

## Executive Summary

The Educational Justice Institute (TEJI) was established in 2017 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) with a mission to create pathways for success through the provision of targeted education and on-going, coordinated support for system-involved people. TEJI is led by MIT faculty member Lee Perlman, PhD and retired Middlesex Sheriff's Office Superintendent Carole Cafferty. They draw upon 65 years of collective experience in academia and corrections. TEJI has quickly become a leader in carceral education advocacy. It has successfully facilitated innovative learning opportunities in carceral settings throughout New England. Since 2017, TEJI has grown rapidly through innovative program design, and collaboration with diverse stakeholders throughout New England.

TEJI provides transformative co-learning opportunities for incarcerated students and MIT students alike. Through TEJI, MIT students gain firsthand knowledge regarding the complexities surrounding America's incarcerated population, establish commitment to community involvement, and develop increased empathy & compassion by engaging with justice-involved women and men. As future leaders in the United States and across the globe, these experiences are powerful engines for sustainable change in our society.

TEJI empowers incarcerated individuals to redefine themselves and reach their potential as they prepare for re-entry through college classes and technology. While the social/emotional benefits of education such as increased self-worth, self-motivation, and job readiness are immeasurable, there are evidence-based benefits as well. A 2013 study from the RAND Corporation showed that incarcerated people who receive educational opportunities are least 43% less likely to re-offend than those who do not.

### Significant Accomplishments to Date Include:

- Establishment of trusting relationships with county and state corrections facilities in Maine, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, enabling delivery of course offerings to incarcerated students inclusive of the humanities, computer science, the arts, and other academic disciplines.
- Coordination and operation of the Massachusetts Prison Education Consortium (MPEC), the first statewide, interdisciplinary prison education consortium in Massachusetts. MPEC includes over 300 members, representing over 60 colleges and universities, corrections, probation, parole, community corrections, Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Department of Education, and over 50 stakeholder groups including the New England Council.
- Development and design of advanced, synchronous online learning models enabling the continuous delivery of education to incarcerated students within the contact-related public health restrictions due to COVID-19. These courses include some of the first remote live synchronous, co-educational learning opportunities for incarcerated students in both Massachusetts and Maine.