On Monday, March 2, 2015 4:25 PM, Kamber Sta. Maria <Kamber.Sta.Maria@solano.edu> wrote:

Hi Joanna,

Thank you for your patience!  I have been so very busy!

1.       I was asked to work on this in the fall and we had it up within one semester but my college had tried over a two year period prior to this unsuccessfully. It requires a huge amount of time and energy to get it off the ground.

2.       The obstacles were many: faculty buy-in, unclear guidelines at the Chancellor’s office prior to the November legislation, logistics and costs associated with the project depending on where it would be housed.

3.       In our prison distance ed is not an option at this time because they have no computer access. They do not allow them to have contact with the outside world outside of mail and limited phone meetings or visits.

4.       They do allow instructors to teach at their facility and we are looking at offering multiple classes on their campus in the near future. This was the easiest way to get the program started while we work out the logistics of in-person instruction.

5.       We currently have 3 other community colleges educating at the Solano Prison. I think they are open to whomever is willing to create the program. This is standard across the state. Since you share a district it may be something you want to offer district wide and share the workload.

6.       The prison requires anyone who does not have a high school diploma to be taking courses to achieve it. They offer instruction and tutoring to all interested and get them ready for college coursework. We are not offering any basic skills course at this time but Lassen College is providing that service.

7.       Not to my knowledge but you could offer short-term classes. We are offering 10 week right now.

8.       They provided us a list of what is being offered by the other three colleges serving this group but not necessarily curriculum with the exception of Lassen who was very helpful and shared course packets as examples for us.

9.       I think they will be excellent as this is one of the only things they have to commit to at this time. We have heard they are the best students because they are very focused on their classwork.

10.   They have to be comfortable with the setting and population and be willing to look past their current status as an inmate.

I hope this helps. Also, Lassen College, and Coastline College have great models and I found them very helpful. They have a lot of information online.

                          Kamber M. Sta. Maria

                                          EOPS Counselor

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           People will forget what you said, they will forget what you did,

                     but they will never forget how you made them feel.

                                                                 Maya Angelo