



Consensus: (n) A general agreement; like-mindedness; concurrence

We believe that education has intrinsic value for all people, in all places, at all times.

We commit ourselves to building public awareness and multi-sector consensus and collaboration for expanding access to college education in Virginia prisons – aiming to empower our family members, friends, and neighbors behind bars with a profound tool for personal growth, post-incarceration success and civic contribution.

We recognize the proven positive outcomes of higher education in prison—for example, reduced reincarceration and improved public safety at lower cost, improved safety in prisons, greater educational attainment for children of incarcerated parents, increased employment success and socioeconomic mobility post-release, along with growth and enrichment of Virginia’s workforce as returning citizens contribute at their maximum potential.

We celebrate the accounts of personal transformation achieved through advanced education, including greater self-esteem and pride in achievement, growth of intellectual curiosity and engagement with questions of human purpose and meaning, and ultimately, shifts in identity from inmate to scholar and civic contributor.

We invite you -- individuals, organizations, agencies, businesses, and institutions, across the Commonwealth, who recognize the importance—and real possibility now—of making college programs widely available in Virginia prisons **to become a member of the Virginia Consensus for Higher Education**, *signifying your support for the development of a statewide framework for college access throughout Virginia prisons.*

Join the Consensus at: www.vchep.org

For questions or to make an appointment with VCHEP staff: ConsensusHEP@virginiainterfaithcenter.org
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