

BPI 2022
BARD PRISON INITIATIVE

Annual

*Making it
Count*

Report

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OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS we — at last — fulfilled BPI’s core public policy goal: restoring federal and state investment in college-in-prison after a 26-year ban. Now, we need to make the most of it. With great pride, I’m sharing this annual report to show how BPI is doing just that.

Odds are, BPI is in more places and doing more things than you knew. *Making it Count* is your guide to the scope of our year’s work.

What does *making it count* mean to us?

It means expanding and fortifying college-in-prison in New York: doubling BPI’s programs for incarcerated women, dramatically expanding access to bachelor’s degrees, and preparing to launch our first master’s degree program next year.

It means establishing a permanent home in New York City to support BPI alumni and cultivating an alumni-led effort to create similar supports throughout Upstate New York.

We are expanding the field of play nationwide — through technical assistance to our Consortium partners and policy advocacy — to fight for highest quality college-in-prison in states across this country. And, now that the United States has lifted its ban on funding education in prison, it also means supporting college-in-prison internationally.

Investing in the leadership of tomorrow, *making it count* means sharing BPI’s expertise and Bard’s resources far and wide: bringing new leaders in the field to campus for the intensive, two-week summer Residency and supporting formerly-incarcerated people who aspire to become college faculty.

Making it count means delivering tuition-free college to more people in more places in ways that cultivate democracy, diversity, and achievement. That’s exactly what Bard microcolleges are doing in Brooklyn, Harlem, and Massachusetts. And, it means fostering a welcoming and ambitious college community for BPI alumni and others through the BardBac — a dramatic expansion of our presence on Bard’s main campus.

Making it count means improving quality and expanding scale. It also means seizing this moment to defend the future.

This year we aim to complete an endowment campaign to provide much-needed financial ballast to BPI and beginning the work of establishing a core, fulltime faculty.



PHOTO: BEOWULF SHEEHAN

The work listed above and detailed in this report is unprecedented. There has never been a college-in-prison institution with the strength, breadth, and ambition that BPI has assumed. In these unprecedented times, more than ever, the world is in desperate need of what BPI students and alumni — and so many others typically excluded from higher education — have to offer.

Please enjoy this report, share far and wide, and please reach out if you have any questions. In the meantime, of course, we are forever grateful for your support, which allows BPI to continue to redefine the place of higher education in America and beyond.

Yours sincerely,

Max Kenner '01
Executive Director
Tow Chair for Democracy & Education

A GENERATIONAL VICTORY. In early April 2022, the field of college-in-prison in New York State celebrated a historic policy victory — the restoration of Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) funding for incarcerated students. Thank you to everyone who helped #TURNONTHEAPNY.



ON JUNE 11TH, BPI held its **20TH COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY** at Eastern Correctional Facility and honored retiring Representative **BOBBY L. RUSH (D-ILL.)** who delivered the commencement address.



AT THE MICROCOLLEGES, BPI launched its third campus — the Bard Microcollege for Just Community Leadership in Harlem, NY, in partnership with JustLeadershipUSA and College & Community Fellowship. Bard Holyoke and Bard at BPL entered their fifth and third years, respectively. Since launching in 2016, **80 TUITION-FREE DEGREES** have been conferred by the microcolleges, including 14 this year. In addition, BPI alumni hold administrative leadership positions at each of the microcolleges.

MICROCOLLEGE
Bard
FOR JUST COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

EXPANDING ACCESS

MORE DEGREE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE STUDENTS ACROSS NY PRISONS

To encourage degree completion while working through the constraints of the pandemic — including reduced movement between facilities for students — BPI expanded access to bachelor's degrees by introducing BA-level seminars at Green Haven and Woodbourne Correctional Facilities and making permanent the pilot-BA program at Fishkill. These programs are in addition to the existing BA program at Eastern NY Correctional Facility.

For the academic year 2021-22, **305 BPI STUDENTS** were enrolled across **7 NEW YORK STATE PRISONS:**



ON THE TAIL OF COMPLETING BPI's first fully in-person academic year since the onset of the pandemic, the 2022 commencement season was our most expansive yet. We honored **200+ GRADUATES FROM THE CLASSES OF 2020, 2021, AND 2022 ACROSS 6 IN-PERSON GRADUATIONS** — on Bard's campus in Annandale-on-Hudson and at five separate ceremonies in New York State correctional facilities. At Green Haven Correctional Facility, it was the first college graduation since 1995. These graduates join **MORE THAN 700 OTHERS** who have earned degrees through BPI since its founding.



BPI 2021-2022 Year in Review

OVER THE LAST YEAR, 58 alumni returned home. To support alumni in the community, the ConnectEd Workshop, which launched in November 2020 during the height of the pandemic, has successfully completed **12 COHORTS** engaging **100 ALUMNI.**



BEYOND NEW YORK, BPI's presence and impact was felt more deeply than ever this year. BPI's annual **SUMMER RESIDENCY** returned to an in-person format on Bard College's main campus, welcoming a fourth cohort that represented a broad range of emerging leaders in the field of college-in-prison from **11 STATES** and **6 NATIONS.**



DOUBLING PROGRAMS FOR INCARCERATED WOMEN The establishment of college at Albion Correctional Facility marks the opportunity to expand and, for the first time, offer bachelor's degrees to currently incarcerated women. This spring, a first cohort of 16 students was enrolled and are now completing their second semester with Bard.

Amidst prison closures and a falling population of incarcerated women in New York, BPI is committed to adapting to the changes and finding new ways to invest in students. That involves creating increased avenues for degree completion for women, in and after prison. And, it means creating new supports for alumnae to cultivate careers and civic fulfillment after graduation. ■

BY THE NUMBERS (Over BPI's lifetime)

Academics

19-24 COURSES offered in prison each day during the academic year

MORE THAN 2,000 CLASSES have been offered

MORE THAN 75,000 CREDITS have been issued since 2001

Extra Curriculars

235+ students enrolled in the **BPI Garden** programs since their founding

75 students enrolled as **BPI Writing and Math Fellows**

139 students enrolled in the **BPI Debate Union**

11-3 RECORD since starting in 2014

98% RETENTION RATE (compared to 75% for colleges nationally)

What happens when we provide the kinds of education that typically, in the U.S., are only afforded to the children of the lucky, the entitled, or the rich, to others?

Meeting the Moment



↑ Celebrating the Restoration of TAP at the Ford Foundation
From left to right: Sean Pica, Executive Director of Hudson Link; Max Kenner '01, Executive Director of BPI; Dyjuan Tatro '18, BPI's Senior Government Affairs Officer; Amelia Adams, President of Adams Buckner Advisors, LLC; and Robert Rodriguez, New York Secretary of State

THIS IS WHAT WINNING LOOKS LIKE. Since the evisceration of education in prison in the mid-1990s, the fundamental goal in our field has been restoring baseline public funding for incarcerated students.

We are proud that BPI alumni have been leading the way, advocating for these policy changes and designing their implementation once passed into law, at every level.

After 26 years, federal funding for incarcerated students via Pell Grants was restored in 2020, and advocates pushed for state-level funding to follow. Here in New York State, BPI co-led the movement to restore the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) for incarcerated students, #TurnOnTheTAPNY. At last, in April 2022, New York State repealed its ban on incarcerated people receiving TAP grants.

This is a generational victory.

And it's not just about money. Most of all, the elimination of federal and state funding for college-in-prison in the 1990s sent a clear message that the government had no regard for the fate or future of incarcerated people; that prison should be as cruel and destructive as possible. It coincided with dramatic divestment in the CUNY and SUNY systems; a continued expansion of the prison population; and neglect of social services essential to chronically disenfranchised, Black, and Brown communities. With the recent victories in hand, meeting the moment means working to reverse that damage by restoring systems of justice and education that work on behalf of all of us.

"It was an honor to sponsor the restoration of TAP for incarcerated people in the Assembly. This will change prisons in NY for the better over the course of decades. Dyjuan Tatro and the BPI team provided critical leadership in getting this done, after so many years."

