

To whom it may concern,

Since my transfer to Stateville from Menard, my life has changed and that has in large part due to the educational programs offered here that are, sadly, not offered at Menard. What I have been seeing lately is obstacles being raised for individuals to participate in these programs when instead, there should be an effort to expanding them to as many individuals as possible. Having spent well over a decade at Menard, the difference is night & day. These programs help to build us up not only with education but also mentally & emotionally. I've spoken to several individuals who are devastated because of the fact that they'd put in a lot of hard work into the application process for the Degree Programs offered only to learn that their applications were never received. Somehow, they were lost between Principle Constables office and Internal Affairs. lots of applications mysteriously disappeared with no explanation, as all of the applicants fit the criteria to participate in these programs.

Not only are obstacles being raised to participate in programs but we are also learning of threats to discontinue entire programs such as DePaul University's Inside-Out program. DePaul has played a major role in my own rehabilitation. Being clinically engaged has given me genuine sense of citizenship and social

responsibility. Being able to see the work that is produced in this program endorsed by elected officials of the State of Illinois has been very encouraging, to say the least.

To hear that programs like Dಪanell will be canceled is very disheartening and directly contradicts the I.D.O.C.'s mission to rehabilitate. There is absolutely no reason to cancel any of the educational programs. There is plenty of un-used space here and even more than enough correctional officers to extend class/program hours well past 2 p.m.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Concerned -

AFFIDAVIT OF AFFIRMATION

I, Geoffrey Cochran #B-501043, affiant, do hereby declare and affirm under penalty of perjury as defined in 735 ILCS 5/1-109, 28 USC 1746 or 18 USC 1621 that everything contained herein is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I further declare and affirm that the contents of the foregoing documents is/are known to me and is/are accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. Finally, I do declare and affirm that the matter at hand is not taken either frivolously or maliciously and that I believe the foregoing matter is taken in good faith.

Signed on this 10th day of June 2019

Geoffrey Cochran
#B-501043

Shoreville C.C.

P.O. Box 112

Joliet, IL 60434

I submitted a request for the North Park Theological Seminary application. I filled the application out leaving no question un-answered.

I wrote the required two essays of family background, faith background and contributing events that lead to my decision to apply for the program.

The essay dealing with temperament and personality was more descriptive when it came to my vocational/professional goals.

I also completed the essay for Art and Empire in the Ancient World.

I submitted both applications well before the deadline.

I have not received any notice of My acceptance or denial for either class.

I submitted an application for North Parks Theological Seminary Masters program on May 15, 2019.* I had a disciplinary ticket on May 9, 2018. My application NEVER made it to NPTS offices due to Principal Constable opting to trash it or decide on her own that I shouldn't ever be considered. The application said a year from the time of the disciplinary ticket, but she decided it would be a year from the day I was released from Segregation.

*Prior to this ticket I've taken 6-7 NPTS classes, 3 Deprt classes & 2 North western classes without ANY incident

AFFIDAVIT

I, Christopher Pyles, the affiant herein swears upon oath and avers that:

1). I have submitted applications for the degree programs at Stateville for Northwestern Illinois University and for North Park per the instructions to be sent to the EFA office;

2). These applications were submitted before the deadline, however they (Northwestern & North Park) never received them;

3). Upon learning that they (the applications) were never received I wrote Principal Costabile, Warden Williams and filed a grievance, but never received a response;

4). The foregoing is true and accurate in substance and content to the best of my knowledge, understanding and belief under the declaration for the penalty of perjury, pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/1-109; and

5). This affidavit is made in good faith.

Affiant further sayeth naught,

/S/: Christopher Pyles

Christopher Pyles #R-43795

Stateville Correctional Center

Post Office Box 112

Joliet, Illinois 60434

AFFIDAVIT

I, Rickey Quezada, being first duly sworn upon my oath deposes and state, that the following statements are true and correct in substance and in fact.

1.) Per the new procedures to obtain a college application, I contacted the principle in writing and received said application.

2.) I completed said application and essays required for review prior to submission deadline.

3.) I meet all of the academic and institutional requirements to participate in college programs,

4.) North Park sent acceptance, denial and waiting list responses to applicants they received applications from, of which I did not receive.

