



# UPDATE

Education Interim Committee  
Sept. 11, 2023

# THE LAST MILE (TLM) - COMPUTER CODING CLASS

- Founded a decade ago in San Quentin State Prison in California
- Teaches students to create websites and full-stack web technologies using HTML, CSS, JavaScript, React, Node, Express, MongoDB
- Offers high-demand skills to incarcerated people for their return to Montana communities
- 0% recidivism rate among graduates of the program



# TLM AT MONTANA STATE PRISON

- Inaugural class kicked off at MSP Sept. 19, 2022
- 22 students were involved in the year-long program (400 were screened)
- 17 students will graduate on Sept. 28, 2023
- Second TLM class (20 students) will begin in October
- Two students from the first TLM class will return as TAs



# SECOND CHANCE PELL GRANT PILOT

- Allows inmates to fund college courses through federal Pell Grants
- Pell Grants were previously unavailable to incarcerated individuals
- DOC partnership with MUS (Montana State University Billings, Great Falls College, Helena College and Dawson Community College in Glendive) to provide classes to inmates



**GREAT FALLS  
COLLEGE**

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**MONTANA STATE  
UNIVERSITY**



- MSP - 2022-23 Academic Year
  - Certificate of Applied Science in Automotive Technology through Helena College
  - 9 graduates - May 2023
- MWP - 2022-23 Academic Year
  - Associate Degree in Business
  - Bachelor's of Science in Liberal Studies
  - MSU-Billings and Dawson Community College



*First class*  
OF DOC STUDENTS  
GRADUATE WITH  
SECOND CHANCE  
PELL GRANT  
PROGRAM



# TWO-YEAR EDUCATION PLAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Elsie Arntzen, superintendent, OPI
- Scott Eychner, DOC R&P chief
- Rachel Green, Governor's policy advisor
- Brian Gootkin, DOC director
- Ang King, OCHE
- Sen. Edie McClafferty, legislator-at-large
- Pad McCracken, Legislative Services Education representative
- Sen. Shannon O'Brien
- Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe
- MaryAnn Wellbank, public-at-large
- Cynthia Wolken, DOC deputy director



# TWO-YEAR EDUCATION PLAN GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- Develop two-year general and vocational education plan that includes consideration for, and application to, all Montana prison facilities as a single enterprise.
- Ensure plan appropriately leverages technology, labor market data, partnerships, industry trends and emerging practices, while providing methodology for decision making.





# TWO-YEAR EDUCATION PLAN GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- Ensure this plan considers, helps solution the challenges around recruiting and retaining teachers and other education staff, potentially even to include environmentally relevant career pathways.
- Consider if/how this plan and its address of education needs and opportunities might extend to alt-secure facilities.
- Identify what successful achievement of this plan and/or its parts looks like and how it can/will be measured.





MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF  
**CORRECTIONS**

**Questions?**