

401 Golden Shore, 5th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802-4210

CSU Legislative Reports Website
<https://www.calstate.edu/legislativereports/>

Steve Relyea
Executive Vice Chancellor
and Chief Financial Officer

562-951-4600
srelyea@calstate.edu

April 10, 2023

Nancy Skinner
Joint Legislative Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

Gabriel Petek
Legislative Analyst Office
925 L Street, #1000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Joe Stephenshaw, Director
Department of Finance
1021 O Street, Suite 3110
Sacramento, CA 95814

Erika Contreras
Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 305
Sacramento, CA 95814

Cara L. Jenkins
Legislative Counsel
1021 O Street, Suite 3210
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sue Parker
Chief Clerk of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 319
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Project Rebound

The California State University (CSU) Project Rebound Consortium has positioned California as a national leader in providing equitable access to the transformative power of higher education for currently and formerly incarcerated people. Over the last 55 years, Project Rebound has grown from a single campus program to a consortium that encompasses 14 campuses providing essential support to formerly incarcerated CSU students. And while the pandemic has continued to create challenges for students pursuing their academic goals, in the last year Project Rebound has nearly doubled its enrollment. Its class of 2023 will include 247 graduates, bringing the total number of conferred Project Rebound degrees to 749 since the consortium was formed in 2016.

This report highlights the activities and outcomes that have been made possible through state and grant funding of this important program. It also illustrates the important role the program plays in the CSU's efforts to eliminate student equity gaps. The majority of Rebound Scholars

CSU Campuses

Bakersfield
Channel Islands
Chico
Dominguez Hills
East Bay

Fresno
Fullerton
Humboldt
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Maritime Academy

Monterey Bay
Northridge
Pomona
Sacramento
San Bernardino
San Diego

San Francisco
San José
San Luis Obispo
San Marcos
Sonoma
Stanislaus

CSU Report: Project Rebound

April 10, 2023

Page 2


come from historically marginalized and underserved populations. Sixty-six percent of Rebound Scholars are Pell Grant recipients, compared to forty-three percent of the general CSU student body. Rebound Scholars are also more diverse in age, race and ethnicity than the CSU at large. The majority of Rebound Scholars – sixty-two percent – are Black, Latinx or Native American. The proportion of Rebound Scholars that identify as Black or Native American is five times greater than that of the CSU student body overall. By offering a broad range of resources as well as access to a supportive network of similarly situated students and alumni across the state, Project Rebound member campuses are fostering empowerment and transformation in this student population. As outlined in this report, the state allocation sustains the success of Project Rebound.

This report is submitted pursuant to Assembly Bill 178: Budget Act of 2022, Chapter 45, Item #6610-001-0001, Provision 2.4 and includes information related to:

- (a) An expenditure plan.
- (b) The amount of other funds, including Graduation Initiative 2025 funding and philanthropic grants each campus is using to support Project Rebound students in 2022.
- (c) A description of educational and support services each Project Rebound campus provides to students and potential students.
- (d) A description of outreach, orientation and transfer support services the Project Rebound Consortium provides to students and potential students in the custody of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.
- (e) Student enrollment in Project Rebound, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender and age, as well as first-time freshmen, transfer students, undergraduate students and graduate students.
- (f) Outcomes associated with the program, including student retention, graduation and recidivism rates.
- (g) Any plans to expand Project Rebound to other CSU campuses.

Should you have any questions about this report, please contact Nathan Dietrich, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Advocacy and State Relations at (916) 445-5983.

Sincerely,


Steve Relyea (Apr 10, 2023 16:34 PDT)

Steve Relyea
Executive Vice Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

SR:dr

CSU Report: Project Rebound

April 10, 2023

Page 3

Full report posted to <https://www.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/government/Advocacy-and-State-Relations/Pages/legislative-reports.aspx>

- c: Members, California State Legislature
- Members, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
- Lisa Qing, Principal Fiscal & Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst Office
- Steve Relyea, Executive Vice Chancellor, California State University
- Sylvia A. Alva, Executive Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs
- Dilcie Perez, Associate Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs, Equity and Belonging
- Nathan Dietrich, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Advocacy and State Relations
- Ryan Storm, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Budget
- Jeni Kitchell, Executive Budget Director
- Ray Murillo, Systemwide Director, Student Affairs Programs

CSU

The California State University

P|R

PROJECT REBOUND CONSORTIUM

Supporting the higher education and successful reintegration of the formerly incarcerated

CREATING TRANSFORMATIVE KINSHIP



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

CSU

The California State University

P|R

PROJECT REBOUND CONSORTIUM



Generating healthier, safer communities

**Advancing
equitable access**

**Building infrastructures
of care**

**Cultivating cultures
of belonging**

Acknowledgments

The Project Rebound Consortium would like to acknowledge the Program Directors and Coordinators at our 15 campuses for their daily dedication to our mission and students: Rena Alspaw, Summer Brantner, Danica Bravo, Melvin Callaway, JC Cavitt, Lily Gonzalez, Aaron Greene, Paul Jones, Jennifer Leahy, Martin Leyva, Stanley Peterson, Irene Sotelo, Priscilla Terriquez, George Turner, and Tony Wallin.

The Consortium also wishes to acknowledge the critical work of its Executive Directors: Annika Anderson, Melissa Barragan, Eileen Barrett, Jason Bell, James Binnall, Martha Escobar, Emma Hughes, Steve Ladwig, Taffany Lim, Alan Mobley, Trish Morris, Brandon Price, Markel Quarles, Romarilyn Ralston, and Xuan Santos.

Special thanks are due to Brady Heiner, Jacqueline Mimms, and Nasseem Alshaif for drafting and developing this annual report.

Cover photo: Cal State Fullerton Project Rebound Baby Shower and Family Support Event at the John Irwin Memorial House, January 2023.

Opposing page photo: Project Rebound Consortium program staff and partners building community after two-day intersegmental outreach and recruitment event at Pelican Bay State Prison in August 2022 where on-site transcript evaluations were provided to over 250 incarcerated college students. Staff pictured from CSU Project Rebound campuses at Humboldt, Long Beach, Northridge, Sacramento, and San Francisco along with community college partners from College of the Redwoods and Long Beach City College.

Contact

Brady Heiner, Ph.D.

Interim Executive Director, CSU Project Rebound Consortium

Phone: (657) 278-2950

Email: bheiner@fullerton.edu

Mail: CSU Fullerton, 800 N. State College Blvd, Fullerton, CA 92831

The Project Rebound Family

“This organization has given me direction when I was lost, and light in my darkest times. The organization has introduced me to a way of life that I never considered possible before. **Project Rebound is family.**”

- Darnell Green, CSU Fullerton



“Project Rebound has been foundational to my academic success. I would not be where I am today had it not been for their support and services. **Project Rebound is and always will be family to me.**”

- Victoria Rocha, CSU Fresno

“Being part of Project Rebound has given me a **sense of acceptance**, having that support & guidance of everyone **feels like family always welcoming and caring.**”

- Mayra Meza, Cal State LA

“Project Rebound is so much more than just a college program. It's my **family and community**. I wouldn't be where I am today without the wisdom and mentorship the program has provided me.”

- Jimmie Conner, CSU Fullerton

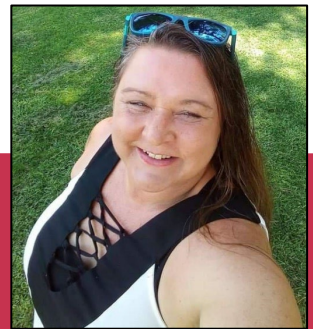
“Project Rebound has been by me through my degree and **always made me feel at home.**”

- Dawn Sanders, CSU Bakersfield

“Being a part of Project Rebound is now a core aspect of my identity and self-concept. The program helped me finish my master's degree and nurture a **home** in Humboldt among true friends. This network is statewide. **Our community has no borders, or walls, or fences.**” - Crane, Cal Poly Humboldt

“Project Rebound has provided me with support, encouragement, and guidance that have allowed me to flourish, academically, professionally, and personally. **Project Rebound is family!**”

- Crystal Navarro, CSU Fresno



Creating Transformative Kinship 2023 Annual Report

Table of Contents

1. Message from Consortium Lead President Framroze Virjee (Fullerton)	2
2. Introduction: Fostering Kinship and Community	3
3. History of CSU Project Rebound	7
4. Policy Background: Becoming the State of Second Chances	8
5. Who Are Our Students? Rebound Scholars	11
6. Investments in CSU Project Rebound	12
7. Education and Support Services	15
7.1. Key Service Objectives and Program Elements	15
7.2. Fostering Student Success Through Communities of Belonging	17
7.3. Establishing Infrastructures of Care to Meet Student Basic Needs	18
8. Coordination with Other CSU Campus Entities	23
9. Coordination with External Entities and Programs Available to Currently and Formerly Incarcerated Individuals	24
9.1 Liaison Network with the California Department of Rehabilitation	24
9.2 Establishing Pathways from College Programs Inside of State Prisons.....	26
9.3 Connections with Community-Based Organizations	29
10. Juvenile Justice Engagement	31
11. Expansion Plan	34
12. Meet the Project Rebound Staff.....	36
13. Project Rebound Consortium Campus Directory.....	41

Appendices

A. Student Enrollment and Demographic Data.....	42
B. Program Outcomes Data	49
C. Project Rebound Consortium Student Basic Needs Assessment Summary, 2021	55
D. CSU Project Rebound Consortium Budget Summary, 2022-2023	56
E. CSU Project Rebound Consortium Strategic Plan, 2019-2024.....	57

MESSAGE FROM THE CONSORTIUM LEAD PRESIDENT

Project Rebound was founded at San Francisco State University in 1967 by Dr. John Irwin, Professor of Sociology, a formerly incarcerated person who became an internationally recognized scholar and advocate for prisoners' rights. Fifty-six years later, Dr. Irwin's legacy and the foundational mission and philosophy are alive, well, and thriving. Project Rebound is designed to make higher education more accessible and supportive of formerly incarcerated students so they can acquire the knowledge and skills of a university education, enhance their capacity for civic engagement and community leadership, secure meaningful and gratifying employment, empower themselves and their families, and ultimately make stronger, safer communities. In 2016, building on the reach and impact of the CSU system, the most diverse public university system in the country, Project Rebound was expanded to nine CSU campuses. Since 2016, the CSU has built a Project Rebound Consortium to support the continuation, growth, and expansion of Project Rebound on 15 campuses throughout the state at Bakersfield, East Bay, Fresno, Fullerton, Humboldt, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Northridge, Pomona, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Marcos, and Stanislaus.