5.) I contacted Michelle who is the north Park director concerning my application and lack of response.

b.) I was told if I did not receive a response the university did not receive my application and the institution must have withheld it.

7.) Michelle suggested I contact the principle and warden Williamson to inquire why my application was not forwarded.

8.) I contacted both Principle and warden in writing and have yet to get a response.

Pursuant to 28 USC 1746, 18 USC 1621 or 735 ILCS 5/1-109, I declare, under penalty of perjury, that I am a named party in the above action, that I have read the above document, and that the information contained therein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge

Date: 6-11-19

151 Ray agent

Rickey Quezada

R07108

Stateville Correctional center

P.O. Box 112

Joliet, IL 60434

THE TROUBLE WITH TRYING TO GET A HIGHER EDUCATION AT STATEVILLE.

There are many impediments to attempting to achieve a higher education while in Stateville.

Initially you have to be added to "The List". To do so you must apply and complete a questionnaire which usually includes a short essay. Then, if you pass this hurdle the applicant is scrutinized by first the Chaplains office, not a bad thing, and then by internal affairs, to many, a bad thing. They decide based on your past and present record and gang affiliation if they want you to go to school.

Although they pass off the screening process as a security necessity what it really does is remove people from an educational opportunity that would be commensurate to their successful rehabilitation.

If you are lucky enough to get on "The List", then you have to battle to get out of your living unit to attend the class. For reasons that range from a lack of a proper administrative structure to just plain laziness, many students have been denied movement to their classes. This author has suffered this problem numerous times trying to get to his college classes, details and even Christian service. Many times I was told that classes were cancelled when they were not and that they weren't running church when they did. Due to the ineptness of the movement team, my person in my living unit is trying to go to a detail that is to go to the dining room for lunch at 8:30 AM and sit there until 10:30 AM just to get there because our unit

officers won't let us out later and the marment team won't come to get us.

If you are lucky enough to get out for your detent, then you have to be handled up and taken there where you are searched and scrutinized before you are allowed in. Even though the school building is hot, having no air conditioning or proper ventilation, attendees are not allowed to bring bottled water with them because the powers don't want to dispose of them even though they are allowed to have bottles themselves. In my last college class the school sergeant felt it necessary to chastise our class, including students from the university, over some thing that had occurred earlier in the day at another college class, which had nothing to do with our gathering. He further felt it necessary to curse, yell and demand us to get his point across. Unintentionally for him the point he made was not the point he was trying to make.

Disciplinary reports are tickets that are issued when personnel feel that you violated a rule. They are issued for something as simple as forgetting to turn your fan off when leaving your room to having a water bottle in the chaw hall or disrupting the harmony of the living unit. These tickets are deemed major and come with a suspension of your school privileges for up to 1 year along with other restrictions to your freedoms. This action is based on statville's theory that attending school is a privilege and if you get any disciplinary report you don't deserve said privilege. Actually this enforcement action is just another way to keep in control

CITIZENS FROM FURTHERING THEIR EDUCATION WHICH
WOULD GREATLY ENHANCE THEIR REHABILITATION WHICH
IS MANDATED BY ARTICLE I SECTION 11 OF THE ILLINOIS
CONSTITUTION WHICH CALLS FOR THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT
OF CORRECTIONS TO REHABILITATE IN CAPTURED CITIZENS
TO RESTORE THEM TO USEFUL CITIZENSHIP.

IRONICALLY THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS IS IN THE PROCESS OF MAKING
STATEVILLE THEIR EDUCATIONAL HUB OF THE STATE
PRISON SYSTEM. THEY HAVE APPROVED HIGHER
EDUCATION PROGRAMS FROM DEPAUL, NORTHWESTERN,
NORTH EASTERN AND NORTH PARK UNIVERSITIES.
LEWIS UNIVERSITY ALSO HAS A PROGRAM THERE
AND IS LOOKING TO EXPAND AND OAKTON COMMUNITY
COLLEGE IS DUE TO ARRIVE IN THE FALL, MUCH TO THE
CHAGrin OF THE STATEVILLE ADMINISTRATION
AND THEIR UNION PUPPET MASTERS WHO BELIEVE
IN WATERHOUSING OVER REHABILITATION. SOMEHOW
THERE IS A DISCONNECT BETWEEN THE STATE AND
STATEVILLE WHICH HAS CAUSED THE STATEVILLE
ADMINISTRATION TO FIND A WAY TO CONTACT THE
STATES WISSES, ALL IN THE NAME OF SECURITY.
TASK YOU, STANFORD AND BE REMOVED FROM HIS
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR A YEAR JUST BECAUSE
HE FORGOT TO TURN HIS FAN OFF. STATEVILLE
SAYS YES.

