PCCD OFFICE OF RESEARCH, EVALUATION, AND STRATEGIC POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Evaluation Project Name	Evaluated By	Start Date End Date	Project Scope and Goals
Department of Corrections Education Program's Impact on Reentry REPORT UNDER REVIEW	International Association of Reentry (16303)	10/1/2005 9/30/2009	This evaluation will examine the outcomes of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections' (DOC) education program utilizing the original Education Outcome Study (EOS) study participants and following them for an additional two years on measures of recidivism and employment. Educating incarcerated offenders continues to be a controversial issue as states become more focused on performance based funding. This focus raises the obvious question of how well do correctional education programs "work" in reducing reoffending and increasing employment prospects after release from incarceration in addition to the traditional outcomes of increasing literacy and job skill levels. Despite recent research indicating that these programs show promise of reducing recidivism and increasing employment opportunities after reentry back into the community, correctional education programs constantly face scrutiny and fear of reduced budgets or termination of programs. This 24-month project will use a cohort of 1574 inmates selected for evaluation in the previous study of correctional education in the DOC and intends to provide long-term follow-up outcomes for recidivism and employment for three time periods: 1) year one after release from incarceration, 2) year two after release from incarceration, and 3) year three after release from incarceration. By using the quasi-experimental design developed for the previous EOS, both the treatment group (correctional education participants) and the comparison group (correctional education non-participants) will be followed. It is expected that the additional follow-up time will yield much stronger and more compelling data than the data collected in the original EOS.