The Research Collaborative on Higher Education in Prison is a team of researchers at the University of Utah examining postsecondary education in prisons throughout the U.S. The purpose of this study is to provide empirical baseline research regarding postsecondary educational opportunity inside U.S. prisons. We document availability and characteristics of postsecondary education programs and efforts inside prisons to understand, organize, and ultimately expand quality postsecondary educational opportunity for incarcerated students.

**Why this is important**

During an unprecedented time of increased attention paid toward the growth and expansion of postsecondary education in prison, it is imperative to critically analyze the distribution and quality of postsecondary educational opportunity inside prisons. At present, little is known about the scope of postsecondary education offered in penal facilities and our research seeks to enable greater understanding of a rapidly changing terrain.

**How we hope you will participate**

In 2017, during the first phase of this research, our team reached out to over 200 higher education in prison programs across the country. We collected basic programmatic information, including official name of program, start date, curricula offered, prisons served, and related descriptive information. The second phase of our research will confirm the information we already have, add updates, and ask additional questions related to the following: mode-of-delivery, program of study, admissions criteria, and additional programmatic characteristics.

We would like to connect with your program via email or phone. You can contact us below:

- Eastern region: Vanessa Johnson-Ojeda, vjohnson@utah.edu
- Southern & Midwest regions: Erin L. Castro, erin.castro@utah.edu
- Western region: Tara Hardison, tara.hardison@utah.edu

**Our commitment**

We want to accurately represent the work you are doing. We will communicate with you annually to ensure the information we have is current and to provide a summary of our research findings. Your participation will help shape the emerging field of higher education in prison.

This research would not be possible without your participation. Thank you. If you have any questions about this research please contact Dr. Erin L. Castro, Director and Co-Founder of the University of Utah Prison Education Project & Assistant Professor, Education Leadership & Policy: 801-585-1378, erin.castro@utah.edu.