NOTE OF A CERTAIN ICH WOULD ASK WHY IS
THE UNION, AND ULTIMATELY STATEVILLE OPPOSED TO
EDUCATING THESE MEN AND RESTORING THEM TO
USEFUL CITIZENSHIP. IN THE WORDS OF ONE OF
OUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES, "DON'T GET IT TWISTED,
GUYS, YOU ARE A PROPERTY, A COMMODITY TO THE UNION!"

IN SIMPLE TERMS, THE MORE BODIES THAT ARE IN STATEVILLE THE MORE CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS ARE NEEDED WHICH MEANS MORE MONTHLY DUES TO THE UNION WHICH ALLOWS THEM TO PROSPER. IN PAST PUSH TO ENACT A PAY SCALE SYSTEM IN ILLINOIS IT WAS STATED THAT THE UNION WOULD HAVE TO BE SOLD ON THE FACT THAT THEY WOULD BELOSE ANY CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS IF THEY STARTED TO PAY SCALE RESTRUCTURED CITIZENS. WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE UNION AND ITS CONSTITUENTS A BILL OF THIS TYPE WOULD HAVE A HARD TIME BECOMING A LAW.

THE OTHER ISSUE THE UNION HAS WITH PERTAINING IN CHARTERED CITIZENS IS THAT IT CHALLENGES THE MAXIMUM SECURITY DESIGNATION OF STATEVILLE, HENCE THE PLETHORA OF MAJOR DISCIPLINARY REPORTS FOR MINOR INTENTIONS. IN THE PAST STATEVILLE WAS A ROUGH AND TUMBLE MAXIMUM SECURITY FACILITY WHERE MURDERS AND ASSAULTS WERE A COMMON OCCURRENCE AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS EARNED THEIR HONORABLE PAY. THE STATEVILLE OF TODAY IS AT WORST A MEDIUM SECURITY FACILITY WHERE OBTAINING AN EDUCATION, MAINTAINING A JOB, OR FIGHTING TO PROVE YOUR INNOCENCE IS THE NORM. IF THERE IS NO LONGER A DISCIPLINARY PROBLEM THEN WHY ARE SO MANY OFFICERS NEEDED? EVEN THE UNION AND THEIR PUPPETS WHO ARE TRYING TO MAKE THIS FACILITY LOOK LIKE A MAXIMUM SECURITY INSTITUTION THROUGH STATISTICS WITHOUT ACTIONS TO SUPPORT THEM.

IF YOU COMPINE AND CONTRAST THE UNIONS NEED TO STATEVILLES NEEDS AND DISCOUNT THE ILLINOIS

STATE CONSTITUTION AS JUST A PIECE OF PAPER WITH
SOME WRITING ON IT, MUCH TO THE DISMAY OF THE
NUMEROUS INCARCERATED CITIZENS WHO ARE WORKING
DILIGENTLY TO REHABILITATE THEMSELVES BACK TO
USEFUL CITIZENSHIP, YOU WILL SEE THE PROBLEM
WITH TRYING TO GET A HIGHER EDUCATION HERE AT
STATEVILLE.