— ASSEMBLY MEMBER
KHALEEL M. ANDERSON (D. 31)



Advancing college-in-prison nationwide

After wins in Washington, D.C. and New York, we're determined to keep up the momentum, restoring the place of college within prison systems in states nationwide. For us, that means collaborating with BPI's Consortium partners to work and bring about the best possible outcomes in local contexts.

On the heels of Representative Bobby L. Rush's commencement address in June, BPI is working with local advocates in Illinois to help restore state-level funding there. Incarcerated people were banned from the state's Monetary Assistance Program for college students in Illinois during the peak of the 1990s tough-on-crime frenzy. Fresh off the #TurnOnTheTAP win in New York, we support the work to put college-in-prison #BackOnTheMAP in 2023.

Working in Massachusetts, Max Kenner '01 co-authored *Unlocking College: Strengthening Massachusetts' Commitment to College in Prison* which is published by The Boston Foundation (TBF). Among many distinguished signatories to the report were leadership of Consortium partners at Boston College and Emerson College, our colleague Vivian Nixon, filmmaker Lynn Novick, and The Boston Foundation's

President, Lee Pelton. While Massachusetts is long distinguished as a home for American higher education in general, it is not a leader in college-in-prison. It should be; BPI has and will continue to push for it to become one.

And, in Indiana, after over ten years of work and significant state investment there, we finalized an agreement with the University of Notre Dame to establish a state-level network to promote, facilitate, and protect college-in-prison across the Hoosier State for years to come. (See p.11.)



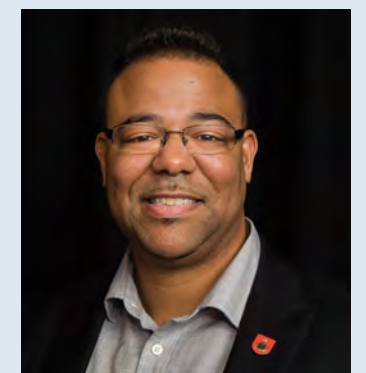
← Representative Bobby L. Rush (D-III.) Rush delivered the keynote at this year's commencement at Eastern Correctional Facility.

BPI ALUMNI IMPLEMENTING PELL RESTORATION

George Chochos '10

At the federal level, BPI alumni are also leading the way. As the government rolls out the return of Pell Grants for people in prison, George Chochos '10, who has worked in policy and fought for the restoration of Pell Grants, sees the return of TAP funding as an opportunity to "change the narrative for thousands, if not millions of New Yorkers."

George Chochos '10 is a senior program associate on the Unlocking Potential initiative at the Vera Institute of Justice, where he provides technical assistance to college-in-prison programs who will begin applying for Pell eligibility starting next summer. He joined the Vera Institute for Justice in 2020 as a senior federal policy associate to work on Pell reinstatement for incarcerated students.



BPI ALUMNI IMPLEMENTING TAP RESTORATION

Jose Pineda '19

BPI alumnus Jose Pineda '19 is now Assistant Director for the State University of New York's (SUNY) Higher Education for the Justice-Involved (HEJI). In this position, he is the senior formerly

incarcerated advisor to SUNY's effort, following the restoration of TAP, as the system seeks to restore a significant presence in the field.





MOBILIZING CONSTITUENCIES

**Dyjuan
Tatro '18**

**BPI Senior
Government Affairs
Officer and Senior
Advisor for Strategic
Outreach at the
Democratic Congressional
Campaign Committee**

Working for BPI as a BPI Alumnus

Every day, I would wake up and think about the stark contrast between my life and that of my two brothers who have both been to prison like me. Unlike me, neither of them got an education while they were incarcerated. I left prison with all these possibilities before me and was able to gain real and sustainable employment. My brothers were not.

I was kind of aghast when I learned that BPI received no public funding for the work that it does, despite the fact that the work is cost-saving. More importantly and of immeasurable value is changing the trajectories of people's lives and building better futures for people and their families and their communities. So, I went back to BPI to Max Kenner and said, "Hey, I wanna raise public funding for BPI."

I started with the New York City Council, and I secured the first-ever public funding from New York City for BPI, specifically for BPI's reentry programs. Working at the state level, I secured the first-ever sustainable funding from New York state, which we now receive year-over-year.

On the Success of the #TurnOnTheTAPNY Campaign

First and foremost is that other people and alumni of college-in-prison programs and social justice advocates laid the groundwork for what would become the #TurnOnTheTAP campaign. People like Vivian Nixon. So we were able to build upon the foundations, the research, and the advocacy that they had done in the past.

Then between 2014 and 2022, we saw a total shift in the public conscious around criminal justice issues, due in part to BPI's work and the film *College Behind Bars*. People are better educated, better informed, and more critical of carceral systems of punishment. There's a deep realization in society that prisons are not making us safer, that they are not rehabilitating people, and when you're a tax-paying American, that is what you want for your dollars.

We chose very strategically to lift up the voices and the stories, the experience, and the expertise of formerly incarcerated people, alumni of college-in-prison programs, and their families — the people who have been directly impacted by these systems. When you do that and mobilize constituencies, it becomes extremely powerful.

Investing in People through Education

When we make education in prison about reducing recidivism or about saving money, we are losing our way. That is a side product of college-in-prison, but it is not the goal. [BPI] is an organization that invests educationally in people. And those investments have paid off for students and alumni in ways that many people couldn't foresee. The vast majority of BPI students do not go back to prison and not only do they not go back to prison, they get out of prison and help solve some of the conditions and circumstances that lead to their incarceration in the first place.

The impact of turning on the TAP

Without college, the prison system reinforces and exacerbates systemic challenges:

42.6%
of the New Yorkers released in 2012 returned to prison

\$16,529 median earnings three years after release

27% unemployment rate for working-age formerly incarcerated people

95% OR MORE of incarcerated people will return home

Incarcerated people need educational investment:

15%
of incarcerated people have a post-high-school degree

33% have less than a high school education

TODAY, NEARLY 65% of jobs require at least some college

55% are educationally eligible to participate in higher education

The Bard Prison Initiative intervenes at every level:

39.5% reduction in recidivism compared to New York State's general population

3.1%
BPI's rate of recidivism for students who have completed a Bard bachelor's degree

\$54,000 Median early career pay for a Bard graduate

85%
of BPI alumni are employed within 60 days of returning home

68%
of BPI alumni return with a Bard College degree

BPI coursework in areas with high employment demand:
• PUBLIC HEALTH
• COMPUTER SCIENCE
• TEACHING

BPI PROVIDES COMPREHENSIVE CAREER DEVELOPMENT SERVICES for professional, high-skill work

PHOTO: BEOWULF SHEEHAN

Building program infrastructure

For 15 years, BPI has been preparing for the return of government funding by establishing first-rate programs across the country through its Consortium. Now that federal and state-level funding is being restored, it is time to protect quality and ambition in the field. To achieve this, BPI is making key investments in Consortium partners across the country.

With support from the Open Society University Network, in 2022, BPI regranted a total of \$435,000 to eight Consortium partners focusing on building key program infrastructure. Grants focus on building fundraising capacity, on-site computer labs, enhancing digital communications, expanding STEM curricula, and developing internal academic databases.

Additionally, the community of practice is convening for regular webinars focusing on building core infrastructure. Those include:

- INVESTING IN DATABASE INFRASTRUCTURE**
 Based on our own experience and investment utilizing customized databases, BPI is now funding the creation of a replicable database platform for Consortium partners. These platforms are critical to address the reporting requirements coming with implementation.
- ACCESSING PELL GRANT FUNDING** — Since 2016, BPI has developed administrative systems that have streamlined accessing Pell Grant funding. BPI's Financial Aid Counselor offers Consortium-wide webinars to provide guidance and best practices as partners seek to minimize the bureaucratic burdens of federal funding.
- DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS** — Long-time BPI partner Flyleaf Creative extended their expertise on how college-in-prison programs can deepen their capacity for outward-facing communications, digital marketing, and social media.
- JSTOR** — BPI was the first college-in-prison program to partner with JSTOR — the leading database of academic journals — to develop a system that would offer the JSTOR index of academic articles to incarcerated students. Fifteen years later, an alumna, Stacy Burnett '20, is Manager of JSTOR Access in Prison. Stacy led a Consortium webinar on accessing the JSTOR index and replicating BPI's groundbreaking access to research materials for incarcerated students.