The \$11.3 million ongoing allocation for the CSU Project Rebound Consortium in the 2022 California State Budget Act has enabled Project Rebound campus programs to establish the organizational infrastructure to scale our proven model of success. Our collaboration and partnerships with statewide entities such as the California Community Colleges, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitations and other correctional institutions, the Department of Rehabilitation, the Office of Youth and Community Restoration, and many community-based organizations, have strengthened Project Rebound and the Rebound Scholars we serve. Our vision is for every incarcerated person who qualifies for college to have the opportunity to take college classes while incarcerated and to continue their educational journey upon release. Since receiving state funding in 2019, the campuses of the Project Rebound Consortium have conferred 500 Bachelor's degrees and 100 Master's degrees to Project Rebound Scholars.

Our campus programs are intentional in fostering a culture of care and belonging for formerly incarcerated students and their families. Our accomplishments over the years paint a clear and compelling portrait of the success of Project Rebound. The inspiring journeys of Rebound Scholars are marked by resilience, perseverance, and success in the face of countless barriers. As a national leader in providing higher educational opportunities for formerly incarcerated students, Project Rebound has become a model duplicated at universities across the country.

It is a privilege to serve as the Lead President for the CSU Project Rebound Consortium as we continue to reach new heights through such an outstanding program. I want to thank the amazing Project Rebound staff, the Executive Directors, Project Rebound Directors, Coordinators and student workers for their dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment to the mission of Project Rebound and to those who are intent on bettering the lives of currently and formerly incarcerated individuals and creating opportunities and inspiration for Rebound Scholars to achieve their goals. The 2023 Consortium Annual Report provides highlights of some of the CSU Project Rebound Consortium's extraordinary accomplishments.

Framroze M. Virjee, JD
President, Cal State Fullerton

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Framroze M. Virjee". The signature is fluid and cursive, matching the printed name below it.

2. INTRODUCTION: FOSTERING KINSHIP AND COMMUNITY

A hallmark of the successful model of the CSU Project Rebound Consortium is that our staff of university professionals draw upon the assets they've developed from their own lived experience with the criminal legal system to construct communities of care on campus that not only foster students' sense of belonging but also cultivate a culture of kinship. As a statewide network of fifteen campus programs from Humboldt to San Diego, the Project Rebound Consortium's extended kinship network, in the words of Cal Poly Humboldt Rebound Scholar, Crane, "has no borders, or walls, or fences."

Rebound Scholars routinely report not only that they feel supported, encouraged, inspired, and mentored by Project Rebound staff, students, and partners. Students often disclose something deeper. When describing their experience within what students and staff frequently refer to as the Project Rebound family, students regularly share that they feel "at home," affirmed, and seen for their best possible selves—often for the first time in their lives. They talk about being inspired and held accountable through kinship and care rather than cages and carcerality, by peers and exemplars who have walked in their shoes, who can relate to their bleakest past experiences and current fears, and yet who radiate the light of hope, redemption, success, and transformation. If you listen, you can hear this pride and transformation in the direct voices of students: **"Project Rebound introduced me to a way of life that I never considered possible before"** (Darnell, Cal State Fullerton), it **"has opened doors of opportunity that I thought were closed forever"** (Patrick, CSU Fresno), **"Project Rebound has given me hope that I still have an opportunity at bettering my life and allowed me to understand that I am no less than an equal to my colleagues and peers"** (Raymond, Cal State LA). **"Project Rebound empowers you so that you can empower others"** (Philip, Cal State LA). **"Being part of Project**

Project Rebound's Progress Due to State Support		
Metric	2019	2022
Campus Programs	9	15 (+66%)
Students Enrolled	306	836 (+173%)
Students Enrolled in Graduate Programs	29	119 (+310%)
Graduating Class Size	61	247 (+304%)
Fulltime Equivalent Staff (Nearly all Formerly Incarcerated)	12	37 (+208%)
Students Employed	14	132 (+843%)
Students Placed in Internships	41	66 (+60%)
Percentage of Students in Good Academic Standing	79%	83% (+4%)
Students Received Certificates of Rehabilitation or Pardons	-	14
Students Connected to Department of Rehabilitation Resources	-	341
Students Completed Criminal Record Expungements	-	44
Students that Identify as Black, Latinx, or Native	63%	62%
Pell Grant Recipients	-	66%
First-Generation Students	-	65%
Parents of Minor Children	-	38%
Recidivism Rate	0%	< 1%

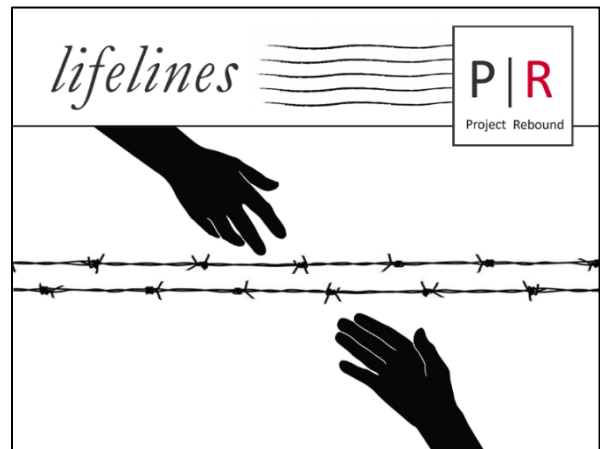


Rebound has given me a sense of acceptance, having that support & guidance of everyone feels like family always welcoming and caring” (Mayra, Cal State LA).

When Nehemiah Rodriguez, Project Rebound alumnus of San Francisco State University (B.A.), Cal State Fullerton (M.A.) and Outreach Coordinator for Project Rebound at Sacramento State University, was battling terminal cancer in 2022, his Project Rebound family coordinated hospice, cared for him at his home, and filled his last days with comfort and companionship even as Nehemiah (“Neo” to his friends and family) sought to continue to serve students through his smart phone on his deathbed. Sacramento State University President Robert Nelsen and many other members of the wider university community spoke at the celebration of Rodriguez’s life in January 2023, not with ceremonious formality but affectionate familiarity with Neo’s beloved sense of humor and inexhaustible buoyancy.

In 2022, Cal State Fullerton Rebound Scholar Michael Kruger, who was poised to graduate with a 3.9 GPA and on his way to a master’s program in Higher Education Leadership at CSU Long Beach, died in a tragic car accident. When the Project Rebound community learned of Mike’s hospitalization, over a dozen staff and students from four Project Rebound Consortium sister campuses in the region arrived at the hospital to offer support. Project Rebound held healing circles in which Kruger’s family and some thirty staff and students participated. During those circles, students referred to Mike as a “lifeline,” because like many Project Rebound student employees, Mike wrote letters to them on behalf of the program while they were still incarcerated, offering encouragement, guidance, and the hope of higher education. Project Rebound sent 3,500 such lifelines into the California Department of Corrections in 2022 alone.

Processing grief together, men and women who were once sentenced to life in prison—but who are now pursuing CSU degrees—expressed love and showed up for one another like family. Students voiced gratitude for Project Rebound not only for supporting them with admissions and academics, but for showing them beloved community, teaching them how to process grief and anger through love rather than the patterns of abuse, addiction, and organized abandonment that they experienced in their communities of origin and through carceral public systems. That beloved community extended all



Lifeline (n): *An anchored line thrown from outside as a support to someone incarcerated.*

Project Rebound trained student staff sent 3,500 prematriculation advising letters — lifelines — to aspiring students inside of California prisons and jails in 2022.

the way up to Cal State Fullerton President and Lead President of the CSU Project Rebound Consortium, who knew Mike and personally called his parents as they processed their son's death.

Moments of convergence around loss such as these provide a powerful glimpse into the depth and sincerity of the kinship that animates Project Rebound programs across California every day—whether that kinship takes the form of one-on-one counseling, peer-to-peer support groups, or providing students with vital material resources like books, school supplies, or parking passes, or whether it takes the form of staff continually providing students with “lay theory” reminders that they—like all of us—are not determined by their past mistakes, that they are resilient, intelligent, and *deserving* of the resources necessary to cultivate their best selves within public institutions of higher education. That's what makes Project Rebound so successful.



Manuel Gomez, Cal State Fullerton alum, currently pursuing a Master's in Social Work at CSU Long Beach

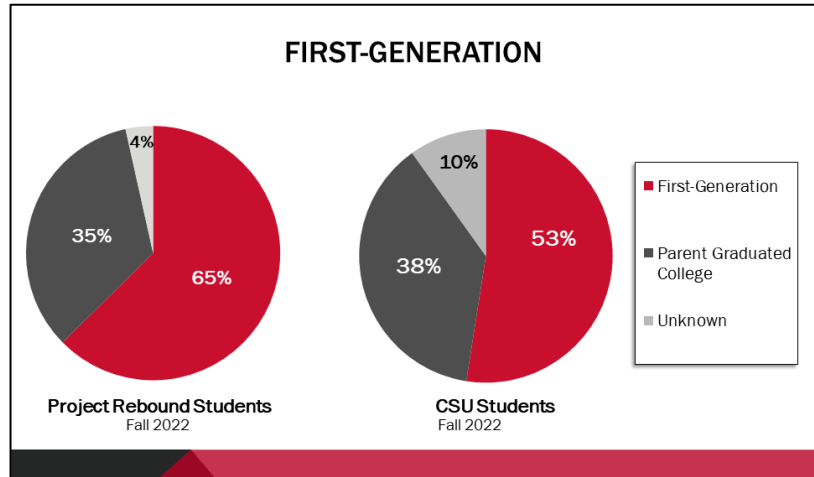
This is not by accident. Manuel Gomez, a Rebound Scholar, veteran, and father of three who earned a bachelor's degree at Cal State Fullerton, now completing a master's degree at CSU Long Beach, put it this way:

“When individuals who have served time in prison reenter society, they often come to understand the importance of family as a foundation for true community and empowerment. By using their own experiences to empower others, formerly incarcerated people can become valuable assets to their communities and play an important role in building stronger, more resilient families and communities.”

