
INNOVATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE STRATEGIES

A monthly newsletter brought to you by the CJCC Strategic Planning Committee

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Education

Where: Concord, Massachusetts

Program: Tufts University Prison Initiative of Tisch College

<https://now.tufts.edu/news-releases/educational-program-aims-lower-recidivism-rates-improve-quality-life-inmates>

Through a \$100,000 grant provided by the Cummings Foundation, the Tufts University Prison Initiative of Tisch College (TUPIT) will provide top-tier college classes to incarcerated men at the Massachusetts Correctional Institution. The program aims to reduce recidivism, improve self-esteem of inmates, cultivate resilience, foster hope in the future, and transform the prison environment. However, the main goal is to create a pathway to employment for all of the students once they are released. 25 students are on course to graduate in December 2021 with an associate degree in the liberal arts, with hopes that these students will also pursue a Bachelors degree. So far, TUPIT has provided assistance in some way to about 80 inmates.

Law Enforcement/Crime Prevention

Where: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Program: Policing Tactics Experiment: Offender-Focused Policing

<https://crimesolutions.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?ID=449>

The goal of Offender-Focused Policing (OF Policing) is to deter high-risk offenders from committing crime. It aims to reduce violence by increasing the risk of apprehension for an area's most prolific offenders. The program was based on the deterrence theory, and the argument that swift, certain, and severe sanctions can act as a deterrence to crime. Police identified offenders with an extensive criminal history in 20 violent crime hot spots in Philadelphia. These selected individuals were then subjected to increased police attention. This included proactive questioning and surveillance. The officers assigned to these operations were known to be proactive, and were exempt from radio calls while they were monitoring the selected individuals. Violent felony counts were 50 percent lower in the OF Policing areas compared with the control areas.

Juvenile Vocational Training

Where: Essex County, New Jersey

Program: Vocational Tech Lab

<https://essexnewsdaily.com/news/belleville/83174>

Sojourn High School in New Jersey, an alternate school that is located in the Essex Juvenile Detention Center, has opened a vocational tech lab. Its main focus is the operation of construction equipment, and contains high-tech machinery simulators. Students will be able to receive certificates for operating machinery, and have opportunities to test for credentials that are accepted and recognized by the construction industry. Students must complete 30 to 40 hours of training on each simulation unit. The hopes of the detention center staff is to prepare the youth for their futures, and give them training that will help them get off on the right foot. Giving students the opportunity to earn certifications in the construction industry will help them to find gainful employment in their futures.
