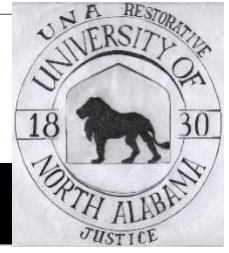


RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

UNA NEWSLETTER



PERSONAL EXPERIENCES BY INSTRUCTORS OF THE INSIDE-OUT PROGRAM

EXPERIENCE BY DR. KATIE OWENS-MURPHY, PROFESSOR OF THE INSIDE-OUT PROGRAM

“My training and work in the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program has made me a much *stronger professor*. The 60-hour training I underwent at what was then Graterford Prison in Philadelphia, PA– where I was taught by inside students, most of whom were serving LWOP sentences– was life-altering. I learned how to facilitate rather than “teach,” how to use classroom spaces to empower and support students, and how to understand and harness the expertise of those who understand the criminal legal system from lived experience. Every time I facilitate classes at Limestone, I am learning. I too am a student.

Additionally, my training and work in the field of Restorative Justice has made me a much *better person*. It has taught me the value of deep listening, of sitting in discomfort (“sit in it!” as Collective Justice says), and of

advocating for change by creating structures that are supportive, transformational, and most importantly, attractive and inclusive.

Facilitating this program has changed– and saved– my life.”

EXPERIENCE FROM ASHLEY MASSEY, INSTRUCTOR OF ENGLISH 397

“I started out teaching at Limestone during the pandemic utilizing a Reading and Writing correspondence packet course I designed. The packets were a way to offer programming during the pandemic as well as help prepare students to take a college course. Several of the students from that course are also in the Restorative Justice program now. It has been a unique experience to transition from teaching students without ever seeing them to then being in a classroom together. I have seen so much commitment and expansion in this cohort, from the students in my previous course to the new students I have come to know.

MISSION STATEMENT:

**THE RESTORATIVE
JUSTICE PROGRAM
PREPARES STUDENTS TO
MAKE SYSTEMATIC
CHANGE WITHIN THEIR
COMMUNITIES BY
PROVIDING SKILLS THAT
FOSTER
ACCOUNTABILITY,
PERSPECTIVE TAKING,
AND SOCIAL
ENGAGEMENT!**

AGREED VIRTUES OF RJ BY CLASSMATES:

FORGIVENESS

COURAGE

ACCOUNTABILITY

MUTUAL RESPECT

COMMUNICATION

VULNERABILITY

EQUALITY

CURIOSITY

The students approach the class with open minds and dedicated hearts. My favorite part of teaching in this program is how we can come together as a community to set classroom standards, hold ourselves accountable to meet those goals, and celebrate our growth!”

EXPERIENCE BY NADIA, GRADUATE STUDENT/ASSISTANT IN THE INSIDE-OUT PROGRAM

“What has my experience with the UNA Restorative Justice Lab at Limestone Correctional Facility been like? When I first started this program, I had no idea what to expect--mostly because my knowledge of Restorative Justice (RJ), and higher education in prison was limited. Since starting this program in August of 2022,

my perception of RJ, higher education in prison, and incarceration itself has been reshaped. My role as a graduate assistant in this program has awarded me a unique opportunity. Unlike the course instructors and outside students, I’ve had the privilege of being embedded in every course and majority of the study halls. Due to this, I have seen the overwhelmingly positive impacts of restorative practices and its inherent benefits. Throughout the duration of this program, I’ve witnessed changes in the inside students, outside students, and myself. I have seen inside students gain self-confidence, not only in themselves, but in their capabilities inside and outside of the classroom. I’ve observed students courageously engage in

vulnerability. I have noticed an increase in compassion for classmates and self. I believe the improvement observed has allowed for healing to take place within the lives of each individual in our program. Personally, this program has challenged misconceptions I had regarding people who have been incarcerated, and helped me navigate social relationships and conflicts more effectively. This has allowed for healing to begin from experienced trauma in my own life. Overall, my experience with UNA’s Restorative Justice Lab has been nothing less than transformative. It has been a transformation that you not only see, but feel. Because of this, I will forever be grateful for this program, and the change it has brought into my life.”