↑ Freedom Education Project in Puget Sound is celebrating its 10th anniversary at the University of Puget Sound



← Augustana College Prison Education launched in 2021 in close partnership with BPI and was the first program in Illinois to become a Second Chance Pell site

→ Emerson College Prison Initiative first-ever graduation this year in Concord, Massachusetts



CASE STUDY

Notre Dame Programs for Education in Prison (NDPEP)

This year, BPI finalized an agreement with the University of Notre Dame to establish a center for the practice of college-in-prison in Indiana. After more than ten years of work, Notre Dame Programs for Education in Prison (NDPEP) is launching to centralize each of the University's in-prison programs under one roof; to catalyze reentry services; and to expand, promote, and defend the academic ambition of college-in-prison across the state.

For years, the partnership with Notre Dame has been a key component of BPI's national agenda. This collaboration has restored college-in-prison and government funding in that state, inspired other Catholic universities, and developed programs that are a beacon of academic breadth and quality in this field.

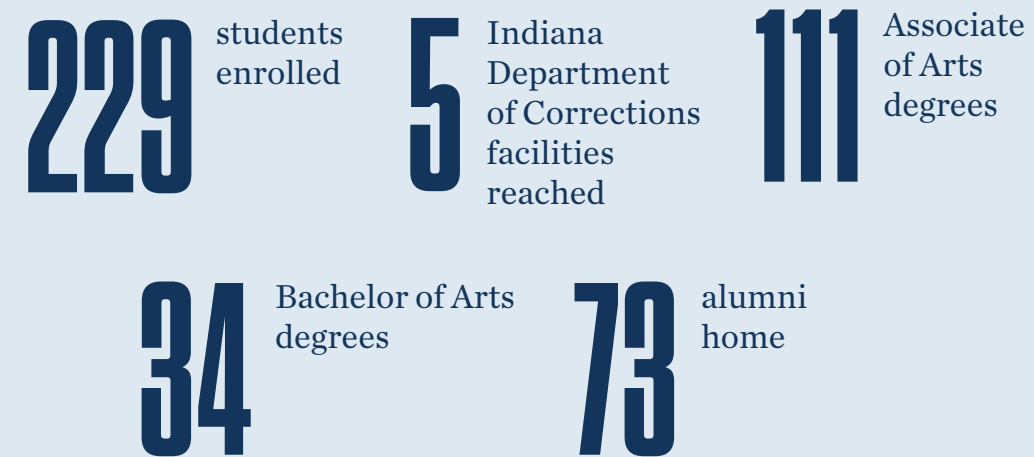
In 2011, BPI began program-building work in Indiana with partners in the Indiana Department of Corrections and faculty at the University of Notre Dame. Since then, the Moreau College Initiative (MCI), a partnership between Holy Cross College and Notre Dame, has provided access to AA and BA degrees in the liberal arts for men incarcerated across Indiana. In 2019, BPI partnered with Marian University to reestablish college opportunity for



women in the state by launching the Women's College Partnership (WCP) at the Indiana Women's Prison. Now, the administration of the two programs will be joined and a center for reentry based in Indianapolis will be established as well. NDPEP will also aspire to become a hub for research and evaluation in the field.

In addition to technical assistance, partnership, and program-building, BPI has raised and regranted over \$2 million for college-in-prison in Indiana.

NOTRE DAME PROGRAMS FOR EDUCATION IN PRISON BY THE NUMBERS



Cultivating the next generation of college-in-prison programs and practitioners

IN ADDITION TO REGRANTING FUNDS for capacity-building support, BPI is paving the way for a new generation of leaders in the field who will guide high quality, sustainable college-in-prison programs. The BPI National Engagement team, led by Jessica Neptune '02, provides one-on-one consultations with dozens of educators and practitioners as well as researchers and policymakers throughout the year.

Emerging practitioners often continue learning from BPI's years of experience as invited participants of the two-week BPI Summer Residency program on Bard's campus, which comes at no cost to participants. The BPI Summer Residency launched in 2019 as a new model for supporting the growing field of college-in-prison by investing in leaders, facilitating best practices, and leveraging access to the deep bench of expertise represented among BPI staff and alumni.

A Summer of Developing the Leaders of What Will Come Next

The fourth annual BPI Summer Residency returned to Bard's Annandale campus for cohort 2022.

In July, emerging college-in-prison educators from California, Oregon, Virginia, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Missouri, New York, and Hawai'i as well as South Africa, Jamaica, Austria, Argentina, and the United Kingdom joined BPI alumni and staff for the fourth annual BPI Summer Residency. For the first time since the onset of the pandemic, the Summer Residency was back to in-person workshops on Bard's main campus in Annandale-on-Hudson, NY.

The BPI Summer Residency, launched in 2019, is a professional development opportunity that provides



BPI SUMMER RESIDENCY 2022 BY THE NUMBERS

4th Annual Cohort **30+** number of attendees
including emerging college-in-prison practitioners in the field, formerly incarcerated individuals, and BPI staff and alumni subject-matter experts

11 STATES & **6** NATIONS REPRESENTED

25 immersive workshops held



➤ **Scenes from the 4th BPI Summer Residency**
 Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY



hands-on, experiential training in the hows, whys, and whats of BPI's approach to college-in-prison. BPI staff and alumni subject-matter experts from the academic, reentry and alumni affairs, national engagement and advocacy, development, and senior leadership teams led the immersive workshops. The lived experience of BPI alumni – who were included both in the cohort and as workshop leaders – underscored much of the two-weeks, providing vital insight on the logistical and human-scale impact of college-in-prison.

The 25 workshops ranged in subject from “Faculty Recruitment and Hiring” to “Math Curriculum and Pedagogy” to “Thinking About Fundraising” and represented four overarching topics in college-in-prison program building: Philosophical Approaches, Academics and Practice, Technical Approaches, and Reentry and Alumni Affairs.

The 2022 cohort represented a broad spectrum of emerging leaders in the field of college-in-prison from public and private institutions, community colleges, small liberal arts schools, and large research institutions as faculty, program directors, newly hired practitioners, graduate students, alumni, and directly impacted people representing eleven states and six nations.

FORMERLY INCARCERATED COLLEGE FACULTY

The Bard Microcollege for Just Community Leadership in Harlem is an institution designed to build on the values, momentum, and experience of the criminal justice reform community. That's why we call it a college for *advocacy, arts, and sciences*.

Along with our partners, JustLeadershipUSA and College & Community Fellowship, we are committed to cultivating a generation of formerly incarcerated college faculty.

This summer, a cohort of nine formerly incarcerated leaders – representing a number of advocacy organizations and alumni from a variety of college-in-prison institutions – attended Bard's Institute for Writing & Thinking (IWT) annual week-long pedagogy workshop on campus.

We will invite a second cohort of formerly incarcerated leaders to attend IWT next summer.



“Formerly incarcerated people shouldn't just be students in a classroom, they should be professors as well. That's why providing no-cost teacher training to directly impacted people is a core part of JLSA's partnership with BPI.”

— **DEANNA HOSKINS**
 PRESIDENT OF JUSTLEADERSHIPUSA

A Global Community of Practice



FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS, BPI has worked to develop practices to bring sustainable colleges into American prisons. As America’s carceral projects have continually been exported across the globe, so too must the community seeking to redress those harms expand across national borders. Partnering with Incarceration Nations Network, an organization with broad experience supporting educational initiatives across the globe, BPI is leveraging our resources to support local experts who are engaged in educational projects in prisons outside the United States.

In 2022, with the support of the Open Society University Network (OSUN), BPI expanded its programmatic support to practitioners outside the United States. We partnered with Incarceration Nations Network (INN) Founder and Executive Director Baz Dreisinger who joined BPI as Senior Advisor for Global Initiative to support BPI’s launch of this new global work. In January 2022, BPI and INN announced a call for proposals for capacity-building grants, specifically for programs abroad. The response far surpassed initial expectations, with two dozen universities submitting proposals for funding.