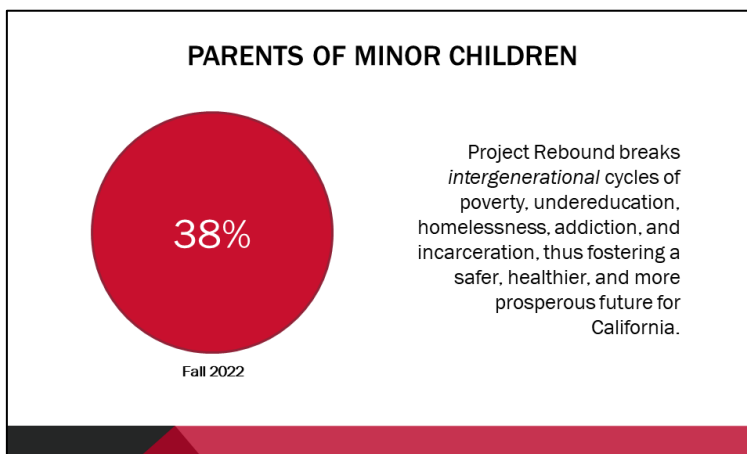
Civil Rights leader Ella Baker once said: **“Give light and people will find the way.”** Project Rebound gives light from a community of people who understand the value of capacious kinship, because they have experienced serious darkness: trauma, hardship, addiction, homelessness, confinement, isolation, organized abandonment. And yet, in the words of nineteenth-century abolitionist, Sojourner Truth, Project Rebound staff and students never allow their life's light to be determined by the darkness that has at various moments surrounded them—whether the darkness of a carceral past or the hardships and injustices of the present. And what many stakeholders across the CSU and the wider social and professional circles within which the CSU is embedded have come to learn: As Project Rebound creates kinship and light for its students, those students illuminate the path to a more prosperous and promising future for us all.

Supporting the higher education and successful reintegration of the formerly incarcerated

Project Rebound continues to manifest that higher education, when scaffolded and rendered equitably accessible through the care of kinship, creates life-affirming ripple effects across historically marginalized communities. Sixty-five percent of Project Rebound students are the first in their families to attend university. Thirty-eight percent are parents of minor children, and many more are aunts, uncles, older brothers and sisters, parents of young adults. So these repercussions not only flow inward, enhancing students' self-concept, they radiate outward across families, breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty, undereducation, homelessness, addiction, and incarceration and in their place establishing multigenerational pathways for their families to pursue higher education. Project Rebound constructs a life-affirming alternative to the school-to-prison pipeline and the revolving door of mass incarceration, thus increasing social mobility for generations to come and fostering a safer, healthier, and more prosperous future for California.



Since the State's investment in 2019, the CSU Project Rebound Consortium has expanded from 9 campus programs to 15 campus programs. Given augmented State investment in the 2022 Budget Act, Project Rebound is currently reviewing proposals from a set of additional CSU campuses seeking financial and technical support to launch expansion programs. While the 23-campus CSU system has experienced a drop in enrollment to the lowest levels since Fall 2015, the CSU Project Rebound Consortium has nearly tripled enrollment from 306 students to 836 students.

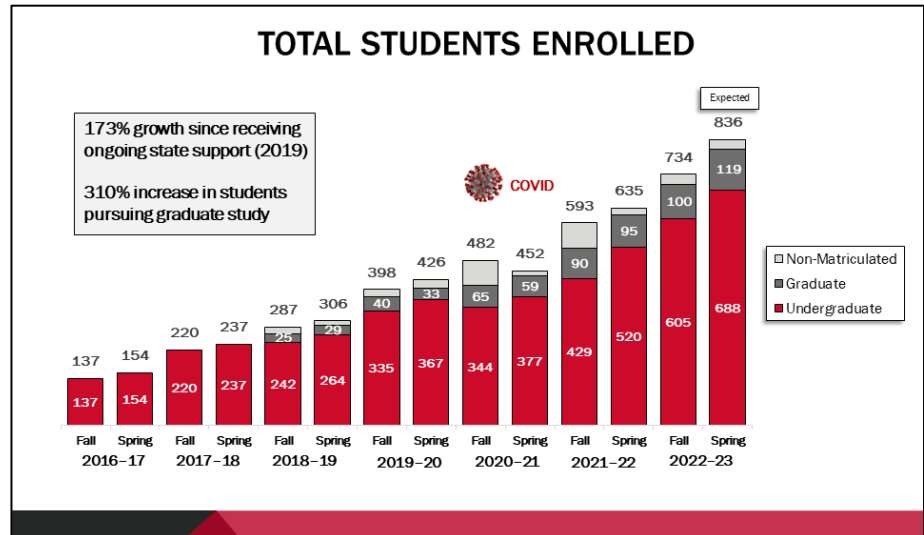


And while the equity gap for underrepresented minority and Pell-recipient students across the CSU has increased since the onset of the pandemic, 83% of Project Rebound students—the majority of whom are Pell Grant recipients and Black, Latinx, or Native—have remained in good academic standing. Two-thirds have maintained a GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale. In addition, Project Rebound has increased the number

Supporting the higher education and successful reintegration of the formerly incarcerated

of annual graduates by 310% (from 61 graduates in the Class of 2019 to an expected 247 graduates in the Class of 2023).

By the end of the 2022-23 academic year, the CSU Project Rebound Consortium will have conferred nearly 750 bachelor's and master's degrees to formerly incarcerated students since originally forming in 2016. And with a consistent **recidivism rate of less than one percent**, Project Rebound has clearly established California as a national model—leveraging the largest four-year university system in the country to scale a life-affirming, cost-effective response to the extensive impacts of mass incarceration.



This annual report will demonstrate how the CSU Project Rebound Consortium remains one of the most cost-effective public safety and postsecondary education investments in the state. Through grit, ingenuity, and community-building, Project Rebound daily transforms modest investment from the State of California into equitable access and opportunity, expansive student success, and stronger, safer communities from Humboldt to San Diego.

3. HISTORY OF CSU PROJECT REBOUND

In 1952, John Irwin (1929-2010) robbed a gas station and served a five-year sentence for armed robbery in Soledad Prison. During his time in prison he earned 24 college credits through a university extension program. After his release from prison, Irwin earned a B.A. from UCLA, a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley, and then served as a Professor of Sociology and Criminology at San Francisco State University for 27 years, during which he became known internationally as an expert on the U.S. prison system.

In 1967, Irwin created Project Rebound as a way to matriculate people into San Francisco State University directly from the criminal justice system. Supported for many years by San Francisco State University's Associated Students,

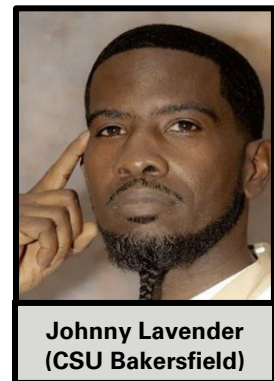


John Irwin, Ph.D.
(1929 - 2010)
Founder of Project Rebound
Established in 1967

Inc., the program supported hundreds of formerly incarcerated students obtain Bachelor's and Master's degrees. In 2019, following a three-year, philanthropically funded expansion effort (2016-19), California made an ongoing investment in the CSU Project Rebound Consortium to grow and further expand this successful program across the state. In 2022, California significantly augmented that ongoing investment to further scale Project Rebound's continued success as a model for the state and the nation. The CSU Project Rebound Consortium is now a state- and grant-funded network of programs operating at fifteen CSU campuses in Bakersfield, East Bay, Fresno, Fullerton, Humboldt, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Northridge, Pomona, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Marcos, and Stanislaus. Project Rebound is at the forefront of the CSU's objective to close the equity gap for underrepresented minority and low-income students.

4. POLICY BACKGROUND: BECOMING THE STATE OF SECOND CHANCES

The CSU Project Rebound Consortium is part of a growing student-centered ecosystem situated within a policy landscape that has helped to lift California as a national leader in equitable access to the transformative power of higher education for currently and formerly incarcerated people. Higher education has been shown to reduce recidivism and contribute to successful reentry for people who have been incarcerated, [73 percent](#) of whom are Black, Indigenous, or Latinx. Higher education also contributes to the formation of stronger, safer communities, as college students and graduates who have an incarceration experience often become positive role models in prison and return to their communities with new perspectives, new goals, and more life-affirming opportunities available to them and their families.

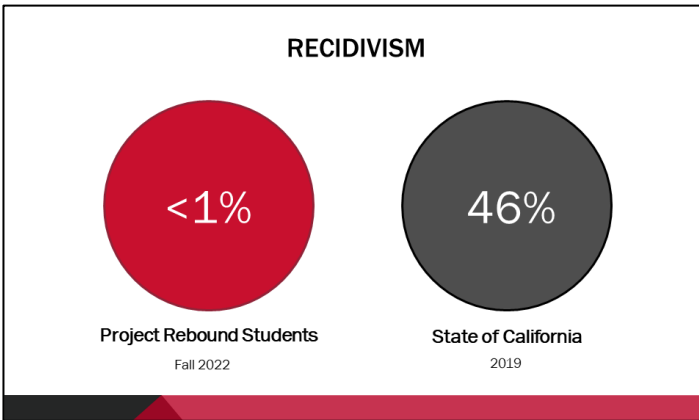


"People deserve a second chance to redeem their citizenship and the youth deserve practical tangible examples of how to rehabilitate themselves once they enter the criminal justice system. I would like to thank CSUB for accepting my registration pre-release and giving me the opportunity to achieve my academic goals and explore new career opportunities."

Johnny Lavender (CSU Bakersfield)

[One in five Californians](#) (an estimated 8 million people) are living with a criminal conviction, 46 percent of whom report experiencing difficulty finding employment. Given, as the [Public Policy Institute of California](#) predicts, that the state is on track to fall about 1.1 million college graduates short of economic demand if current economic and population trends persist, building postsecondary pathways of opportunity for currently and formerly incarcerated Californians is not just smart public safety policy, it is also sound economic policy. Workforce laws like the [Fair Chance Act](#) (Assembly Bill 1008; McCarty, 2017) and [Assembly Bill 2138](#) (Chiu and Low, 2018) increase second chances for qualified formerly incarcerated people in the areas of employment and occupational licensing.

