



STUDENT PEACE ALLIANCE



## Abolish the Box One Pager

### THE MISSION:

The National Campaign to Abolish THE BOX is committed to removing institutional barriers that prevent currently and formerly incarcerated people from accessing higher education. In partnership with student groups and community-based organizations throughout the United States, we are asking the Common Application to Abolish the Box by removing the question that requires prospective students to disclose information about their history within the penal system.

### THE NEED:

People who are directly impacted by mass incarceration are often inhibited from accessing the opportunities necessary to achieve social stability *by the very structures meant to support them in reaching this goal.* Higher education increases opportunities for mobility and financial security; however, our excessively punitive regime of laws and informal policies prevent currently and formerly incarcerated people from attending college.

**OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE:** The National Campaign to Abolish the Box is built on the principle that education is a human right. We believe that Abolishing the Box is an important step towards greater racial and socioeconomic justice in higher education.

**NATION-WIDE CAMPAIGN:** Together with students and community-based organizations across the United States, we are building a national campaign to Abolish the Box from the Common Application and all other applications for admission to institutions of higher education.

**SCHOOL-SPECIFIC INITIATIVES:** In efforts to make our institutions of higher learning more just, transparent, and accountable, we also support school-specific initiatives to Abolish the Box.

### RESEARCH SUPPORTS ABOLISHING THE BOX:

- *Education dramatically reduces recidivism and increases public safety.*
- Of the 700,000 people released each year, 43.3% will return to prison within three years of release. This rate drops to 13.7% for Associates Degree recipients, 5.6% for Baccalaureates recipients, and less than 1% for those with a Masters.
- *There is no empirical evidence that having a documented criminal record poses a threat to campus safety.*
- The majority of laws broken on campuses are committed by people without documented criminal records.
- *THE BOX disproportionately impacts black and Latino students.*



**For more information, or to get involved, please visit [www.StudentPeaceAlliance.org](http://www.StudentPeaceAlliance.org)**