By Spring 2022, BPI issued 11 initial grants to new and existing programs and invited all applicants into

a growing community-of-practice. The new global community includes educators from Argentina, South Africa, Brazil, Jamaica, Trinidad, Australia, Italy, Mexico, Tanzania, the United Kingdom, and beyond, who are coming together through a series of webinars and virtual communications along with plans for in-person convenings.

“Correctional systems across the globe are plagued with similar stories of disenfranchisement, social exclusion, and hopelessness. I see education as a gateway to equity — and it fosters critical consciousness necessary for self-liberation and true freedom.”

— SHANELL BAILEY

PROGRAM LEAD, UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES’ PRISON-TO-COLLEGE PIPELINE INITIATIVE; 2022 BPI SUMMER RESIDENCY ATTENDEE

To deepen support and engagement for this global community-of-practice, Ramiro Gual was hired as a BPI Global Research Fellow for the 2022–2023 academic year. As a Research Fellow, Gual will facilitate a series of virtual lectures and webinars for the Global Community of Practice, bringing together researchers from across the world to talk about their scholarship and practices. He will also produce an original piece of research on education in carceral spaces in South America.



Ramiro Gual GLOBAL RESEARCH FELLOW

As BPI’s Global Research Fellow, I will spend the next year conducting an ethnographic study on higher education programs in prisons in Argentina, seeking to identify points of diversity in their cultural context, goals, and progress. Empirical research tracing those differences and analyzing the effects of these programs — both on everyday social life inside prisons and on students’ lives once they

return to their communities — does not yet exist. However, through the support of BPI, INN, and OSUN, my aim is to work on filling in these gaps while also creating space to facilitate debates about prison practices, our position in the field, and the realities of higher education in prison around the world.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Dr. Baz Dreisinger

Writer, Fulbright Scholar, Founder of Incarceration Nation Networks, and Senior Advisor for BPI Global Initiatives

Creating Incarceration Nation Networks

I started researching and writing the book, *Incarceration Nations*, in the second year of Prison-to-College Pipeline’s birth. It was still a baby program. I had a sabbatical and wanted to explore prisons in a global context. I traveled to Rwanda, South Africa, Thailand — all over — and that launched a process of my becoming deeply involved in whatever prison work, reform work, justice work was happening globally. Two years later, I received a Fulbright to do more research in South Africa, Rwanda, and Chile. I had developed relationships with organizations, academics, and activists in all these countries and decided to formalize those connections into a network in 2019. Incarceration Nations Network is based on the idea that doing this work from one country to the next looks remarkably similar. The problems look remarkably similar. The crisis of mass incarceration looks remarkably similar. Therefore, so do some of the things that we can do to address it.

Global call for education in prison

I have never been in a prison where there wasn’t a screaming call for education. I’ve been to at least 50 or 60 all over the world and engaged with so many incarcerated individuals. I’ve never been in a prison setting where I asked “would you want to pursue your education?” and at least one person didn’t immediately raise their hand. The hunger for education — intellectual hunger — crosses all borders.

Partnering with BPI

We’re promoting the development and support of prison-university partnerships globally. BPI brings to the table its incredible legacy of building college-in-prison programs in the US while INN brings its on-the-ground, grassroots, global partnerships in the justice space. As the senior advisor to the project, I bring a bit of both.

Exchanging ideas

The learning is always two ways. Even a program that is not necessarily robust and developed could have something to teach us in its approach, in its pedagogy, in the way that it uses university resources and context. I always think of it as a two-way street. We learn from each other. We share knowledge both ways.



PHOTO: BEOWULF SHEEHAN

“The hunger for education — intellectual hunger — crosses all borders.”

BPI in print, on canvas, and in conversation

Alumni and staff at BPI make unique contributions to the discussions of education and justice in the United States.

The Effects of College-in-Prison and Policy Implications



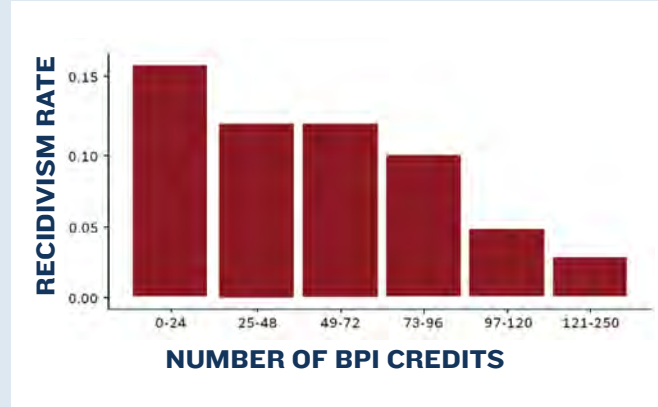
Robert Tynes
BPI Faculty
and Study
Author

In December 2021, Robert Tynes, BPI's Director of College-in-Prison Operations and Site Director at Eastern NY Correctional Facility, co-authored a first-of-its-kind study with the Yale Policy Lab measuring the impact of college-in-prison on recidivism rates in New York State.

Published in *Justice Quarterly*, the research analyzed data from BPI and found that college enrollment substantially reduces one's likelihood of recidivating, confirming that students who enroll in college-in-prison programs like BPI are dramatically less likely to return to prison than the general population.

Students who completed Bard associate degrees showed a recidivism rate of 8.3%, as compared to the 41.5% general recidivism rate for New York State. For students who completed Bard bachelor's degrees, the rate fell to 3.1%. These reductions represent a 38.6% drop in recidivism compared to New York State's general population. The study found that recidivism rates continue to decrease with more credits and degrees earned and the reduction holds true across racial groups.

This research reinforces what so many have known: college-in-prison promises all the benefits that meaningful education offers to students everywhere. It also increases public safety, saves taxpayer dollars, and creates extraordinary inroads to college in communities we most often fail to engage in higher education.



"Robert's study critically advanced the campaign for TAP restoration. In meetings with policymakers, it became the icing on the cake. I'm proud a colleague and BPI professor produced this important scholarship."

— DYJUAN TATRO '18,
BPI SENIOR GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS OFFICER



Dark Reflections

RUSSELL CRAIG '22, a graduate of the Bard at BPL Microcollege, recently had a selection of his artwork, *Dark Reflections*, on display at the Malin Gallery in New York City. The subject matter in the *Dark Reflections* paintings all derives, on some level, from Craig's personal experiences living in foster care, on the street, and his subsequent incarceration. Craig was a 2018 Art For Justice Fellow, and his work is part of the Brooklyn Museum's permanent collection and has been featured in exhibitions including *Marking Time: Art in the Age of Mass Incarceration* at MoMA PS1 and *State Goods: Art in the Era of Mass Incarceration*.



WEBINAR RECAP:

50 Years: The Kerner Commission, Mass Incarceration, and College-in-Prison

Last year, The Eisenhower Foundation hosted a series of public discussions on the legacy of the Kerner Commission, the landmark government report proscribing solutions to chronic poverty and racism in the United States. In October, [the conversation was co-hosted by BPI](#) and focused on the historical place of college-in-prison. The dialogue was moderated by Yale Associate Professor of History and African American Studies Elizabeth Hinton and featured the poet and advocate Dwayne Betts, Esq., Reverend Vivian Nixon, and BPI Executive Director Max Kenner '01.



Panel participants

Clockwise from top left: Dr. Elizabeth Hinton, Max Kenner '01, Reginald Dwayne Betts, Esq., and Rev. Vivian Nixon

"[The Kerner Commission] is a relic of a time that I didn't live in and yet it still has such a stamp on the time that I do live in, which is a reminder of how much work we have to do and how we can't forget the past."

— REGINALD DWAYNE BETTS, ESQ.

Black Disfigurement and the American Hieroglyphics of Race

By Rodney Spivey-Jones '17

Published in two parts in *The A-Line*, a journal of progressive thought. Below is an excerpt:



"I have a duty. This project is both a ballad and an elegy: a ballad for those who continue to fight despite erasure and nonrecognition; an elegy for every slain 'rabble rouser,' 'outsider,' 'radical,' 'communist,' 'uppity negro,' 'black racist,' 'criminal,' and 'superpredator.' You too, reader, have a duty. You will see images of a young teenager,

Emmett Louis Till, torn and disfigured, of Philando Castile and Alton Sterling with blood-soaked shirts, fighting erasure and losing. Please, do not avert your gaze.