A series of legislative and electoral actions have also increased postsecondary opportunities for Californians who have experienced incarceration. Since the enactment of [Senate Bill 1391](#) (Hancock) in 2014, California has enabled its Community College system to collect state apportionment for classes provided to incarcerated students, nearly all of whom have their enrollment fees waived through the California Community Colleges Promise Grant program.



Combined with the passage of [Proposition 57](#) (2016), which provides educational merit awards and sentence reductions to incarcerated people for educational and other rehabilitative achievements, the number of state prisons that have face-to-face, credit-bearing college programs has increased from 1 to 33, and the

number of college students inside California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) facilities has increased from 2,000 to 11,000. All of these 11,000 current students are on Associates Degree transfer pathways. For the majority, the California State University is the logical next step in their educational and rehabilitative journey.

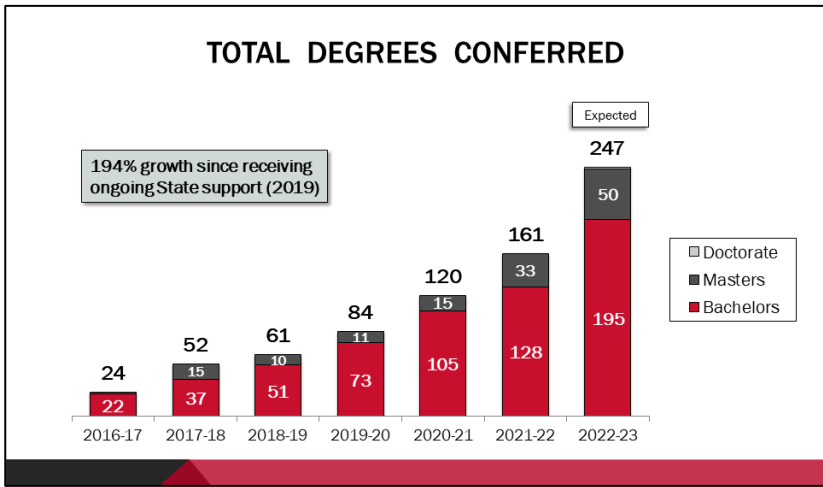
Given that the number of people in CDCR custody with a verified high school diploma or GED has increased from 22,000 to 60,000 since 2015, the demand upon California’s public postsecondary education segments is expected to increase in tandem with the burgeoning volume

of currently and formerly incarcerated people striving for the transformative power of higher education. Equitable access to higher education for this population has received a boost from both federal and state law. In 2020, Congress [lifted](#) the twenty-six-year ban on Pell Grant eligibility for incarcerated students, expanding affordable access to college, and [State Senate Bill 118](#) (Skinner, 2020) banned the box in higher education, opening the door to equitable access by prohibiting California postsecondary educational institutions from inquiring about a prospective student’s criminal history during the admissions process. In the wake of Congressional action on Pell Grant

	2015	2022
Number of people inside state prisons with a verified high school diploma or GED	22,000	60,000
Number of state prisons with face-to-face college programs	1	33
Number of students inside state prisons enrolled in college¹	2,000	11,000

¹ The figure reported in the 2022 CSU Project Rebound Consortium Annual Report for the number of students enrolled in college inside of state prisons, which was drawn from data from the California Community Colleges, was subsequently found to include some enrollment duplications at the local level. The unduplicated enrollment headcount of students enrolled in college inside of state prisons has consistently hovered around 11,000 since 2019.

eligibility, [State Senate Bill 416](#) (Hueso, 2021) protected incarcerated college students from predation by profit-seeking colleges seeking to exploit incarcerated students’ restored access to federal financial aid, and required that CDCR only grant access to college programs provided by regionally accredited public and non-profit colleges and universities. The law also



placed a statutory priority on college-in-prison programs that provide face-to-face, classroom based instruction and that coordinate with the CSU Project Rebound Consortium and other postsecondary programs specifically serving formerly incarcerated students, like the Community Colleges Rising Scholars Network and the University of California Underground Scholars, so that incarcerated students who are paroled receive support to continue building toward a degree or credential postrelease.

California has also appropriated funds to invest in the life-affirming, recidivism-reducing impacts of higher education as part of a burgeoning reorientation to public safety. California has invested \$3.3 million ongoing in 2019 ([Assembly Bill 74](#), Ting), augmented to \$11.3 million ongoing in 2022 ([Assembly Bill 178](#), Ting) and \$5 million one-time ([Assembly Bill 128](#), Ting, 2021) in the CSU Project Rebound Consortium. California also invested \$10 million ongoing in the California Community Colleges Rising Scholars Network ([Assembly Bill 417](#), McCarty, 2020), subsequently augmented by an additional \$15 million ongoing in 2022 ([Assembly Bill 178](#), Ting) specifically to develop and scale college programs for juvenile justice system-involved youths offered both within juvenile justice facilities and on community college campuses to establish a direct pathway to college for justice-impacted youths. With the recent addition of appropriations of \$4 million ongoing to the University of California Underground Scholars initiative and \$5 million ongoing for the implementation of CSU bachelor’s degree programs inside of CDCR prisons, the State has increased the capacity of all three of the state’s public postsecondary segments to establish and sustain meaningful opportunities for both currently and formerly incarcerated Californians.

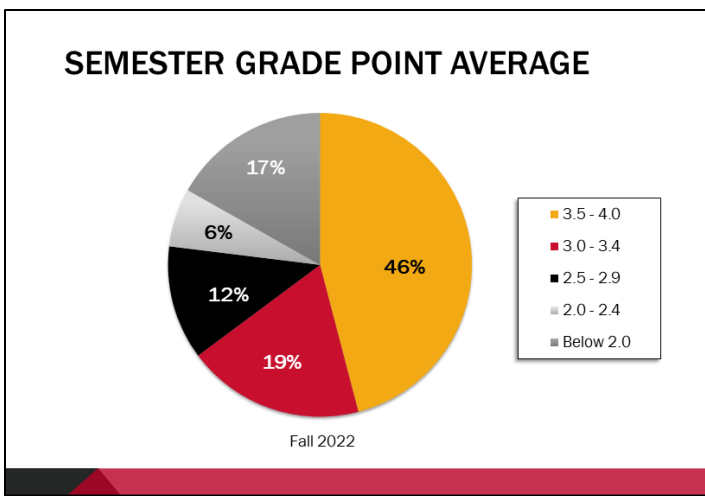
Project Rebound’s outcomes clearly demonstrate that the CSU is putting State resources to good use to make California a place of greater inclusion and opportunity. Because of these investments and the programs and networks they have bolstered, California is distinguishing itself as *the State of Second Chances*.

5. WHO ARE OUR STUDENTS? REBOUND SCHOLARS

Who are the students that are the vital part of the statewide Project Rebound kinship network? Project Rebound students are scholars—Rebound Scholars. Rebound Scholars are a highly diverse, multifaceted student population from a variety of backgrounds who contribute greatly to the strength and talent of the CSU student body and are beloved members of the CSU community. Rebound Scholars exemplify the way that Project Rebound is at the forefront of advancing the CSU’s objective to close the equity gap for underserved and low-income students.

The majority of Rebound Scholars come from historically marginalized and underserved populations. Sixty-six percent of Rebound Scholars are Pell Grant recipients, compared to 43% in the general CSU student body. Another 6% of Rebound Scholars have exhausted their lifetime Pell Grant eligibility. Most often this is the result of events prior to students joining Project Rebound: failing classes multiple times when younger and making poor choices, not knowing how to access help or too scared to admit they needed help, having to decelerate their education to care for family members, or receiving poor advising and accumulating non-transferable credits or earning multiple associates degrees at the community college level without being informed that Pell Grants are time-limited resources or without realizing that a bachelor’s or master’s degree was an attainable possibility for them.

“I was paroled on September 9, 2022, after serving a little over 10 years on a 48 to life sentence. Project Rebound has been my foundation since my release and my only support system. Project Rebound has been a life changing experience for me and definitely a huge blessing. Praise GOD for my second chance.”
Cervando Avalos (Stanislaus State)



Rebound Scholars are also more diverse in age, race, and ethnicity than the CSU at large. The majority (70%) of Rebound Scholars are Black (18%), Latinx (42%), or Native (10%). The proportion of Rebound Scholars that identify as Black/African American or Indigenous is five times greater than that of the CSU student body overall. In addition, 68% of Rebound Scholar are between the ages of 25 and 44. By contrast, 77% percent of CSU students are 24 years of age or

younger. Many Rebound Scholars had their educational journeys as youths disrupted—often violently—by the foster care system (12%) and/or the juvenile justice system (36%). The pathways of many would-be first-generation college students, especially youths of color, diverted by the school-to-prison pipeline.

While Rebound Scholars are incredibly diverse, one thing they share is a commitment to academic success, achievement, and excellence. Rebound Scholars are active in both undergraduate and graduate programs, pursuing degrees in fields such as the Social Sciences, Business and Economics, Health and Human Services, Arts and Humanities, Engineering and Computer Science, Education, and more. Throughout the Covid global pandemic, when schools at all levels rapidly shifted to virtual modalities of instruction, well over 80% of Project Rebound students remained in good academic standing and two-thirds have maintained a GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale. This compares with remarkable favor to the CSU overall, where systemwide the equity gap for students who identify as Black, Native American, or Latinx has increased from 9.2 percent in 2020 to 12.4 percent in 2022. Moreover, the number of Project Rebound students going on to pursue graduate studies in the CSU has increased by 310% (from 25 students to 119 students) since 2018.

Project Rebound is at the forefront of advancing the CSU's objective to close the equity gap for underserved and low-income students.