I HAVE TO GO TURN OFF MY FAX NOW AND GO
TO WORK. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

Testimony About Education in Glazerville

The School principle and Warden Miles are making decisions that are very taxing mentally for people here that want to change our life and be educated. Everybody has been talking about it but noone is doing anything about it. I can only speak for me. Being kicked out of P-NAP made me feel like I've been trying to change for nothing because I have been doing good and because all it takes is a petty ticket. Now to get kicked out. For example, If I need to sit down on the toilet and my cellie is sleep on the bottom bunk, the toilet is right by him so if I hang a sheet between us from my top bunk to respect him I can get a ticket. Some officers wont because they see me using the toilet but some will. Now if I dont hang a sheet down my cellie will think it is disrespectful because he dont want to wake up to see me using the toilet. This always cause problems with cellies. There is no reason to write tickets for stuff like this because as long as the C/O view is not blocked into the cell they should not write a ticket. For Every ticket they write like this when they walk by and see a sheet up they also give people a disobeying a direct order charge when 9 times out of 10 they dont say anything. They dont say take the sheet down but now you have a "Major" ticket and cant work on your Rehabilitation for a year. That is not right. It's stressful now on top of stress. But they dont want us in these programs. They want to see us fighting and acting stupid so they can continue to look down on us instead of build us up. If anybody reading this

can help. Please help us stay in the programs unless
we actually commit a major infraction.

Thank you.

Prisons are a hotbed for education throughout the nation. However, here at Stateville the biggest adversary for inmates taking classes over the guards and their powerful union.

Even though this is the Department of Corrections, where prisoners are supposed to be getting rehabilitated the staff seems to want us to stay in the mindset that brought many of us here. The main focus of the educational programs here at Stateville is to make us better citizens. So we can leave here and help build up the disenfranchised communities that we helped to ~~down~~.

There's always a problem
For the collhoor guards to
Kry us out for classes.
Most of the times they will
lie and say the class was
Cancelled. Only to find out
later that day or night it
wasn't. Guards are not
disciplin for making us miss
classes. Even writing a
grievance on it, is a waste
of good paper.

The movement officer
harass us on the way to
school. They act like we're
disrupting their day & P
sitting on their butts, doing
nothing. They complain that
if we wanted to go to school
we should have stayed on the
outside. Or, why didn't we
go to school on the outside.
Guards are paid good money
to escort us, when we have

be-Honors, their mind set
is we should be locked in
our cells 24 hours a day.
That would make their job
easier.

The STAFF has created
backlash to try and imposed
the educational system.
This is done, by writing
bogus tickets of party offense
on students. So when the
student is convicted, he gets
kicked out of the educational
program or class. When
in America does a college
student gets kicked out of
school for a parking or
jaywalking ticket???

For the past few years the
education building has been
filled with a sergeant and
guards that are anti-program.
When it creates a hostile
environment that is toxic

-4-

to learn in. When frigginly
yelled at and cussed at
like your little kids. Such
verbal abuse makes it hard
to learn and stay focus on
the lesson plan.

To whom this may concern:

The educational dynamic within the prison institutions have been particularly troubling, especially within maximum security. These are problems getting escorted to class when you are a student and your schedule conflicts with other life issues, i.e. Health care passes, visits, etc. Even if you only a few minutes late, even though there are escort officers, with which it is their duty. Other providers are also to suspend if you are in school, and more recently, disciplinary issues have become a problem for students. Now, with a shared infection can and will, at you removed from an educational program.

There are far too many issues to list here, but those obstacles seem to stand as a deterrent to those who may want to pursue education. I have been incarcerated for two years, and I can attest that receiving an education is transformative. I thought process helps to evaluate and become more rational, more responsible, and less impulsive and impulsive). Negative thought is all but abolished amongst those who are fortunate enough to receive an education. yet it almost feels like you are being punished if you attend school. This should not be.

If good behaviour is celebrated and
should be preempted, then negative
obstacles should be removed from
those who seek to educate themselves
and become a positive asset to the
institution that they reside, and their
community if selected

Anonymous

To Whom It May Concern:

6.28.19

I'm currently incarcerated at Stateville C.C., and I've been a student / participant in educational programs provided by the following institutions: 1) DePaul University; 2) North Park University / Theological Seminary; 3) Northwestern University; 4) Prisons and Neighborhood Arts Project; 5) and Various programs taught by non-University affiliated volunteers. These programs have been an invaluable asset in contributing to my rehabilitation and transforming my life. I've been participating in these programs since 2014, and now I am earning a Master's Degree in Christian Ministry and Restorative Arts.

