



Want to talk about Pell Grants? The Education From the Inside Out Coalition recognizes that there are a lot of myths circulating in the comments section of stories that discuss Pell Grant restoration for incarcerated community members. Here is a tool to help take back the blogs:

MYTHBUSTERS

Comment: Hard working, law abiding citizens who can't afford to send their children to college, will be paying for the college degrees, of imprisoned, law breaking criminals ... – Jim Symes

Wall Street Journal, http://bit.ly/WSJ_Pell; 2015

The **MYTH** :Expanding Pell eligibility will decrease the amount of Pell funding available for traditional students.

The **TRUTH** :Pell grant program is a quasi-entitlement and receives whatever funding is necessary for Grants to all income eligible persons.

Comment: Better yet, give them skills they can use to get a good job: welding, carpentry, plumbing, etc. Face it, Leavenworth isn't going to be churning out scholars any time soon. – Troy Ashlin

Wall Street Journal, http://bit.ly/WSJ_Pell; 2015

The **MYTH** :Incarcerated Americans should only receive vocational education as they cannot keep up with the rigors of liberal arts education and will not find employment in other fields.

The **TRUTH**: Returning citizens who participate in post-secondary education have higher rates of employment and are not limited to vocational positions. Courses in liberal arts prepare returning citizens for a range of careers .

Comment: Increased educational opportunities for criminals accomplishes nothing beyond equipping them to commit more sophisticated crimes.

- David Zamos

Wall Street Journal, http://bit.ly/WSJ_Pell2; 2015

The **MYTH**: If you educate and incarcerated person they will return to their communities as better, smarter criminals.

The **TRUTH**: The national recidivism rate is 67.8% that number drops drastically if a person participated in post-secondary education while incarcerated. Some in-prison college providers boast recidivism rate of 0%-4%.

Comment: Allow the non-violent criminals to participate in this work while remaining prisoners use the proceeds the prison gets to pay for college courses. - Matthew Auman

Wall Street Journal, http://bit.ly/WSJ_Pell; 2015

The **MYTH** : Incarcerated people should do menial labor and pay for college like everyone else.

The **TRUTH** :Prison labor has been used in communities for decades to provide free labor and often to offset the high cost of incarceration. Close to a million incarcerated individuals are working full time yet the wages are so low that they cannot afford to pay for in-prison college programs.