



April 18, 2022

To: Academic Senate

RE: Renaming of Correctional Education Program

For the last several years, the SCC program for educating incarcerated persons has gone by several different titles, including the *Prison Education Program*, *Corrections Education Program*, and most recently, the *Correctional Education Program*. While these labels are descriptive in some capacity, there is an inherent ambiguity to these titles. In each case, it is unclear whether we are educating students on prisons or providing education as a correctional measure. These points are not the essence of the program. Indeed, providing higher education to currently incarcerated persons is the focal point of our work for this marginalized community of learners.

A second important consideration is whether using words like prison, incarceration, corrections, or correctional in the title of our program is useful and appropriate. To this point, numerous scholars, justice-involved educators, and students find the use of such words to be inappropriate. These monikers tend to focus on the punitive nature of incarceration and stigmatize our students who are centered on *rising* above their current situation.

Lastly, Solano Community College is part of a larger group of justice-involved educators and institutions known as the *Rising Scholars Network*. Our affiliation with this network of like-minded stakeholders along with the fact that our students are focused on *rising* above past misfortunes and stigmas, suggests that a new programmatic name style is warranted. I am proposing *Solano Community College Rising Scholars* be adopted as the new title of our justice-involved education program.

Sincerely,

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