There are several concerns that I have. The first is that there are plans in place to eliminate nearly all programs unrelated to the Northwestern Bachelor's Degree Program and the North Park Master's Degree Program. The problem with this is that the college-level program offered by DePaul and P.N.A.P actually play a major role in preparing students for programs that offer degrees. It is absolutely necessary for these programs to continue because they help to rehabilitate prisoners, and it reduces the probability of prisoners engaging in activities that break prison rules.

The second concern that I have comes in two parts: 1) The restrictions placed upon prisoners to communicate with the volunteers who teach the classes 2) The restrictions upon prisoners when released to have any contact with volunteers for the purposes of further education. The importance of communication with the instructors comes from questions that we as students may have regarding homework, research,

rescheduling, and so on. Some of these programs offer college credit, and the universities often work on deadlines to have everything graded. Many prisoners upon release want to further their education and the only resources they have for that opportunity are the very people who taught them in prison. It only makes sense to allow communication between prisoners and volunteers for the purposes of rehabilitation and to prevent ex-prisoners from coming back to prison.

Lastly, currently there is no policy in place that prevents students involved in these programs from getting transferred while they are active students. The programs are not state-funded, and the volunteers/institutions that offer these classes lose out on their funding when students are abruptly transferred in the middle of a semester. Not only that, but the transfers disrupt and hinder the rehabilitation process taking place in the lives of the students.

Thank you for considering my concerns. As a student prisoner I have to say that the programming offered by all of the volunteers has been life changing in a positive way. There are many more concerns, but I think the ones that I mentioned are a good place to start addressing so that these programs can remain successful.

Sincerely,
Concerned Student.

Benard's Testimony

Before coming to Stateville correctional center, I had never taken a college course in my life. In 2018 I was able to experience my first college class in DePaul's inside-out Law, politics, and mass incarceration course. The opportunity to participate in this class from DePaul was life changing for me. Not only did I learn things I never knew before, but it gave me the confidence I needed to continue my education. DePaul's Inside-out allowed me to see that it was more to life than what I've been conditioned to believe growing up. DePaul's Inside-out gave me the necessary tools to transform myself into the education hungry individual I am today. I am grateful for the opportunity I experienced being a DePaul inside-out student, and the strive it has given me to want to continue a college education while incarcerated, and upon release.

Stateville cancellation of the DePaul inside-out classes will result in many incarcerated individuals lack of opportunity to participate in a program that could also become life changing in the same way it was to me. Education is a key element to achieving rehabilitation. The education DePaul university gave here at Stateville correctional center cannot be replaced. In fact, any cancellation of this program presents a grave injustice to people like me who want to change, but might need that certain enlightenment that DePaul offers to their students whether incarcerated, or not, that could assist in that change. Stateville correctional center Warden, and other employees who has engaged in the agreement of the cancellation of DePaul university inside-out program has committed an grave injustice to the incarcerated individuals here at Stateville who wants to learn, and

e part of Something So positive, and bigger than any one individual.
IF Stateville is gonna be about rehabilitation, and assisting all
Incarcerated individuals in their aim at self rehabilitation, then
Depaul university Inside-out program has to be part of that
Incarcerated individual opportunity at rehabilitating himself. I am
walking living example of how important this program can change
a person life for the better, which contributes to lowering the
Recidivism rates of individuals upon release who has experienced
college education. ~~etc~~ Therefore, Depaul university Inside-out
program is a greatly needed educational program for those like
myself Incarcerated at Stateville correctional center looking for tools
which will assist them in their positive transformation, and
help restore them back to useful citizens in their communities once
released.

CHALLENGES TO APPEARING IN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

IT IS MY EXPERIENCE THAT THERE ARE TWO MAIN CHALLENGES TO APPEARING IN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS. ONE IS GETTING THERE, THE OTHER IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GET THERE.

