

**MIDWESTERN
HIGHER EDUCATION
COMPACT**

Opening Doors with Pell: Inside Kansas' Prison Education Programs

December 8, 2025



MHEC Host:
Samra Asghedom
Mgr of External
Relations and
Strategic Initiatives



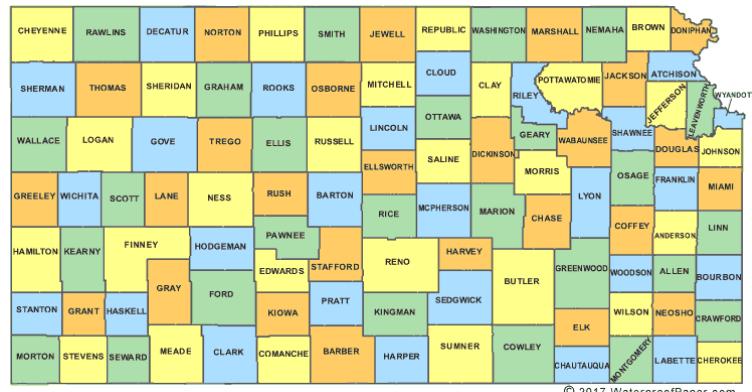
Any resources
available will be
posted on the
MHEC website.



Engage with
colleagues in the
chat. Questions in
the Q&A, please!



Please
complete
our survey.



© 2017 WaterproofPaper.com

Opening Doors with Pell: Inside Kansas' Prison Education Programs

Introductions



Sheila Meiman

*Prison Education
Specialist*

National Association of Student
Financial Aid Administrators



Nikol Nolan

*Executive Vice President
Student Affairs*

Colby Community College



**Dr. Nicole
Hess-Escalante**

*Associate Vice President
for Academics*

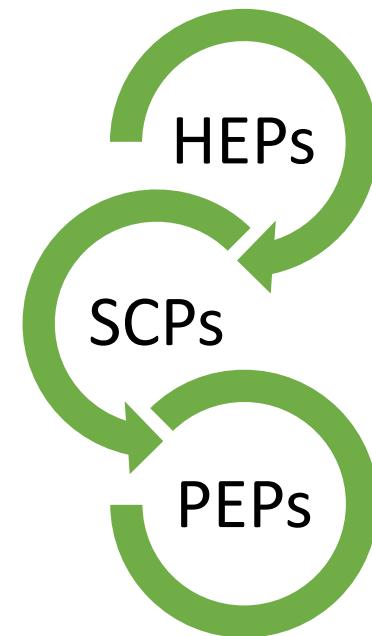
University of Saint Mary

The History of Higher Ed in Prison

Higher Education in Prison Programs

Second Chance Pell Experimental Sites

Prison Education Programs (PEPs)



Slide 3 © 2025 NASFAA

Prison Education Programs in the Context of Higher Education

Similarities

- The students are just that: students!
- Accreditors and Department of Education still provide oversight and approval
- Pell and other Title IV financial aid rules still apply, including
 - Satisfactory Academic Progress
 - Lifetime eligibility limits
 - Administrative capability requirements
 - Eligibility calculations

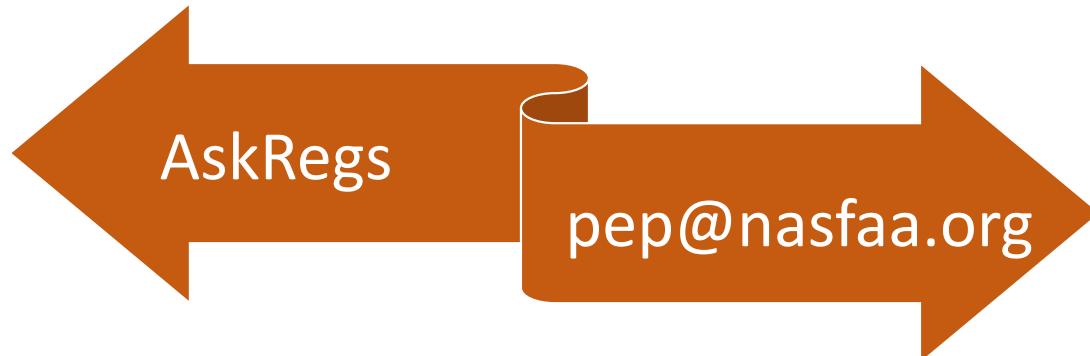
Differences

- Multi step application and approval process
- Stricter rules:
 - Best Interest Determination
 - Oversight Entity
 - Enrollment limits
 - Advising specificity
- Simplified Cost of Attendance
- Financial aid packaging only includes Pell Grants, FSEOG, and FWS options
- Simpler verification requirements
- Credit balances not permitted; aid cannot exceed COA
- Reporting

Slide 4 © 2025 NASFAA

Resources from NASFAA

nasfaa.org/pep



Slide 5 © 2025 NASFAA