



Patty Salazar/The Clackamas Print

Clackamas students talk to Titus (far right) about his duties in the woodshop where he works with other MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility residents. The facility has partnered with a business across the street that pays the residents to produce pallets for general use. They also build various wood products that are eventually sent to the Army.

MACLAREN: Learning behind bars

Continued from Page 1

Stephan, a MacLaren resident, has completed 82 college credits at Lane Community College, not including CJA-199 at Clackamas. All of his college coursework has been completed while incarcerated. He plans to have an associate degree by the end of this term. His goal is to enroll at Oregon State University and obtain a degree in human resources.

"My whole purpose in going to school is to better my surroundings that I came from; because it's [gang/drug life] just a cycle and I don't want to part of keeping that cycle going. Someone's got to stop it," Stephan said.

The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program works with institutions of higher learning and correctional systems to deepen the conversation about and transform approaches to understanding crime, justice, freedom, inequality, and other issues of social concern. More information about the program can be found at insideoutoregon.com

The spring schedule of classes describes CJA-199, Inside Corrections, as bringing a group of students from CCC together with a group of residents of a correctional facility to gain a deeper understanding of the criminal justice system through the marriage of theoretical knowledge and practical experience achieved by weekly

meetings at the facility. Students will explore ideas about crime and justice, the criminal justice system, corrections and incarceration.

The four credit class is held at the correctional facility most Wednesdays this spring from 1-4:50 p.m. The learning experience is an opportunity for criminal justice and corrections students to see their field from the inside.

Across the correctional campus, the students gathered in the facility's educational buildings in a classroom. Students discussed the tour of the grounds and how it made them feel.

"Is there anything you want to talk about that stuck out?" Flippo asked the class.

Danna, a CCC student, replied, "I like all the different work opportunities. I didn't realize all the different opportunities that they [inmates] have."


Although the inmates at MacLaren can take online classes, CJA-199 gives them a chance to experience education more traditionally.


"The inside students really appreciated this opportunity because it gave them more of a real college experience than just communicating online with their instructors or with their fellow students," Flippo said.

To see student responses to the classes online go to www.theclackamasprint.com.

Editors Note

Student sources in this article are not fully named. According to Ida Flippo, instructor for CJA-199, the rules of the Inside-Out program require students and student inmates to remain semi-anonymous; only the instructors know the full names of all of the students. *The Print* was asked to not report personal information about the inmates, their crimes or sentences.

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