IN GETTING THERE THE CHALLENGES BEGIN WHEN YOU ARE TRYING TO GET OUT OF YOUR LIVING UNIT. THE CHPPLINS OFFICE COMPILES A BOOK OF ALL THE DETAILS FOR THE MONTH AND WHO IS APPROVED TO GO TO THOSE DETAILS, AND THAT BOOK IS PRESENTED TO EVERY LIVING UNIT AS WELL AS NUMEROUS COPIES TO THE MOVEMENT TEAM. SOMEHOW THE BOOK ENDS UP "MISSING" OR THE PERSON WHO IS ON THE LIST AND TRYING TO GET OUT IS TOLD HE IS NOT ON THE LIST EVEN THOUGH HE IS. THIS JUST OCCURRED IN MY INSIDE/OUT TRAINING CLASS WHERE CLASS MEMBERS WERE TOLD THEY WERE NOT ON THE LIST BUT WHEN WE PULLED THE "MASTER LIST" AND THEY WERE. IT IS UNKNOWN WHETHER THIS IS THE FAULT OF CHPY STAFF, A WAY TO CONTROL MOVEMENT OR A COMBINATION THEREOF BUT IT OCCURS IN EVERY HOUSE.

LAST SUMMER AS I WAS TRYING TO ATTEND MY 10:30A NORTH WESTERN CLASS I WAS TOLD TWICE THAT MY CLASS WAS CANCELLED ONLY TO FIND OUT THAT IS WASN'T CANCELLED. UPON INQUIRING AS TO WHY THEY LIED ABOUT THE STATUS OF MY CLASS AND WHY THEY WOULDN'T LET ME OUT I WAS TOLD THAT IF I WANTED TO GO TO MY CLASS THEN I SHOULD GO TO OUR 8:30A WORSHIP AND JUST WAIT IN THE DINING ROOM FOR MY CLASS TO GO OUT. THIS HAPPENED RECENTLY WHILE TWO OF US WERE TRYING TO GO TO CHURCH. EVEN THOUGH THE CHURCH LINE GOES RIGHT PAST OUR HOUSE WE WERE LEFT OUT AND THEN MADE TO WAIT IN THE BULLPEN

until they were "free" to take us over there. We missed half the service. After we were told to go to the chow hall and wait for the church line to leave from there, 16 min at 10:30A.

AS you can imagine this lack of proper approved movement is a huge impediment to attending our classes. AS IF we try to make our own way to class we could be subject to unauthorized movement charges, AND IF they don't let us out, AS UNAUTHORIZED, AND WE MISS CLASS WE WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE DETAIL.

The second challenge to attending classes is what happens when you show up to the school for class. Understanding that there are rules and regulations that must be followed both for stateville and the university that sponsors the class, new rules are advertised by the sergeant that runs the ^{school} base that we are not aware of because they don't officially exist and if you "violate" them he will kick you out of school building or not let you in at all. There was one occurrence where he would not let me in because he could not find the list with my name on it even though the instructor had the valid class list in her hand.

In another incident, the sergeant arrested water bottles in the school, because "my" parents are complaining about ^{dirty} cleaning them up, but we were not informed so all of us that showed up with water bottles were searched and threatened with disciplinary reports and school expectation for the infraction. Twice I was told THAT I wasn't dressed properly for school even though I was in my proper state uniform. ATTEMPT TO ^{AFFORD} THIS HARASSMENT, AND more, does is DISGUSTING

US From Going To School, To Further Our Education,
By Fear of Disciplinary Action, School Expulsion
or Being Removed From CLASS. School Should
Be A Welcoming Environment Where People Are
EAGER TO GO TO CLASSES AND ENHANCE THEIR EDUCATION
TO ADD IN THEIR DEDICATION TO USEFUL CITIZENSHIP
AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY.

I Recently As I Was Writing This I Watched
My Neighbor Trying To Get Out Of His Room For His 103rd
NORTH PARK CLASS ONLY TO BE TOLD THAT THEY HAD
A LIST WITH HIS NAME ON IT AND AFTER THE LIST
~~STOLE~~ APPEARED BUT THEY DID NOT WANT TO TAKE HIM.
They informed him THAT He SHOULD HAVE COME OUT
WITH THE 830A COUNTERLINE AND WAITED IN THE
DINING ROOM.

I Greatly Appreciate Your Attention To Our Dilemma.