The very logic of American self-making depends on disfigurement. I use disfigurement to call attention to the ways in which we elide/misrecognize those human qualities that bind us all in webs of empathy and acknowledgement; to our tendency to

amplify aberrations and exaggerate differences — real and/or perceived — in order to confine, segregate, kill, maim, rape, pillage. And to do it all with a seemingly clear conscience. We refuse to see the raised welts of indignity twisting perfectly flawed contours of the individual. This pretense of illegibility provides a sort of plausible deniability when we 'misrecognize' pleas for freedom and fair treatment. One might invoke the term 'erasure' to describe what I have mentioned thus far. *Erasure* is a process of eliminating, of concealing. However, American self-making, the process of defining ourselves in a world of contradictions, depends on the highly visible other. Through acts of disfigurement, the other is both *made* and *made visible*. The messianic black body serves as both substance and symbol precisely because it is *highly visible as an object*. Its disfigurement, the raised welts of science, of storytelling, gives it shape. These marks signify. I ask that we consider the carvings, the excising of that supple substance that shapes the unique contours of *personhood*."

Returning Home



BPI’s distinctive approach to reentry is based on intensive, individualized mentoring and support that cultivates — at a human scale — the unique talents and ambitions of each of our students and alumni. Through roles at public agencies and social service organizations, philanthropy, criminal justice, and businesses, BPI alumni are reclaiming power and leadership, determining what comes next.

REGARDLESS OF TIME SERVED, returning home after incarceration presents a complex set of obstacles — navigating reunification with family, managing parole requirements, securing stable housing, becoming familiar with current digital devices and technology, and more. BPI alumni, in particular, leave prison under a unique duality — equipped with the college education and skills needed to launch their careers and build their lives but without direct experience in their field of interest.

BPI’s Reentry and Alumni Affairs team provides resources and information for social services, employment opportunities, financial assistance, housing, and more. Supporting a growing network of 800+ alumni who have returned home, BPI has a long history of helping justice-impacted people find a path to success.

Over the past 20 years, **BPI BA ALUMNI HAVE A CUMULATIVE RECIDIVISM RATE OF 3.1%, AND 85% OF ALUMNI FIND EMPLOYMENT WITHIN 60 DAYS OF RELEASE FROM PRISON.** Further outcomes include:

- More than **800 ALUMNI RELEASED TO DATE**, with an average of 65 alumni released each year.
- **100 ALUMNI HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE CONNECTED WORKSHOPS** since November 2020, a six-week, full-time paid program designed to support individuals as they transition back into their communities and secure employment.
- **VIBRANT AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY** comprised of BPI alumni.
- BPI alumni have attended **40+ COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITIES** post-release, including CUNY, Columbia, Cornell, Georgetown, New York University, Yale, Bard, Lehman College, Hunter College, and Fordham University.

- **ALUMNI ARE EMPLOYED ACROSS NEW YORK STATE** in fields including non-profit, philanthropy, corporate, and finance and at organizations such as The Fortune Society, Vera Institute of Justice, New York City Department of Health, Philadelphia Community Bail Fund, Center for Community Alternatives, Standard Industries, Galaxy Gives, Ford Foundation, Open Society Foundation, and Adams Buckner Advisors, among many others.

BY THE NUMBERS

800+ BPI students released

ConnectEd Workshop in its 13th Cohort as of November 2022

40+ Colleges and universities alumni attended to pursue BA, MA, MPH, MSW, & PhD degrees post-release

12+ Distinct fields of employment post-release including human resources, community and public health, information technology, social work, and teaching

Expanding BPI Reentry Upstate

While the majority of BPI alumni have historically returned home to New York City, in recent years more are returning or moving



↑ Shawn Young '19

to the communities of the Capital Region of New York. For example, in the 22-month period between January 2020 and October 2021, 29% of the 121 BPI alumni who returned home returned to upstate regions. This is up from a high of 24% in the 20-year history of BPI. In early 2022, BPI worked together with BPI alumnus Shawn Young '19

to create the BPI Upstate Reentry Residency. Led by Young, the expansion of BPI’s reentry upstate extends BPI’s deep expertise in supporting alumni and formerly incarcerated people across the Capital Region. Young works with a network of peers and BPI alumni to cultivate connections across community resources, service organizations, and employers to ensure that people returning home, whether in the early days of their transition home or taking next steps as they pursue professional development, are fully supported and connected.

In the first year of expanding BPI’s reentry work upstate, housing for returning alumni was a top priority. Young worked with private property owners and property managers to support a friendly application process for applicants and to locate apartments or rooms in neighborhoods deemed likely to support the needs of our community. The success of this effort means stable and secure housing for alumni like Gordon Davis '13 in and across the Capital Region.



↑ Gordon Davis '13 is a 2021 BPI Public Health Fellow and is currently the Executive Assistant for Dr. Alice P. Green at The Center For Law and Justice in Albany, NY.

A holistic approach to reentry

Alumni workshops, fellowships, and support at a human scale

Over the past ten years, as an increasing number of alumni have returned home from prison, BPI has devoted more resources to building a comprehensive reentry and alumni affairs program. BPI’s distinctive approach is based on both intensive, individualized mentoring and supports and cohort-centered workshops that cultivate — at a human scale — the unique



↑ 2022 Reentry Guides
Given to students pre-release

talents and ambitions of each of our students and alumni. BPI’s New York City Alumni Affairs team is led by Emmanuelle St. Jean, Director of New York City Programs, and benefits from the lived experience and expertise of BPI alumni in leadership positions across the team.

ConnectEd Workshops

Expanding on the holistic, individualized support for alumni, in 2020, BPI launched the ConnectEd Workshops — BPI’s six-week intensive, stipend-based

program for returning alumni. Over 12 cohorts, 100 alumni have participated in the program, which brings together BPI’s existing services, providing a structured curriculum spanning continuing education, employment, financial and tech literacy, housing, wellness, and more. Led by formerly incarcerated alumni, the program cultivates a supportive community where alumni forge meaningful personal, professional, and civic lives as returning New Yorkers. Alumni feedback has been vital to the success of the workshop series, ensuring that sessions are fully responsive to the range of needs they have upon returning home. Based on alumni feedback, social support and mental health programming have come to play a central role in the ConnectEd Workshops. BPI has worked to include trauma-informed and wellness programming, which is led by Alicia Williams, BPI’s Assistant Director of Community Support and Relations, who is also pursuing her MSW. Alicia focuses on wellness for women, along with alumnus Joseph Williams ’13, a licensed therapist and Ph.D. candidate in social work at NYU. This past year, Alicia led workshops on “The Neurobiology of Trauma and Intimate Partner Violence” and began a program series in December 2021 called “Love and Relationships Sessions.”

“The ConnectEd workshop provided meaningful instruction from other formerly incarcerated people who truly understood my circumstances. The practical knowledge offered by the program was invaluable in helping me recognize all that I needed to know and do in order to find real stability and success after prison.”

— PARTICIPANT

Fellowships

To support students and alumni in building sustaining, personally-fulfilling careers, BPI now offers a series of fellowships in Public Health, Education, and Sustainability in Civic Engagement. All three fellowships link the coursework which students do while enrolled in BPI with an opportunity to deepen their expertise in areas of career advancement upon their release. Through these fellowships, formerly incarcerated people are able to create valuable inroads in the fields where their lived experience and formal education and training are needed the most.



Nikko Vaughn '15
BPI Associate Director
of Education & Professional
Advancement

PHOTO: BEOWULF SHEEHAN

“This problem that I helped solve *literally creates a platform for everybody else after me.*”

Dismantling Bureaucracies

Generally speaking, I remove barriers and bureaucracies, and I supply students with the resources and the information they need to navigate the college enrollment process. Because I’m also on the CUNY staff, I’m able to help students access the entire CUNY system worldwide. We know that students are very successful at BPI and at Bard. So there’s no reason to think that they wouldn’t be successful at other institutions outside.

