

CPEP RESPONDS

QUOTES FROM THE CORNELL PRISON EDUCATION
PROGRAM'S STUDENT BODY

"Would you prefer a working taxpayer or a criminal drain on the system? Now multiply that human change by 20,000 to 30,000. Dollars and sense, people."

Nathan Powell

"I think it is in the interest of the state to allow a person to make up for their mistakes. If I can learn enough to be able to earn my way, then I can truly begin to repay my debt to society."

Marlon Black

"It is irresponsible for an elected representative to urge their constituents to pay all their tax dollars on punishment, rather than allocate a small percentage of their funds towards education that can transform a criminal into a tax payer."

Practice what you preach.

John Hetherington

"My dad didn't go to school, his dad didn't either. I didn't finish high school, 'cause I got locked up. I got my GED in prison, and I'm working hard at college in here so I can be an example for my son. So he don't make the same mistakes, you know?"

Anonymous

"It is an empirically proven fact that higher education reduces the likelihood an individual will break the law. Anyone who is genuinely 'tough on crime' will be pro-education."

Nathan Powell

"Preventing education in prison is like a hospital treating a bear trap victim by prying the trap open, closing the wound, and releasing the person to limp down the street with the bear trap dangling from one of their belt loops ! "

"Education is a tool to help me safely re enter society when my punishment is completed. If I am dependent when released, I worry about achieving stability and being able to adjust after 25 years of incarceration."

Jason Bethea

People who are upset that some prisoners may get free college would be better served by putting that energy into pushing for free higher education for all who want it. There are countries a lot poorer than the U.S. who do so. They make that a national priority because it is the most effective way both to develop engaged citizens and to raise economic productivity.

Since gaining an education through the college program, I now no-longer feel overwhelmed about what I will be doing once my prison sentence, is up. The college experience has fostered a stronger belief in myself. With a college degree I'll at least have a fighting chance, once I return to the world.

---Jonathan VanAntwerp, Student @ C.P.E.P.
Auburn Correctional Facility