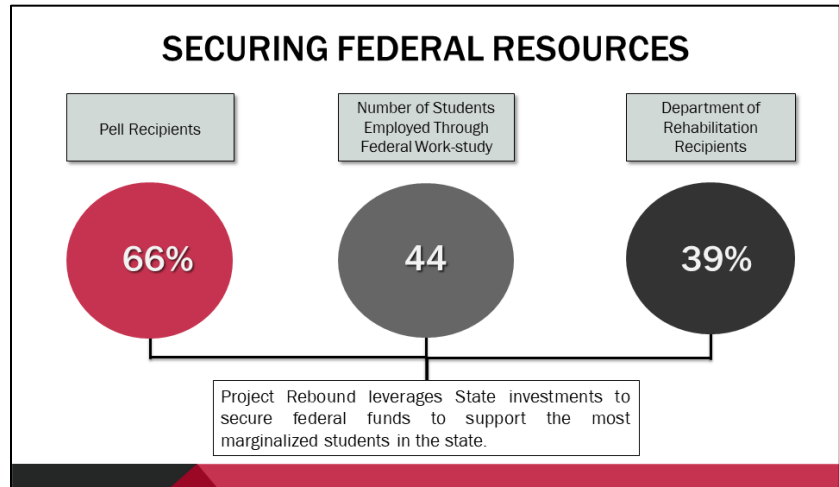
Across the Project Rebound Consortium, Rebound Scholars and staff embody academic success, community engagement, and lifelong achievement, demonstrating that formerly incarcerated people not only *belong* in higher education; they *excel* in higher education. Their presence in the university and their pursuits and contributions strengthen the CSU and help fashion a stronger, safer, more prosperous California. Rebound Scholars and staff come from all walks of life and enrich the culture of their university campuses, families, and broader communities, while paving the way for others—especially their children, nieces, and nephews—to do the same.

6. INVESTMENTS IN THE CSU PROJECT REBOUND CONSORTIUM

The ongoing appropriation that the State of California allocated to the CSU Project Rebound Consortium in 2019 enabled us to begin to scale our proven model of success, shifting from piecemeal to more coherent and stable staffing, expanding from 9 campus programs to 15, and tripling our enrollment in just three years despite the wider pandemic enrollment declines experienced by postsecondary educational segments across California. Prior to receiving State support in 2019, campus program staffing across the Consortium included a patchwork of 12 fulltime-equivalent staff, 14 student employees, and 6 interns/volunteers. In Fall 2022, the Consortium included 37 fulltime-equivalent staff, 72 student employees, and 72 interns/volunteers. Gainful, meaningful employment is a major contributor to student success and reduced recidivism. With an increase in fulltime-equivalent staff, and thus supervisory capacity, Project Rebound was able to increase student employment by 414% and program interns/volunteers more than ten times over. Sixty-one percent of these student employees are

Supporting the higher education and successful reintegration of the formerly incarcerated

part of the Federal Work Study program, which means Project Rebound is successfully leveraging State investments to secure additional federal support for formerly incarcerated student workforce development. Many interns are earning academic credit. Both are gaining valuable work experience and professional development while supporting an expanding number of prospective and matriculated formerly incarcerated students to access the transformative power of higher education.

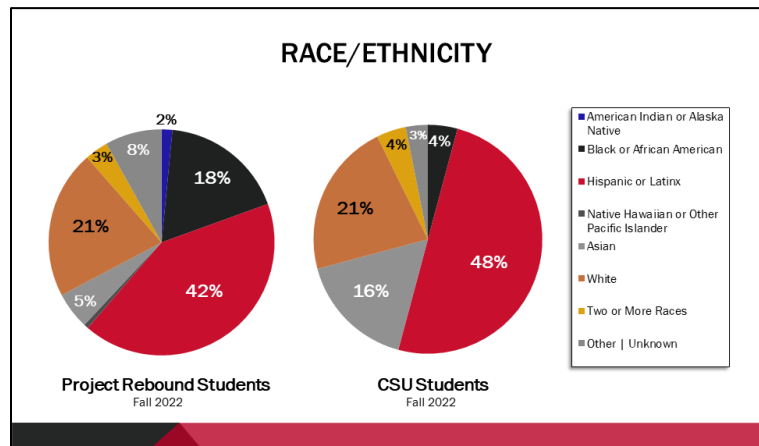


In addition to the five expansion programs that the Project Rebound Consortium launched at CSU campuses in Humboldt, Long Beach, Northridge, San Marcos, and Stanislaus in 2020, a sixth expansion program at CSU East Bay was launched in the Fall of 2022. These programs significantly extend the regional scope of opportunity available to college-aspiring formerly incarcerated people. In Fall 2022, the first wave of expansion campuses created opportunity for 171 enrolled students in different parts of the state to access the transformative power of higher education, and by the end the current academic year, after three years of operation, these four campuses are expected to have cumulatively conferred 90 degrees to formerly incarcerated students.



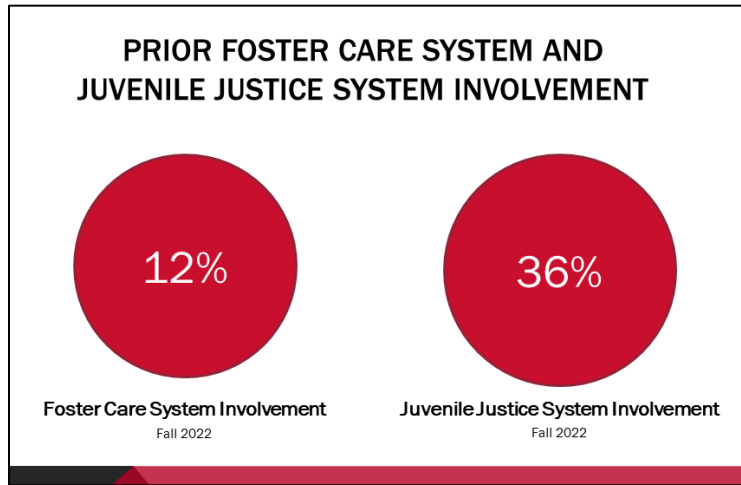
The proportion of Rebound Scholars that identify as Black or Native American is five times greater than that of the CSU student body overall.

The Project Rebound Consortium has thus far mobilized just over \$3 million of the \$5 million one-time, three-year appropriation from the 2021 Budget Act specifically intended to provide housing and direct student supports such as counseling, mitigating food insecurity, childcare, and other



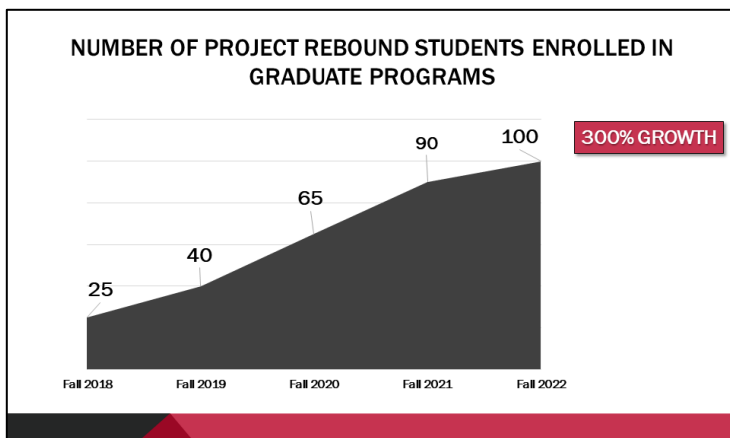
Supporting the higher education and successful reintegration of the formerly incarcerated

student basic needs designed to facilitate the persistence, wellness, academic success, and graduation of enrolled, matriculated Rebound Scholars demonstrating acute need during and in the aftermath of the pandemic and associated economic downturn. In accordance with our plan, \$1.5 million in Consortium-wide urgent student support allocations have been distributed to all of our campuses in annual distributions based upon a student-centered funding designed to apportion short-term housing and urgent support funding to campuses in a manner that is transparent and equitable and that reduces equity gaps by targeting access and success for Project Rebound’s low-income and most disadvantaged students.



In addition, \$1.6 million of this one-time allocation has been distributed and encumbered to date through a Consortium-administered Innovative Housing Initiatives Request for Proposals (RFP) process aimed at investing in the development and sustainability of long-term housing initiatives to support Rebound Scholars’ housing security and academic success. State funds encumbered through this opportunity have thus far generated \$3.9 million in additional matching external philanthropic and campus Presidents’ funds to expand the first transformative housing initiative for formerly incarcerated university students in the nation at Cal State Fullerton, originally established in 2018 through philanthropic and public grants, as well as to launch four new long-term, off-campus housing initiatives for Project Rebound students at CSU Fresno and Sacramento State University in Spring 2023. A second Innovative Housing Initiatives RFP based on this one-time appropriation from the State is currently underway.

Eight million dollars of the augmented 2022 State budget appropriation were allocated to



member and expansion campuses and the Consortium lead administrative campus (Fullerton) for central administration and systemwide investments, including learning community convenings, innovative initiatives, staff professional development, grant development, program assessment, and strategic planning. These State funds were leveraged alongside approximately \$700,000 of

campus-based matching in-kind and cash investments. We are currently developing a student-centered differential funding formula and embarking upon systemwide strategic planning to most effectively leverage augmented State investment to continue to advance our mission to scale. The State allocation is critical to sustaining the success of Project Rebound. State funds have been invested in hiring additional support staff who play a critical role in advancing Project Rebound goals (e.g., Program Directors and Coordinators, Outreach Coordinators, Enrollment Specialists, Pre-admissions Counselors, academic tutors, administrative support, etc.), in general operation (e.g., program supplies, materials, equipment, events, outreach and conference travel, etc.), and in direct student support (e.g., student employment, transportation, books, school supplies, printing, meal and emergency housing support, scholarships and fellowships, etc.).

Beginning in the 2023-24 fiscal year, the Consortium will employ a differential funding formula, currently in development, to equitably and transparently augment and sustain support for Project Rebound Consortium member campus programs. Baseline operating budgets will be joined with baseline and one-time funding allocations determined by factors including fulltime equivalent student enrollment, an equity allocation tied to indices of student need such as number of Pell Grant recipients and student parents of minor children, and a student success allocation informed by campus program outcomes like persistence and graduation.

One of the objectives of the *CSU Project Rebound Consortium Strategic Plan* (Appendix F) is to leverage State support to increase and expand external grants and philanthropic investment in campus-based and Consortium-level activities. The operational infrastructure supported by the State budget allocation is critical to attracting and securing external grants and philanthropic donations to support specific projects, pilots, scholarships, and direct student supports. In the 2021-22 fiscal year, the Project Rebound Consortium secured over \$800,000 in external grants, contracts, and philanthropy (in addition to the \$700,000 of campus-based matching funds and \$3.9 million of housing-specific funds identified above) to support various programmatic activities and initiatives.

7. EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

7.1 Key Service Objectives and Program Elements

CSU Project Rebound campuses continue to make significant progress in our efforts to advance the Consortium’s mission to make higher education more accessible and supportive of formerly incarcerated students so that they can acquire the knowledge and skills of a university education, enhance their capacity for civic engagement and community leadership, secure meaningful and gratifying employment, empower themselves and their families, and ultimately make strong, safer communities.” In alignment with the *CSU Project Rebound Consortium Strategic Plan*, CSU Project Rebound campus programs continue to focus on the following five Key Service Objectives designed to make higher education more accessible to and supportive of formerly incarcerated students:

Supporting the higher education and successful reintegration of the formerly incarcerated

1. Fostering a college-going culture among and building recruitment pathways for currently and formerly incarcerated people.
2. Helping prospective students prepare, apply, and matriculate.
3. Supporting enrolled students to persist and graduate.
4. Supporting enrolled students to participate in student life and leadership, community service, and civic engagement.
5. Establishing and fostering empowering networks among Project Rebound alumni and students.

One of Project Rebound’s Key Program Elements is the active example and leadership of staff who have an incarceration experience and who also have experience successfully navigating a university campus, which enables them to effectively mentor formerly incarcerated students and build community among formerly incarcerated students and the wider university community. This staffing model is critical for several reasons, including lived experience and understanding of the unique adversities of formerly incarcerated students, cultural competency and credibility, modeling successful reentry and behavior that encourages personal growth, and demonstrating that pathways to purpose, promise, and viable careers exist post-release.



Aaron Green, Program Director, Sacramento State, assisting a Rebound Scholar

This section of the report provides a summary of specific programmatic activities, student support programs, services, and various strategies undertaken, and demonstrates how the Project Rebound Consortium is working to advance the success of formerly incarcerated people who have the desire and motivation to obtain a baccalaureate and/or master’s degree and beyond. State support has enabled increased systemwide coordination and capacity-building that has allowed



“I have been surrounded by wonderful peers who are on the same track as me in trying to better themselves. They have given me so many opportunities and made so many resources available to me that I never thought was possible. Even when I thought getting my bachelor’s degree was nearly impossible, Project Rebound put so much faith in me, and here I am, completed my bachelor’s degree and applying for my Master’s.”
- Alexis Aldaco Iniguez (Stanislaus)

Project Rebound to identify and replicate many best practices across Project Rebound member campuses as well as to expand Project Rebound education and support services to additional CSU campuses. Some examples of those activities are included in this report.

7.2 Fostering Student Success Through Communities of Belonging

Project Rebound campus programs continue to enhance the variety of education and support services provided to Rebound Scholars by providing a holistic, healing, trauma-informed wraparound support services for formerly incarcerated students in order to increase student success and community reintegration. Staff are intentional in working to create a sense of belonging for new students, often acting as a care unit to help students connect directly with other on-campus support services. Our efforts to support enrolled students to persist, graduate and pursue career options take many shapes. For example, Rebound staff handle a variety of problems that come up for students in the application process, including securing exceptions to key deadlines to apply and enroll that incoming students frequently miss due to parole and other reentry-related barriers, appealing the denial of financial aid, providing individualized admissions exceptions for academic requirements missed due to inadequate access to specific lower-division college courses or advising while in prison, showing students how to upload COVID certifications, and helping them resolve holds on their accounts including aiding with mandatory orientation and registration fees. Rebound Scholars are typically required to regularly meet with dedicated program staff during their first year to ensure campus integration, relationship-building, and that basic needs are addressed. Rebound Scholars are also connected to tutors, student mentors, and participate in ongoing individual and academic support workshops to enhance their learning, promote skill development, and provide social and emotional support.



Tony Wallin-Sato, Program Director, Cal Poly Humboldt, hiking with students

Peer Navigators, who are high-achieving senior Rebound Scholars, are trained and assigned to a set of incoming students to help orient and assist them in navigating challenges involved in their transition into higher education. Incoming students are given their Peer Navigator's cell phone number and have weekly scheduled contact. Navigators orient new students to university life and the rigors of college study in a way that provides new students with mirrors that validate the fears, imposter syndrome, and overwhelming feelings they are working through while also constantly communicating and exemplifying the resilience and capacity of formerly incarcerated students to persist and excel in a college environment when connected to a community of care and the appropriate supports.

The kinship and community that Project Rebound staff and students offer to one another is round the clock. At most campuses, program office doors are open with a steady flow from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. to ensure equitable access to Rebound facilities and support for students who work full-time, have family obligations, and can only come to campus in the early mornings or the evenings. Peer-to-peer support meetings are scheduled at various times during the week

Supporting the higher education and successful reintegration of the formerly incarcerated

and on the weekends to increase student access to support. Student clubs have been established on most campuses that are for Project Rebound students and other allied students and



Cal Poly Humboldt Project Rebound beach bonfire restorative circle

student groups that wish to support and organize activities and events with Project Rebound students.

Project Rebound staff and students at Cal Poly Humboldt convene twice a month for a beach bonfire dinner or to go bowling or hiking to keep students connected and engaged in their support system beyond academics. In addition, when Cal Poly Humboldt staff are notified that a potential student is being released from Pelican Bay or the Humboldt County Correctional Facility, they are there to greet them at the gate. The campus has also issued emergency funds for two special students—one who after brain surgery and in the middle of his chemo treatment found himself homeless and another student who had a near fatal back infection due to multiple surgeries and was in the hospital for

30 days. CSU Humboldt staff also spent several days in San Francisco while the former student went through his second brain surgery because the student had no other family to visit him.

7.3 Establishing Infrastructures of Care to Meet Student Basic Needs

Meeting the basic needs of formerly incarcerated students has always been part of Project Rebound’s mission, because students’ ability to grow into their best selves as interdependent and supportive members of a community is deeply dependent upon students having their basic needs met. Much more than challenges related to academic performance, unmet basic needs like food and housing insecurity and lack of reliable transportation and

employment are among the most significant barriers that render higher education less accessible to formerly incarcerated people. Prior to the pandemic, according to a [2018 CSU Chancellor’s](#)

OUR VISION

The Project Rebound Consortium envisions a just and equitable world in which all people, including those with an incarceration experience, have access to high-quality higher education and comprehensive student support services that foster achievement, transformation, empowerment, social responsibility, and flourishing.



Jennifer Leahy, Project Rebound Program Director, Fresno State, distributing basic needs provisions to students.

[Office report](#) on student basic needs across the CSU system, 41.6% of students experience food insecurity and 10.9% experience homelessness. Formerly incarcerated people are 27 times more likely to be unstably housed than the general public and 10 times more likely to become homeless.

A Project Rebound Consortium Basic Needs Assessment conducted in Spring 2021 (Appendix C) that secured responses from 71% of the Project Rebound students enrolled across fourteen campuses, found that two out of every three of Project Rebound students reported that it was difficult or extreme difficult for them and their families to pay for basic needs (e.g., food, housing,

transportation, utilities) and that in the past thirty days they often or sometimes couldn't afford to eat balanced meals. One third of students reported spending more than 40 hours per week on average attending to family obligations while enrolled in school.

In 2021, the Assembly Budget Committee allocated \$5 million one-time to enable the Project Rebound Consortium to leverage its economy of scale to provide housing, counseling, and other basic needs supports to mitigate the cascading housing and food insecurities faced by formerly incarcerated students at the fourteen participating campuses. Project Rebound has operationalized this investment through Consortium-wide direct student support allocations distributed to campuses in annual apportionments based upon a student-centered funding formula, and an Innovative Housing Initiatives Request for Proposals (RFP) process designed to fund long-term housing initiatives at five to seven campuses.



Sergio Torres, Project Rebound Housing Coordinator, Cal State Fullerton, distributing Friendsgiving gift boxes to students and their families.

Project Rebound's student-centered basic needs apportionments to the fifteen Consortium member and expansion campuses are designed to support short-term/emergency student housing, counseling, mitigating food insecurity, and other student needs to facilitate academic success. Campus apportionments are determined by the Project Rebound Consortium's Student-Centered Funding Formula. This formula aligns with the mission, vision, guiding values,

key service objectives, and goals set forth in the *CSU Project Rebound Consortium Strategic Plan* and is designed to apportion short-term housing and urgent support funding to campuses in a manner that is transparent and equitable and that reduces equity gaps by targeting access and success for Project Rebound's low-income and most disadvantaged students.

Campus programs have used a variety of ways to efficiently distribute basic needs funds. Bookstore voucher programs have provided much needed support to alleviate the rising costs of textbooks and school supplies. Programs establish purchase orders at campus bookstores each semester that give each student a designated amount to spend on textbooks and school supplies. Students with required textbooks that are unavailable at the campus bookstore are allowed to submit receipts for reimbursement for books purchased themselves. Many programs have also found ways to prevent students from having to pay out of pocket and submit paperwork for reimbursement. Program Directors and Coordinators purchase school supplies through university-approved methods, using a university-issued purchasing card reconciled monthly from direct student support program budgets. Supplies are delivered to campus and kept in the office for any student to access when they come in. If a student needs something unique, such as graphic art paper or a specific kind of calculator, program staff can utilize these methods to obtain it for the student.

Programs have established purchase orders with campus offices of parking and transportation that allow students to retrieve parking passes that at large urban commuter campuses can cost upwards of \$360 per semester. Direct student support funds are also used to cover university fees for orientation, graduation, and for graduation regalia.

Food and housing insecurity among students is increasingly receiving attention and Project Rebound is seeking to address these important issues in a variety of ways. For example, snacks and portable prepackaged foods are kept in most campus program offices so that students taking classes on campus can recharge in between classes. Food vouchers are also an important tool. Students are issued food vouchers by program staff that can be used with on-campus food vendors. Cal State Fullerton is able to do this by making monthly Titan Tender deposits directly to students' ID card. For students who work remotely or take classes after 5:00 pm, one campus provides a \$50 a month Walmart Card. Often new students are personally escorted to the food pantry on campus, so they know where it is and how to use it. Cal State Fullerton provides Friendsgiving Food Gift Baskets to students and their families during the holidays. Food gift baskets consist of a protein with all the trimmings and dessert. On November 19, 2022, 48 gift baskets were distributed to grateful Rebound Scholars and their families.

