



Exchange for Change Fellow

Exchange for Change

Mission Statement

Exchange for Change offers writing courses in prisons and runs letter exchanges between incarcerated students and writers studying on the outside. By preparing incarcerated people for their reentry into the outside community and preparing that community for their return, Exchange for Change provides vision and understanding on both sides of the fence.

Vision Statement

We believe in the value of every voice, and that strong, safe communities are formed when everyone can listen and be heard. Exchange for Change is committed to promoting dialogue across social and institutional barriers, and particularly to collaborating with incarcerated writers to foster empathy and create individual and social change. Our programs help individual writers realize the value of their own experiences, and conceive of themselves as more than the product of their worst mistake. We work to increase public awareness about the causes and effects of mass incarceration, and we create opportunities for shared action toward social change. Ultimately, our work moves criminal justice away from warehousing and mass incarceration and towards a more humane and constructive model, one in which incarcerated individuals receive the opportunity and encouragement they need in order to transform.

Position Description

Exchange for Change is expanding its programming, including building out current programming, creating new programs, creating formalized course content and analyzing results of our work. An Exchange for Change Fellow will:

- Research trends in prison education nation-wide while analyzing our existing database for effectiveness based on different data points, including recidivism and statewide impact for returning citizens
- Analyze our database for information on the makeup of our student body for future programming and research data
- Standardize procedures for our unique programs, including but not limited to our Poet Laureateship, publications (chapbooks, literary journal and our national book project)
- Work with staff to create core curriculum that can be shared statewide
- Assist with public exhibits and performances
- Liaise with our partners to build out the Florida Coalition for Higher Education in Prison

Qualifications

- Research experience using a variety of sources, ranging from archival material to specific databases
- Self-motivated, independent worker, able to take direction and follow-through on tasks
- Strong writing and editing skills: a writing sample may be requested
- Interest in prison arts, mass incarceration and criminal justice reform