What Nikko loves about his work

I love being involved in the productivity and success of individuals who other people have written off. I was one such individual at a time. So, it really gives me pleasure to see people who come out, get a doctorate degree or any degrees, then land jobs and start careers making six figures, and just being a value to their community. I’m helping to debunk and re-define the notion of what a formerly incarcerated person is capable of doing. I’m helping to rewrite that narrative. That does everything for me. That, to me, is why I’m here.

The work as a puzzle solver and bridge builder

Every challenge and every problem is a gift to me. Whatever it is, I learn how to tackle it and solve it. Once I tackle it, I actually package it up like nobody else can. I don’t have to go through it again. And often enough, other people won’t have to experience the same thing either, just by me figuring out this one piece of the problem. It pays dividends. This problem that I helped solve literally creates a platform for everybody else after me. It creates a bridge for others to cross. So, I’m just creating bridges.

2022 marked the sixth cohort of the Public Health Fellowship. It was the largest thus far and, for the first time, included a formerly incarcerated fellow who is not a BPI alumnus but was referred to the Fellowship through the network of public health professionals we have worked to build over the years. Fellows participate in regular professional development activities and complete ambitious projects that help catalyze their career development. At the end of 2021, 54 BPI alumni were employed in public health jobs, and 15 alumni were enrolled in public-health-related continuing education programs. BPI students and alumni who have completed public health coursework, held



↑ **Hancy Maxis '15** is a 2021 BPI Public Health Fellow, was hired at Montefiore Health Systems in 2019 as an Administrative Intern and in 2020 was promoted to Project Manager, Pathology.

fellowships, and gone on to careers in the field are leaders both inside the prisons and across NYC, working on the frontlines at the Department of Health, shelters, social service agencies, and more.

EXPANDING FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

This past year, BPI launched the BPI Education Fellowship and Curricular Specialization. The third professional specialization and fellowship program at BPI, the BPI Education Fellowship prepares BPI alumni to become leading professionals in core areas of education that affect the communities from which they come. In its inaugural year, eight students enrolled in the specialization, and seven alumni

completed the fellowship. Guided by Wendy Tronrud, BPI's Associate Director of Education Programs, fellows were introduced to models for change that advocate for deeper educational access and opportunity for chronically disenfranchised communities.

BPI's alumni community



↑ **BPI Alumni Rodney Spivey-Jones '17 and Curtis Evans '20**

→ **BPI Alumni Patrick Stephens '19 and Alex Mitchell '19** Patrick is a Youth Services Leadership Fellow at Center for Community Alternatives and Alex is a GED Teacher at Fortune Society.



← **Stacy Burnett '20** recently began a new position as Manager of the JSTOR Access in Prison Initiative and spoke at the 2022 White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health.



Alumni gatherings
NYC, summer and winter 2021 ↗
Upstate NY, spring 2022 ↑



↑ **Iris Bowen '09, LMSW** is a social worker at the Coming Home Program at Mount Sinai Morning-side.



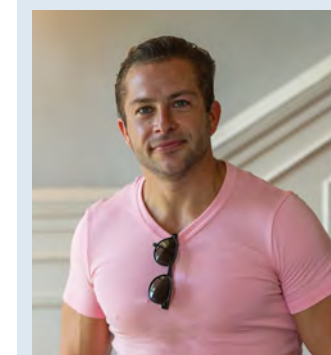
↑ **Michael Capers '24** earned his AA with BPI in 2022 and enrolled in the BardBac in fall 2022.



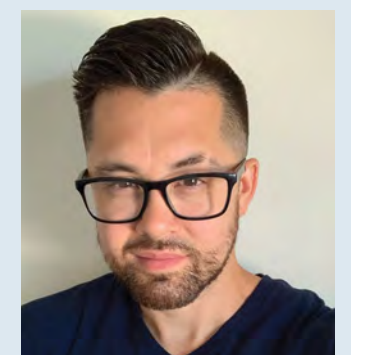
Krystal Thomas '17



← **Reggie Chatman '21** is currently in his first semester of a Master's in Public Health on a full scholarship at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.



Adam Bloom '19



Jeffrey Fineout '21

↑ **TAP Fellows** As BPI TAP Advocacy Fellows, alumni supported the effort to #TurnOnTheTAPNY this spring, penning op-eds and speaking in meetings with elected officials.



A Tuition-Free College Community

We are in a moment of dynamic change in which the role of institutions of higher education and the place of college-in-prison will be defined for a generation to come.

THE BARD MICROCOLLEGE expands BPI's model for radical inclusivity in undergraduate education by bringing the same ambitious, tuition-free college degree program to communities outside of prison.

The microcolleges are an expansion, not divergence, of BPI's decades of work as the vanguard in creating genuine college access that is rigorous, full-time, and tuition-free. Each new campus represents a radical expansion of access, enrolling students in community-based, accessible, free pathways to first-rate four-year degrees and the full breadth and ambition of liberal studies.

Microcollege students are adults of every age, most often in their twenties and thirties. They are overwhelmingly first-generation college students, 90% people of color, primarily Black and Latinx. They include formerly incarcerated women and men, undocumented immigrants, women who left high school and college to care for children or other family members, young people living in LGBTQ+ transitional housing, and adults who have aged out of foster care.

This Year at the Microcolleges

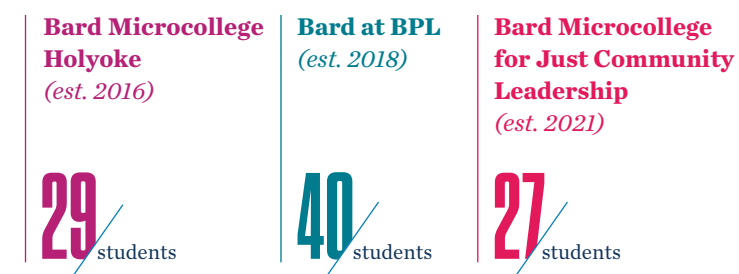
In 2021–22, the Bard Microcollege for Just Community Leadership — formed in partnership with BPI, JustLeadershipUSA, and College & Community Fellowship — joined Bard at Brooklyn Public Library and Bard Holyoke in the Bard Microcollege network. The Bard Microcollege for Just Community Leadership in Harlem held its inaugural admissions session during Summer 2021 and welcomed the first cohort of students for the fall 2021 semester, enrolling 13 students in three courses. More than 70% of the first cohort at the Harlem Microcollege were formerly incarcerated.

In May 2022, at Bard's first in-person commencement ceremony since the onset of the pandemic, we celebrated 14 graduates from the Brooklyn and Holyoke Microcolleges, conferring degrees for students from classes 2020, 2021, and 2022.

Graduates of the Bard Microcolleges have gone on to continue their educations at Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, Hampshire College, Elms College, Florida State University, Trinity College, Bay Path, Bard College, and Westfield State.

BPI and Microcollege alumni play critical roles in academic administration, student recruitment, and cultivating community across the Microcollege network. Over the last year, we welcomed **DEMETRIUS JAMES '17** as Program Director in Harlem and **ADAM BLOOM '19** as Program Coordinator in Harlem. **JAMES KIM '21** — formerly a Learning Commons Lead Tutor and then hired as Program Coordinator — was promoted to Program Director in Brooklyn, and **JULISA DELEON '19** was hired as Program Coordinator in Holyoke.

BY THE NUMBERS CURRENTLY ENROLLED (AS OF FALL 2022)



UNLOCKING POTENTIAL
Madeleine George / Playwright, author, L&T professor, and BPI's first Director of Admissions



PHOTO: BEOWULF SHEEHAN

Re-imagining the Admissions Process

Our admissions process grew organically out of the very practical wish to find students who would thrive in our classrooms. It's very specific and at the same time presents an infinite spectrum of possibilities. We're looking for somebody who can think through a problem and get to a new place, can surprise us with an idea we haven't thought of, and can change their mind. We don't have a metric. We're not satisfying any quotas. We don't need somebody who "plays the tuba" or "is from Wyoming." All we're doing is building a classroom. And we want as many different kinds of people who may succeed in that environment.

