**Solano College approves agreement with prison**

By John Glidden

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With unanimous approval by the Solano Community College Governing Board Wednesday night, the district will begin teaching academic transfer curriculum to inmates, taught by district faculty.

The agreement between the district and the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, California State Prison-Solano will allow inmate students to earn college credit but also have access to counseling, placement, and disability support services, according to a district press release.

The college will be able to count the inmate students into the district's official Full-Time Equivalent Students count. FTES is not a student head count, but a specific calculation the state uses to determine how much funding to send to each California community college.

The college is operating with a $1.3 million deficit budget during the 2014-15 fiscal year, due to the reduction of FTES within the district.

"The District is excited to teach courses to Solano County prison inmates," said SCC Superintendent/President Jowel Laguerre, in a district press release about the new agreement. "Education is the key to unlocking one's future, therefore, it is Solano Community College's responsibility to respond and deliver services to those who want to improve their future opportunities.

"Being a part of the solution to reduce recidivism in individuals currently serving time, but will one day rejoin society- is our business," he added.

"Seeing this partnership come to fruition makes me very happy," said Kenya Williams, CSP-Solano Supervisor of

Corrections Educational Programs, in the same release. "The positive impact it will have on the community, as well as the incarcerated population is what providing this type of program is about.

"Education creates opportunities, therefore, the future of the inmates looks to be promising," she added.

According to a district report, the agreement will cost the district around twenty thousand dollars.

Last month, the board was ready to approve the agreement but had to postpone since Gov. Brown had yet to sign Senate Bill 1391 into law. The law allows community college districts to count inmates in the FTES count.

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