

For immediate release:

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SF Sheriff's Five Keys Charter School Pilots Joint Program with City College of San Francisco to Bring College Courses to Inmates of the County Jail

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To address the education inequity among San Francisco's incarcerated population, and to help facilitate re-entry to our community, San Francisco Sheriff's Department Five Keys Charter School and City College of San Francisco are partnering to bring college classes to the San Francisco County Jails. This pilot project will begin November 7th and run through November 18th at County Jail #5.

The partnership will allow inmates enrolled in the Five Keys high school diploma program to receive concurrent high school and college credit for coursework. Five Keys students will also prepare for the rigors of college-level coursework with the joint academic instruction of Five Keys teachers and CCSF instructors. A goal of the partnership is to improve the post-release academic and vocational success of students who earn their high school diplomas while incarcerated.

"Our students in the county jail represent the most educationally disadvantaged populations in San Francisco, where approximately 65%-70% of inmates lack a basic High School diploma. This pilot will allow us to demonstrate that our students can prepare for college while concurrently working on their diplomas. This will lay the groundwork for students entering Second Chance at City College of San Francisco upon release from Jail" said Steve Good, Executive Director of Five Keys.

Inmates who are enrolled in the program will receive 1 high school credit and 1 college, along with receiving support towards a smoother transition from high school to college.

The program will initially be offered at County Jail #5, where Five Keys has 250 students enrolled in the diploma program.

Courses featured in the pilot stage of the partnership include two one-week-long intensive courses on the topics of racism and sexism.

About:

Five Keys: *Founded by Sheriff Michael Hennessey in 2003 as the first of its kind in the nation, the SF Sheriff's Five Keys Charter School operates inside the county jails and at post-release sites throughout San Francisco. Now, over 650 students a day attend the Five Keys 3 schools, working towards high school diplomas or a GED. Five Keys Charter Schools interweaves the concepts of community, family, recovery, education and employment into its school curriculum and workforce development programs.*

CCSF Second Chance Program: *The SECOND CHANCE PROGRAM is specifically designed to recruit, enroll and support formerly incarcerated students currently enrolled or who intend to enroll at City College. Interested potential students who have the motivation and commitment to succeed are recruited while in recovery programs, and pre-release programs in the San Francisco Bay Area.*

San Francisco Sheriff's Department: *Michael Hennessey has served as Sheriff of San Francisco for 32 years. As Sheriff, he has won widespread recognition for the outstanding success of his innovative in-custody treatment programs. He is one of the nation's pioneers in establishing direct supervision jails that have proved to be safer and more cost effective than traditional linear jails.*