Learning from Students and Staff

Without being too romantic, I think that the reciprocity between and among students, faculty, and staff is extraordinary, and it's really the truth at BPI that there's a fundamental equality between the three so that we're all learning and being influenced by each other in a figure eight. I get so much from this work.

Unlocking Potential

I have a sense sometimes, when I'm doing this work, that my society is being deprived of the contributions of vast numbers of people. A liberal arts education is one pathway for them to unlock their greatest potential and really explore the world and then improve it in a way that will help us all. I want to live in that society — the one where everybody is maximally able to access their talents, their skills, their questions.



EDUCATION IS LIBERATION

VIVIAN
NIXON

Advocate, scholar,
and Senior Advisor,
Bard Microcolleges

Beginnings of a Lasting Partnership/A Long History with BPI/Connecting with BPI

It was kind of serendipitous. Often community-based organizations send materials into prisons about programs you can join when you get out. Right before I was released, I learned about College and Community Fellowship (CCF), a program that helps women getting released from prison, who didn't finish their degrees while they were in prison, enroll in college in their community. I later became executive director of CCF, and Max somehow found me and wanted to sit down and talk to me about BPI. Or he had already started BPI and wanted some advice. We sat down and had a conversation and just hit it off immediately. I loved what BPI was doing. I was a big fan of having college programs in prisons and wanted to work with him to make sure that that happened as widely as possible.

The long fight to restore PELL

I was told by many current and respected leaders in the government and in education that Pell grants were never coming back. It was a done deal. The fight was very vitriolic. But I didn't give up. That's all I can say. And after many, many conversations, people picked up the mantle — people who had been in prison and either had been exposed to college or had been denied college in prison. They went to Congress. They went to state houses. They testified about their personal experiences, which takes a lot of courage. I saw people in the room — legislators and legislative aids — nodding and listening to these stories, saying this makes so much sense. We shouldn't be denying folks education. We got over the finish line. And I'm so proud to have been a part of it.

Movement-building and education

Education has always been a game-changer in transitioning

from prison to community. Some of the brightest and most brilliant minds of the racial justice struggle were the African Americans who had access to college. Out of the 60s and 70s social justice movements, black activists accessed free public university systems [in prison]; they came out of those universities and started organizations like the Black Panthers. Education was a big part of movement-building. As we built a movement to restore college

family toward a college education. It's a huge game-changer.

The importance of formerly incarcerated college faculty

There was no way to do this without having faculty who are formerly incarcerated, and the fact that we have such a strong pool of Ph.D. and graduate-level candidates demonstrates to students that anything is possible. It demonstrates to the world at large that, hey, we are wasting talent here. (or, we're not wasting talent here.)



Vivian Nixon and Max Kenner at a BPI commencement in 2015

in prison, we learned that we needed to be very intentional about how those programs are developed. It's important to marry that history of college-in-prison to a history of struggles for liberation and all kinds of social movements.

The generational impact of education

We know from all of the data about education that's ever been done that educated generations produce more educated generations. We even did a small study, and every woman who graduated from college and had children or grandchildren and nieces and nephews reported back to us that they were able to shepherd someone else in their

Continuing decarceration

Decarceration is my goal — to have as few people exposed to the justice system as possible. I believe education is a way to do it. We know that when people get the type of education we're talking about, not only do they not return to prison, they go out and change their communities in a way that helps prevent others from cycling into and out of prison.

The Nation's First Tuition-Free College Dedicated to Advocacy, Arts, and Science

I was executive director of College and Community Fellowship, whose mission is empowering women coming out of prisons with formal

education. And I sit on the board of Just Leadership USA, whose mission is to empower people coming out of prisons to be leaders. Marrying those two in the Bard Microcollege seemed like an obvious thing to me.

At the Bard Microcollege for Just Community Leadership, you'll find a place to increase your knowledge of yourself, your community, the things you hold dear about the place you're in, and also about the rest of the world. You'll get to explore the things you care about and want to change as well as the critical thinking skills that will allow you to change them. You'll get a sense of how history has played out for certain communities, what has facilitated change in those communities, and what skills, talents, and ambitions you have that can contribute to a forward movement and progressive society. It's a place to inspire a range of generations to appreciate that history, to make sure that we are going forward, and to have an institution that is dedicated to educating people to carry that history into the future. That's my hope for the Bard Microcollege for Just Community Leadership.

Many of the students who come to the microcollege were in my situation — some started their education in prison and are looking for the opportunity to finish. And there are community members who may have attempted college years ago and have not been able to finish because of the need to work, to survive. It's really hard to go to school in a rigorous program and work full time. Very few people do that successfully. So we've created an inroad for different marginalizations into this space that understands those complications and offers the minimum stress environment in terms of students having to find the financial resources to pay for college or books or transportation.



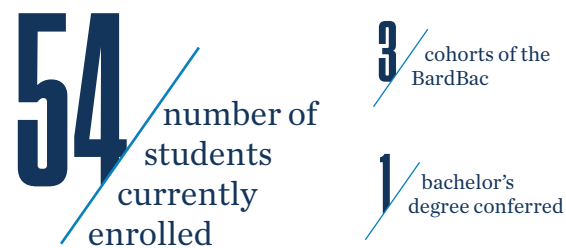
↑ **Blithewood Manor** is a cornerstone of the Bard College Campus, containing offices for scholars and staff, a library, and several lecture and meeting rooms.

BAC at Bard

In 2020, in response to the onset of mass unemployment precipitated by COVID-19, Bard and BPI launched the Bard Baccalaureate (BardBac). The BardBac is a unique, full-scholarship pathway for adults to complete bachelor's degrees from Bard College on the main campus.

Now in its third year, the Bac enrolls 54 students full-time and tuition free.

BY THE NUMBERS (AS OF FALL 2022)



The Bac enrolls students from across the Hudson Valley and the world. It is a unique opportunity for alumni released from prison or having graduated from a microcollege to pursue a bachelor's degree on campus among a community of adult learners ensconced on campus. Currently, 16 Bac students are alumni of Bard's from within the prisons or the microcolleges. Others are adult students who represent the breadth of lived experience in the Hudson Valley. They are creatives and community leaders who bring immeasurable experience to the Bard classroom: helping administer Kingston Mutual Aid, performing as an accomplished punk musician, coming together as activists, and creating multimedia art and film. Current BardBac students come from 23 municipalities in the Hudson Valley and six counties. To further support the scope of needs of adult learners, this year five scholarships were awarded to Bac students to cover the costs of room and board.

In spring 2022, Cleveland Lovett '22 became the first graduate of the BardBac. Cleveland began his education with BPI in 2017 at Eastern Correctional Facility and commuted to Bard's campus twice a week from New York City, a more than three-hour round trip, to complete his bachelor's degree. His work culminated in a senior project entitled, "Hannah Arendt in Conversation with Black Lives Matter: Is Human Plurality in Critical Condition?"

Cleveland is now chief operating officer at Real Shore Developments LLC, managing the company's real estate investments through the processes of forecasting industry markets, acquisitions, contracting, and projecting the profitability of the company's investment.

The Bac has quickly become a center of BPI's work, engaging adult learners on campus to help them — and us — achieve full potential through the liberal arts.



↑ **Cleveland Lovett '22**
Cleveland takes the stage to accept his diploma at the 2022 Annandale commencement ceremony.

↓ **Blithewood Garden**, a part of Bard's campus, is located in the heart of the Hudson River National Historic Landmark District.



Building an Endowment

Strengthening the college for the long term

LAST YEAR, BPI EMBARKED ON an ambitious campaign to raise an endowment and secure financial ballast for our work. Until now, BPI has been sustained by year-to-year philanthropic giving.

This effort was buoyed by the announcement that the Open Society Foundations would match, one-to-one, gifts to Bard College endowment funds. This year we seek to complete a campaign with the goal of raising a \$55 million endowment to support BPI's central administrative costs and establish a core, full-time faculty.

The campaign was catalyzed by the creation of a series of leadership and academic chairs that will live permanently at Bard College, sustaining BPI's work.

