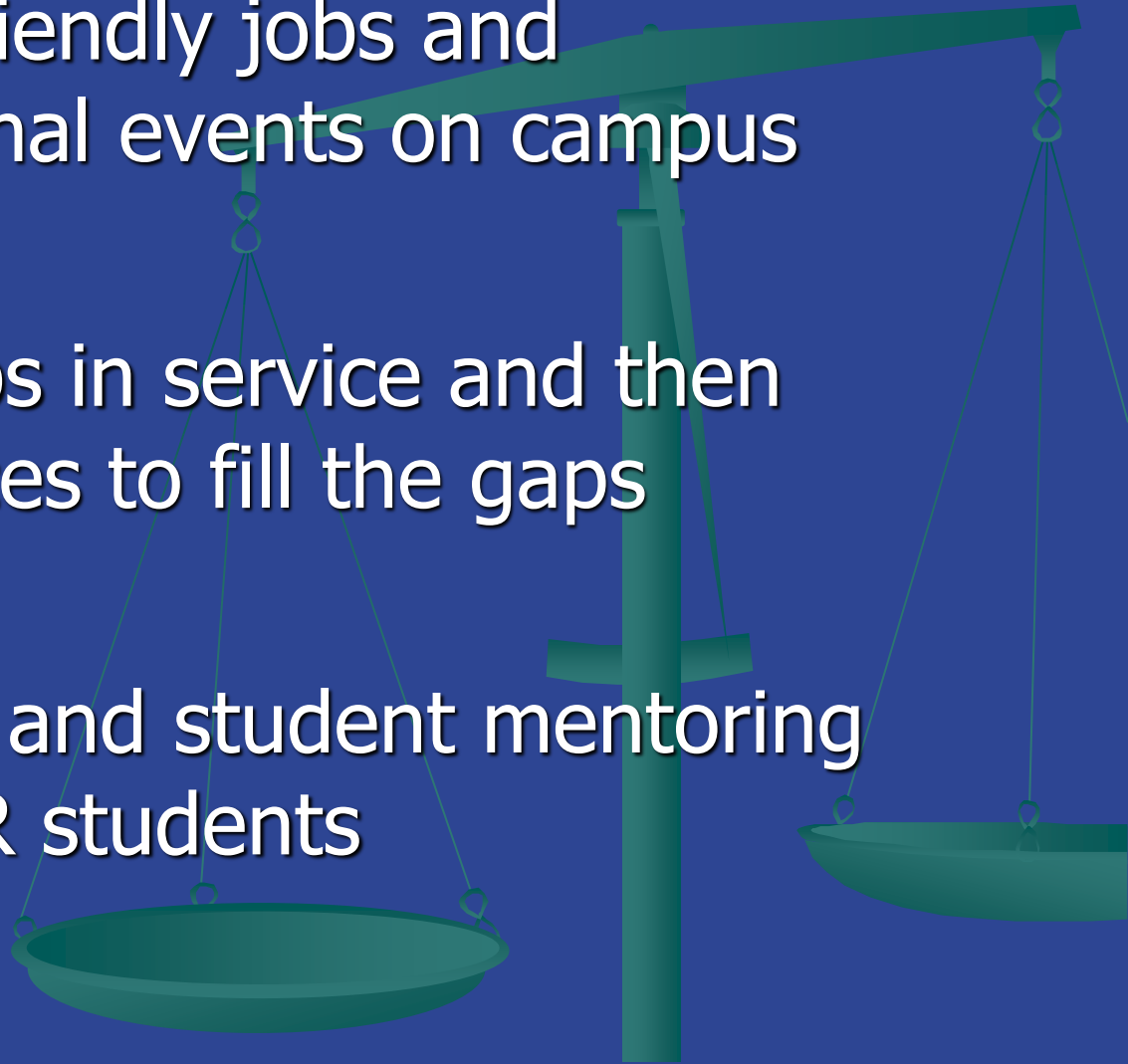
Current and Pending Enrollment

As of the end of the Fall 2018 Quarter:

