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Submission Type: Paper/Panel Presentation

Track: Education and/or Criminal Justice

Title of Paper: Transforming the Correctional Landscape: The Challenges of Incarcerated Adult Learners

Abstract: Learning at any age is a social, contextual, and active process. We learn from our interactions, observations, beliefs, culture, experiences, influences and much more. However, there are situational (beyond the learner's control) and dispositional barriers to adult learning. In the Correctional landscape, the inmate is effectively reduced to a number on the correctional roster, stripped of personal identity and value. Movement throughout the institution is regulated, monitored or controlled to ensure the safety of inmates and staff. The inmates acclimate to the prison processes and way of life, some healthy, some toxic habits, solely for survival. Lost in this "correctional village" is the inmate who may desire to seek transformation that has profound rehabilitational meaning and positive impact on personal growth. This presentation will share with the attendees few restorative tools that help foment healthy dialogues amongst the incarcerated population on how to build a sense of community and trust by focusing on affirmation, communication, cooperation and creative conflict resolution.

Key Words: Learning communities; Incarcerated; Andragogy; Dispositional barriers.

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