The creation of the endowed academic chairs will reduce BPI's reliance on adjunct faculty while creating unique, distinguished

teaching positions within BPI across academic disciplines.

The first is the Tow Chair for Democracy & Education which will be attached to the executive director position at BPI in perpetuity. The remainder will be named, academic chairs dedicated to the teaching of a particular field. The Mellon Chair for the Study of the Humanities is the first endowed academic chair in the history of college-in-prison and will be filled for the 2023–2024 academic year.

At least five other named faculty chairs – for the study of language and literature, American history, STEM, and economic history – will be announced over the coming months.

BPI is honored to acknowledge and thank the donors who have made commitments to BPI's endowment fund. We are deeply grateful for this visionary support.

\$2,500,000+

Anonymous
Anonymous
Glenn and Amanda Fuhrman
Galaxy Gives
Robert Lourie, Julia Lourie and
The Lourie Foundation
Mellon Foundation
The Tow Foundation

\$1,000,000+

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Jennifer and David Millstone

\$250,000+

Carson Family Charitable Trust
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Nancy Hass and Bob Roe
Maverick Capital Foundation
Tiger Foundation

We're not done yet!

If you have ever considered making a legacy gift to BPI, now is the time. We're working to reach the goal of \$55 million while Bard and BPI can still benefit from the extraordinary matching challenge from the Open Society Foundations.

To learn more, contact
Kate Cox, Director of
Development at kcox@bard.edu.



"When we think of cultivating the next generation of advocates and leaders in criminal justice, we often think of BPI. As a funder, as an alumnus, and on behalf of Galaxy Gives, I'm proud to participate in this unprecedented campaign."

— ALELUR "ALEX" DURAN '18,
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM
AT GALAXY GIVES

Announcing the Tow Chair for Democracy & Education

WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE the Tow Chair for Democracy and Education at BPI. This chair, endowed by The Tow Foundation, will be held by the executive director of BPI in perpetuity. The Tow Chair and commitment of \$2.5 million is a cornerstone of BPI's endowment campaign: an effort to raise a total of \$55 million, propelled by a matching challenge from the Open Society Foundations.

In addition to pioneering philanthropy in culture, journalism, medicine, public health, and higher education, The Tow Foundation is a trailblazing funder of criminal justice reform. BPI and The Tow Foundation have been partners for more than 10 years, investing in college-in-prison programs in Connecticut and creating crucial partnerships in support of incarcerated women. Grants from The Tow Foundation also helped establish BPI's programs in public health, which have created opportunities for dozens of students to develop careers and expertise in public health and go on to pursue graduate degrees in the field.



In 2019, Emily Tow received The Bard Medal and delivered the Commencement Address at Bard's graduation at Taconic Correctional Facility.

"With this historic increase in its endowment, BPI has the potential to take its impact to unprecedented heights," said Emily Tow, president of The Tow Foundation.

"We are thrilled to deepen our commitment to BPI through the creation of the Tow Chair for Democracy and Education," said Emily Tow, president of The Tow Foundation. "With this historic increase in its endowment, BPI has unprecedented potential for increased impact."

Over the coming year, five named and endowed chairs will follow The Tow Chair. These positions will help BPI transform its faculty

by reducing its reliance on adjunct labor, increasing diversity, and establishing a full-time, distinguished faculty that is unique in this field.

We are grateful to The Tow Foundation for its critical commitment to implementing BPI's vision of democratic access to highest quality liberal arts education and to creating a justice system that is more fair, less wasteful, and serves all Americans. ■

The extraordinary progress made in this endowment campaign is thanks to the work and wisdom of a committee made up of BPI alumni, funders, and long-time friends. We are forever grateful for the visionary work of every member of **BPI's endowment campaign committee:**

Alelur "Alex" Duran '18
Jamie Eifenbein
Randy Florke
Jule Hall '11
Nancy Hass
Helena Huang

Max Kenner '01
Gara LaMarche
Vivian Liao Korich
Laura Liebman
Gary Lin
Erica Mateo '11

Jennifer Millstone
Vivian Nixon
Hilary Pennington
Alex Rafal
Stephanie Royal
Emily Tow



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The Tow Foundation*
Warner Music Group/Blavatnik Family Social Justice Fund

\$25,000-\$99,999

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Abrams Foundation

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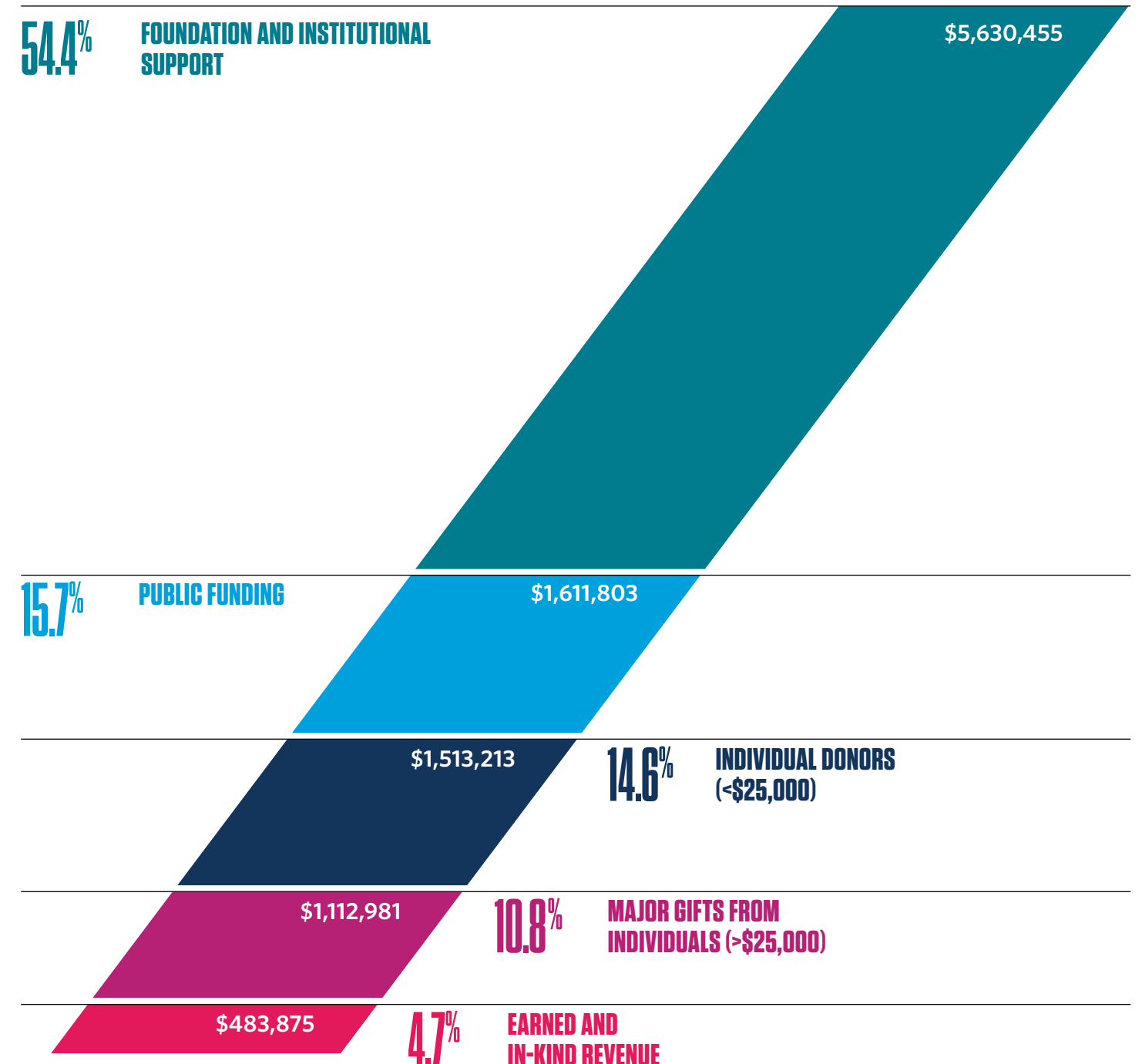


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