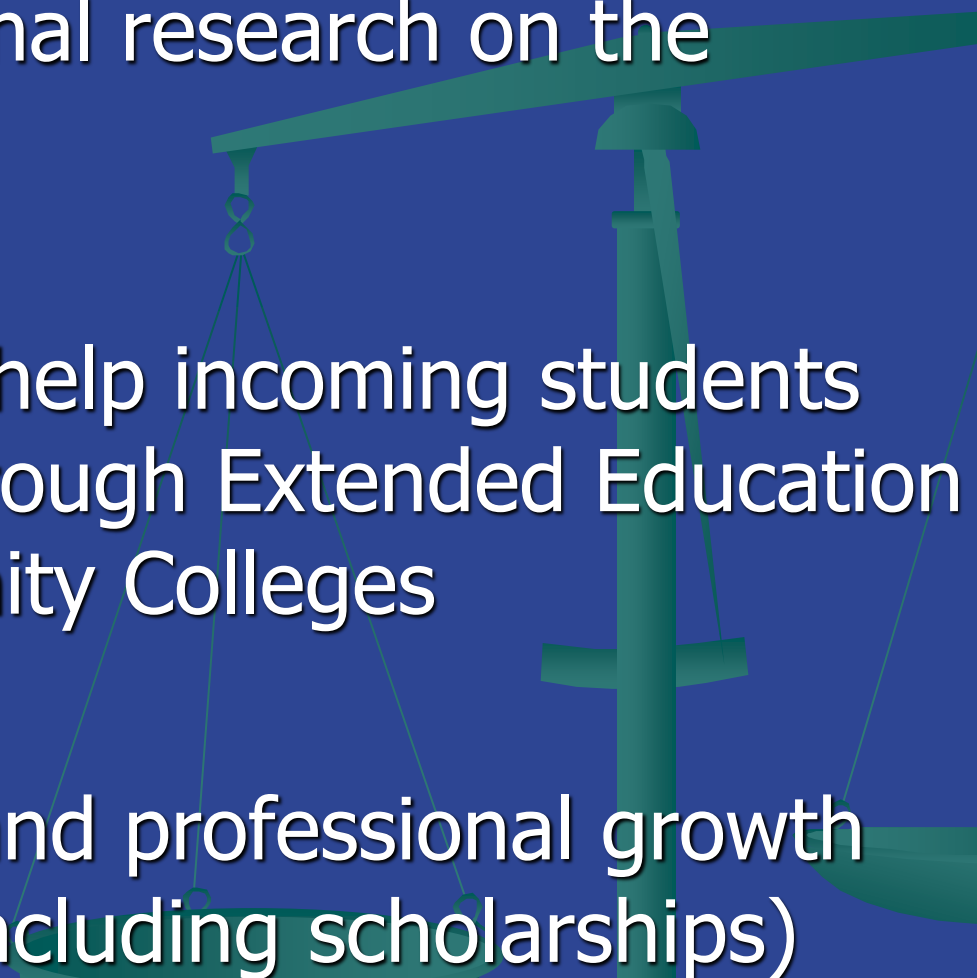
- 17 current students have enrolled in our program.
 - 6 individuals enrolled in the Fall 2019 quarter.
 - 23 students are completing courses at the community colleges, required for transfer into the university.
 - 32 inmates have sent us transcripts, in preparation to join our program upon their release.
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Long-term Goals

- Identify felon-friendly jobs and social/professional events on campus
- Identify the gaps in service and then develop resources to fill the gaps
- Develop faculty and student mentoring programs for PR students



Long-term Goals

- Conduct additional research on the program
 - Write grants to help incoming students take courses through Extended Education and/or Community Colleges
 - Develop social and professional growth opportunities (including scholarships)
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- Website: <https://www.csusb.edu/project-rebound>