One-time State funds have also been used to fund the Project Rebound Consortium Innovative Housing Initiatives Request for Proposals (RFP), inviting proposals from Consortium member and expansion campuses for developing, sustaining, and/or expanding long-term housing initiatives to support Rebound Scholars' housing security and academic success. Formerly incarcerated students often struggle to find safe, affordable housing, because their criminal

backgrounds interfere with their ability to secure a lease. Housing insecurity prevents many formerly incarcerated students from pursuing or persisting in higher education.

Formerly incarcerated students, especially those recently released, have unique needs attendant upon their parole conditions and reintegration challenges, which also contribute to the need for specific, dedicated housing that is both accessible, affordable, student-centered, and anchored in communities of care and belonging. \$3,500,000 of the one-time allocation has been dedicated to this RFP process, including approximately \$3,200,000 in awards to five to seven campuses and approximately \$300,000 for central administration, development, and Consortium-wide learning community trainings and convenings on specific housing and wellness needs of formerly incarcerated students, case management processes, residential property management, external partnership development, and student housing policies, community-building, and residential engagement.

In the first round of funding, seven proposals were submitted and evaluated based on the criteria including demonstration of need, student applicant selection process, scope of work, budget and financial plan, equity-based student rent policy, campus match, institutional support and essential partnerships, and project feasibility and sustainability. Awards were made to three campuses: CSU Fresno, Cal State Fullerton, and Sacramento State University. Cal State Fullerton was awarded a \$550,000 capital outlay grant to enable it to acquire an enhanced property for its John Irwin

House (JIH). Established in 2018 with philanthropic funding and named after the Project Rebound’s founder, Dr. John Irwin (1929-2010), the Irwin House is the first transformative housing community for formerly incarcerated university students in the nation. Providing the proof of concept that prompted Assemblymembers Jose Medina (D-61) and Sharon Quirk-Silva (D-65) and the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Public Safety to support a one-time appropriation in the 2021 Budget Act to scale transformative housing solutions for Project Rebound students across the state, the Irwin House has served as the hub and heart of Fullerton’s Project Rebound community. It has evolved from its initial design of solely providing holistic, healing, student-centered housing for reentering students to become the bedrock of Project Rebound’s programmatic and community-building activities, including the Food Justice Initiative’s community garden and culinary and horticultural curricula, peer-to-peer support



“Revolutionary” Housing: How Colleges Aim to Support Formerly Incarcerated Students

The number of formerly incarcerated people heading to college is sure to grow. Designing supportive housing for these students could be key to ensuring that they graduate.

By Gail Cornwall

February 6, 2023

meetings, healing circles, academic tutoring and workshops, mentorship meetings, financial literacy and other soft skills workshops, new student orientations, friendsgiving dinners, community bbqs, graduation ceremonies, family movie nights, community partnership meetings, luncheons with furloughed youths in county custody, and more. The Irwin House also serves as a place of convening for CSU Project Rebound Consortium retreats and trainings, for visiting social justice advocates, elected officials and other dignitaries, and community-based organizations and other community members wishing to become educated about and to partner with the mission, vision, and community of Project Rebound.

The \$550,000 grant was matched by a \$300,000 conditional gift from the Yerba Buena Fund and \$150,000 from the university's Mackenzie Scott-Jewitt gift matching program. Cal State Fullerton President Framroze Virjee committed a \$2 million long-term, low-interest loan to the university auxiliary to acquire and renovate a new property near to campus in the summer of 2022 to serve as Project Rebound's new

permanent home. Project Rebound's state grant was encumbered to pay submarket rent to the university auxiliary while the matching philanthropic funds, placed in a quasi-endowment, grow to generate future distributions to help sustain the initiative over the long-term. The new Irwin House provides transformative housing for nine male students at a time, while also providing ample indoor and outdoor study and programming space for the use and benefit of all Fullerton Rebound Scholars (of which there are currently over 100).

Sacramento State University also received a \$550,000 award from the Consortium Innovative Housing Initiatives RFP. Sacramento State President Robert Nelsen committed \$1 million in matching funds to enable Sacramento's Project Rebound, in conjunction with the property acquisition department of the university auxiliary to purchase two homes to provide housing and programming for eight enrolled Rebound Scholars. Following the Irwin House model, Sacramento State's Project Rebound has hired a dedicated housing coordinator to anchor the homes in a student-centered community of care and belonging. The homes are expected to be fully operational by the end of the current spring semester.

Lastly, CSU Fresno was awarded a \$550,000 three-year grant to support its long-term housing initiative. Funds from Fresno State University President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval provided a \$450,000 cash match to establish Project Rebound housing for currently enrolled Rebound



Charles J., Rebound Scholar, Cal State Fullerton, at the John Irwin House (est. 2018), the first transformative housing initiative for formerly incarcerated university students in the nation.

Scholars. Fresno's Project Rebound team worked closely with university administrators and a variety of community partners to establish the first of two houses dedicated to providing transformative housing for formerly incarcerated students at CSU Fresno. Fresno County has a massive housing shortage that puts formerly incarcerated students at a disadvantage, given the interference of their past criminal record.

Additionally, Project Rebound students are primarily nontraditional students, and over half of Fresno State's Rebound Scholars are parents of minor children, and they are not well served well by Fresno State's current student housing initiatives. The first house, which has 6 bedrooms, large common areas, a yard fit to accommodate social gatherings, and is located within a mile of the campus, was renovated by a community partner and leased to the university in February 2023 with the expectation to begin housing students in April 2023. Fresno's team is currently searching for a dedicated housing coordinator and is searching for a second house for the initiative.

Cal State Fullerton Project Rebound's transformative housing model, which has attracted national media coverage by *The Nation* magazine, and is now, thanks to investments from the State of California, beginning to be brought to scale at other CSU campuses, is a guiding example of the way that California and Project Rebound are leading the nation in innovating and leveraging public postsecondary educational systems to scale a life-affirming response to mass incarceration and meeting the unique needs of students with an incarceration experience. Embracing second chances, California's investment in Project Rebound and other postsecondary educational programs for justice-impacted people is demonstrating that communities are stronger, healthier, and safer when formerly incarcerated people are welcomed into public educational institutions with the infrastructures of care they need to successfully reintegrate and become assets, role models, and engaged members of their families and communities.

GUIDING VALUES

Project Rebound believes that the integration, education, and leadership of formerly incarcerated people are essential to the work of creating solutions to the social crisis of mass incarceration.

8. COORDINATION WITH OTHER CSU CAMPUS ENTITIES

Project Rebound member campus programs continue to cultivate and refine strong partnerships with a broad range of other CSU campus entities to support the diverse needs of Rebound Scholars. These partnerships serve to remove barriers and increase equitable access to higher education and successful reintegration for formerly incarcerated Californians. The CSU campus entities with which Project Rebound actively coordinates include Admissions, Financial Aid, the Office of the Registrar, the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), Academic Advising, Academic and Student Affairs, Student Organizations and Leadership, Associated Students, Inc., Guardian Scholars, University Advancement, Career Services, Services for Students

with Disabilities, Grants and Contracts, Human Resources, University Outreach, New Student Orientation, Counseling and Psychological Services, Center for Internships and Community Engagement, Dreamer's Resource Center, Adult Reentry Center, Campus Bookstores, Information Technology Services, Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment, Division of Public Affairs and Advocacy, Veterans Resource Center, and more. The diverse groups of dedicated faculty, staff, and administrators who have partnered with Project Rebound have been informed by Project Rebound staff and students about the unique challenges that formerly incarcerated students face and are committed to ensuring that Rebound Scholars are successful.

In 2022, multiple Project Rebound campus programs coordinated to develop ally training modules aimed at increasing the capacity of CSU faculty, staff, and administrators to support formerly incarcerated students by promoting awareness and understanding about Project Rebound and the uniqueness of our students. The purpose of ally training is to make Rebound campuses a more welcoming and inclusive place for formerly incarcerated and system-impacted students. Training series developed and presented by teams at CSU San Bernardino and Cal Poly Pomona include modules such as "Addressing and Dispelling Myths About Formerly Incarcerated Students" "Important Considerations When Working With Formerly Incarcerated Students," and "The Impact of Education and Community Support: Successful Reentry Stories." Program participants who attended all sessions of the series receive a certificate of completion.

9. COORDINATION WITH EXTERNAL ENTITIES AND PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO CURRENTLY AND FORMERLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

One of the keys to the success of Project Rebound is the way that our staff cultivates strong, meaningful relationships and collaborations with community-based organizations across the state, as well as community resource managers and principals at prisons throughout CDCR, and counselors with the California Department of Rehabilitation. These community partnerships connect Rebound Scholars to resources and programs in the community; they also strengthen the integration of the CSU with a host of community organizations and public agencies that support student basic needs.

9.1 Liaison Network with California Department of Rehabilitation

One of the most successful external partnerships initiated by Project Rebound is with the California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR). Project Rebound noticed that a significant number of our students were dealing with posttraumatic stress disorders, in many cases due to the traumatic experience of incarceration, or other undiagnosed emotional or learning disabilities. A few years ago, Project Rebound staff also identified how a relatively small number of Project Rebound students (including some Project Rebound staff who were themselves enrolled in postgraduate programs) were receiving life-changing services and supports from the California Department of Rehabilitation, which leverages federal funds to provide vocational rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities. However, it was also apparent that significant stigma

associated with identifying as disabled or in need of accommodation was prevalent in the formerly incarcerated student population.

So in 2021, the Project Rebound Consortium's executive leadership partnered with the Department of Rehabilitation's statewide executive leadership to create learning community with the purpose of fostering mutual education among Department of Rehabilitation counselors and Project Rebound program staff. In these convenings, Department of Rehabilitation counselors increased Project Rebound staff awareness about DOR eligibility criteria, intake processes, career-centered educational planning, and the array of support services that DOR clients are eligible to receive. Project Rebound staff in turn educated DOR counselors about common disabilities produced by the traumatic experience of incarceration, as well as the prevalent reluctance among formerly incarcerated students, who are already coping with layers of social stigma due to their incarceration experience, to identify as disabled and the perceived risk of being further burdened by stigma stemming from ableist cultural beliefs.

