

GENERAL DISTRIBUTION

**WEST VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF CORRECTIONS
& REHABILITATION**

NUMBER: 514.01

DATE: 07 June 2021

SUBJECT: WVDCR BIBLE COLLEGE

POLICY DIRECTIVE

PURPOSE:

To provide guidelines for the selection and education of inmate students at WVDCR Bible College(s). The purpose of the education is to affect positive culture change within Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation facilities by training moral rehabilitation workers (Peer Mentors).

REFERENCE:

None.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Superintendents with DCR Bible Colleges shall be responsible for enacting Operational Procedures to ensure compliance with this Policy Directive.

CANCELLATION:

Any previous written instruction on the subject.

APPLICABILITY:

All facilities within the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) that have custody of adult inmates. This Policy is available for general distribution and is to be made available for inmate review.

DEFINITIONS:

Moral Rehabilitation Initiative: An initiative of the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) to affect positive culture change within DCR facilities through moral rehabilitation services and activities.

Peer Mentor: An inmate who meets the minimum qualifications to be a designated moral

rehabilitation worker and who has completed the required training and is approved for assignment.

POLICY:

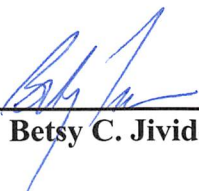
- I. The challenge and vision for the WVDCR Bible College was initially presented by Catalyst Ministries Inc. who as a non-profit organization has committed to providing funding necessary for this religious activity. DCR in partnership with Catalyst Ministries is responsible to provide adequate time, space, and security supervision to operate the Bible College.
 - A. Students training as Peer Mentors at a DCR Bible College are the cornerstone of the DCR Moral Rehabilitation Initiative.
 - B. The originating Bible College is located at Mount Olive Correctional Complex and Jail with plans for additional sites to be added in the future.
 - C. An academic partner that maintains essential academic accreditation and agrees to provide the academic needs such as an academically approved libraries and semester schedules in a correctional environment is required.
- II. Degrees or Certifications that may be offered by a DCR Bible College include a Bachelor of Arts (BA), Associate of Arts (AA) and a one (1) year Bible Certificate. The required courses may be taught in a traditional in-person classroom or through electronic means. Additional programs that include musical opportunities, student life activities and conferences add to the academic experience.
 - A. DCR Bible Colleges have a Director who maintains regular and sufficient hours at the facility to teach, plan, counsel students and coordinate with facility administration to address any concerns.
 - B. Instructors include academic professionals who teach long-distance by electronic means or traditional in-person classroom instructors who also provide positive role modeling.
- III. Inmate participation/enrollment as a student at a DCR Bible college is a PRIVILEGE and not a right as it is a non-profit supported program and not state funded.
 - A. To qualify for acceptance, an inmate must meet the following criteria.
 1. Be at least eight (8) years from possible release through parole or discharge as of the first day of class. This will allow for inmates to successfully complete the program and serve as Peer Mentors for an adequate amount of time.
 2. All academic requirements of the academic partner for enrollment.

3. The inmate must meet the following behavior criteria:
 - a. No Class I or II rule violations for eighteen (18) months prior to the date of application.
 - b. No Class III rule violations for six (6) months prior to the date of application.
- B. Inmates representing all faith groups are encouraged to apply. There is no faith requirement for graduation.
- C. A representative number of students with various crimes is the goal for enrollment.
- D. General eligibility will be decided by the Director of Offender Services or designee; academic eligibility by the academic partner; and security eligibility by facility leadership.
- E. Once enrolled students are expected to remain rule violation free. Institutional disciplinary events that only result in a loss of privileges; the student may still attend classes. Institutional disciplinary events that result in placement in segregation; the student may be permitted to complete current semester academic requirements based on recommendation from the academic partner with approval of the Superintendent or designee. The student may be not permitted to participate for a semester upon release from segregation.

ATTACHMENT(S):

None.

APPROVED SIGNATURE: _____


Betsy C. Jividen, Commissioner


Date