GUIDING VALUES

Project Rebound believes that every person has inherent value and holds the power of possibility and transformation within them.

This partnership established a formal liaison network between Project Rebound and the Department of Rehabilitation, through which each of the Project Rebound Consortium's fifteen campus programs were paired with designated counselors and team managers at the Department of Rehabilitation's respective district offices. This liaison network has been remarkably successful. Department of Rehabilitation counselors now visit Project Rebound campus offices regularly—sometimes as frequently as once a month—to conduct informational workshops and perform intake with Project Rebound students on the spot to identify how the Department can provide direct support to specific qualifying students. As a result of the Project Rebound/DOR liaison network, 341 Project Rebound students began receiving services from DOR in 2022. As of Fall 2022, 38% of Rebound Scholars across the state were receiving a broad range of DOR services, such as grants for full tuition expenses not covered by financial aid, books and school supplies, parking and bus passes, computers and printers, internet services, eyeglasses, tutoring services, transcript order fees, and professional clothing for job interviews.

Combined with the support that Project Rebound staff provides to students in securing federal financial aid and the employment opportunities provided to students by the programs drawing on the U.S. Department of Education's Work-Study Program, the agency partnership with DOR adds to the ways that Project Rebound is leveraging State investments to secure significant federal resources to support some of the most marginalized students in California.

These supports in turn contribute to rendering higher education more accessible to formerly incarcerated Californians, thus increasing persistence and graduation. Moreover, as federal Pell Grant eligibility ends at baccalaureate achievement, DOR, which offers services, including tuition support, for postgraduate study and training, makes postgraduate education accessible to many Project Rebound students for whom such education with otherwise be unattainable. The partnership between Project Rebound and DOR is a significant contributor to the 310% increase in the number of Project Rebound students pursuing graduate degrees.

“Project Rebound has connected me to several resources whenever I faced financial and academic obstacles.

These obstacles would have otherwise impacted my ability to graduate. They also helped me resolve many residual issues left over from being formerly incarcerated.

This has relieved an enormous amount of stress concerning my career options once I graduate. I am forever grateful for the help that Project Rebound has provided.”

- Yvette R. (Cal Poly Humboldt)

9.2 Establishing Pathways from College Programs Inside of State Prisons

In 2022, California allocated \$5 million ongoing to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to partner with the CSU to support and sustain bachelor’s degree programs inside of the state prison system. Currently, bachelor’s degree programs are being offered by Cal State LA at Lancaster State Prison and the California Institution for Women, by Sacramento State University at Mule Creek and Folsom State Prisons, and by CSU Fresno at Valley State Prison and Central California Women’s Facility. An additional one-time \$1.8 million appropriation from the legislature in 2022 was made to support the establishment of University of California, Irvine’s bachelor’s degree program at Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility, and a privately funded bachelor’s degree program based on the model of the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program (i.e., involving both traditional campus-based undergraduates and incarcerated students) is operated by Pitzer College at the California Rehabilitation Center.

The mission of Project Rebound centers on supporting *formerly* incarcerated people gain equitable access to higher education. That mission often begins with providing *currently* incarcerated people with the outreach, advising, and orientation necessary to prepare them for their postrelease educational journeys while they are still in custody so as to foster seamless reentry and matriculation. [California Senate Bill 416](#) (Hueso, 2021) placed a statutory priority on college-in-prison programs that coordinate with the CSU Project Rebound Consortium and other postsecondary programs specifically serving formerly incarcerated students, like the Community Colleges Rising Scholars Network and the University of California Underground Scholars. With the state-supported launch of bachelor’s degree programs inside of the state prison system, it is necessary to establish pathways for students in these new programs to continue building toward a degree or credential once they are released from prison.



Cohort 1 students congratulate each other after rehearsing an emotionally powerful class assignment. Photo credit: Patrick Record, CSU Chancellor's Office

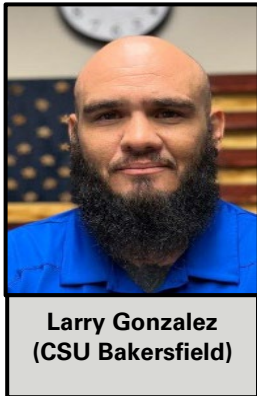


Cohorts 1 and 2 graduate with bachelor's degrees in communication before friends and family on October 6, 2021. Photo credit: Robert Huskey, Cal State LA.

The pathway built between Project Rebound at Cal State LA and Cal State LA's Prison BA Graduation Initiative at Lancaster State Prison, which is the first face-to-face bachelor's degree program for incarcerated students in the state of California, is an exemplary model of best practice in this regard. Led by Dr. Taffany Lim, who co-founded the BA Graduation Initiative and is the Founder and Executive Director of Project Rebound at Cal State LA, Project Rebound has constructed a seamless transitional experience for students who began their bachelor's programs while incarcerated and then continue and complete their degrees on the university campus postrelease. To date, of the 15 students who began their bachelor's degrees while incarcerated at Lancaster and have subsequently been released prison, all have graduated from and walked across the commencement stage at Cal State LA. Many of these students, who were once sentenced to life without the possibility of parole, had their sentences commuted and were deemed eligible for release in no small part due to their persistence and achievement in Cal State LA's Prison BA Graduation Initiative at Lancaster State Prison.

The Project Rebound team at Cal State LA makes a concerted effort to write personal, detailed letters of support to BA students who are attending board hearings. Those letters include assurances of guaranteed transitional housing at Project Rebound's community partner, the Cavanagh House, employment through the Federal Work Study program at the Cal State LA Project Rebound office, and assistance with DOR applications to ensure tuition and educational support. One of the former Lancaster students has gone on to earn a master's degree at Cal State LA, and four others are currently enrolled in Cal State LA graduate programs. Three of these former incarcerated students are now employed by Project Rebound at Cal State LA with the job of engaging in outreach, recruitment, and advising among other prospective students in prison, connecting those prospective students with the necessary supports to ensure they are set up for success upon arrival.

Following the exemplary model set by Project Rebound at Cal State LA, with the launch of new state-funded bachelor's degree programs inside the state prison system, other Project Rebound campus programs are building pathways to ensure smooth, successful postrelease transition for incarcerated students currently pursuing bachelor's degrees through Sacramento State University and CSU Fresno as well as those who will matriculate into future CSU prison BA programs currently in development. These pathways must ensure that students who parole to parts of the state that are distant from the university at which they were matriculated when they began their degree track inside of prison are able to transfer to another CSU to complete their degree. Project Rebound is currently working with stakeholders to add language to the memoranda of understanding that it has in place with campus Offices of Admission to ensure that the CSU's promise of efficient and equitably accessible degree completion for incarcerated students is honored no matter where in the state those students may relocate postrelease. Part of the power of the Project Rebound Consortium's statewide reach and coordination is that such students will have a community of support in place to receive them wherever they may relocate.



The Project Rebound Consortium provides outreach, orientation, and transfer support services to other students and prospective students in the custody of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

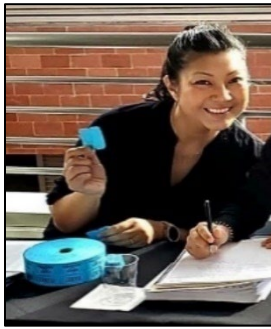
"I am a sociology major in my junior year who is planning to help inmates or the formerly incarcerated obtain access to higher education. I plan to work in higher education for those purposes in the future. Project Rebound has opened so many doors for me and has enabled me to not only learn how to communicate better, but to help others get enrolled into college as well." Larry Gonzalez

The CSU Project Rebound Outreach Program (CSU PROP) operated in four CDCR facilities at the California City Correctional Facility, Central California Women's Facility, Pleasant Valley State Prison, and Valley State Prison. CSU PROP is a comprehensive, structured, robust pre-college orientation consisting of five to eight 90-minute face-to-face workshops that assist with preparation for college and enable prospective students to make connections with 15 CSU Project Rebound Consortium campuses throughout the state. The workshops consist of sequential workshops covering topics such as "University Choices," "Transitional and Socialization Skills," "College Life," "What Really Matters for College Success," and "The Road to Academic Achievement." Cohorts of ninety program participants are selected by the Community Resource Managers or educational staff at each facility. Most of the program participants are enrolled in community colleges and have obtained multiple Associate of Arts degrees. A minimum of two cohorts per correctional institution participate in the program each year. Students who complete the series of workshops receive a Certificate of Completion recognizing their achievement and a gift bag of school-related materials.



Supporting the higher education and successful reintegration of the formerly incarcerated

In partnership with the Prison Education Project, Project Rebound at Cal Poly Pomona taught eight-week intro to college and career development courses at Chuckawalla State Prison. Project Rebound at Cal Poly Humboldt continues to maintain strong partnerships with the Yurok Tribe, corresponding and holding zoom conferences with currently incarcerated Yurok community members in preparation for their release, and placing a Project Rebound paid student intern with the Yurok Tribal Court to provide case management support for reentering tribal members. Project Rebound at Cal Poly Humboldt, which has the only state-supported bachelor's degree program in fire science, is currently developing plans with the fire science program director to engage in outreach to CDCR Conversation (Fire) Camps to build pathways of opportunity for formerly incarcerated individuals to enroll in the university's fire science bachelor's degree program. In cooperation with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the



**Jocelyn Chau-Goh
(CSU Los Angeles)**

"Project Rebound is about cultivating compassion, connecting with our shared past, growing in community, and bonding through solidarity. All to help others by sharing our experiences. This community has helped me through my struggles. I'm lucky to belong to this empowering community. Project Rebound has been a godsend."

- Jocelyn Chu- Goh (CSU Los Angeles)

Los Angeles County Fire Department, CDCR jointly operates 35 conservation camps, commonly known as fire camps, located in 25 counties across California. The primary mission of the Conservation Camp Program is to support state, local and federal government agencies as they respond to emergencies such as fires, floods, and other natural disasters. CDCR is

responsible for the selection and custodial supervision of the incarcerated fire fighters. CAL FIRE maintains the camps, trains, and supervises the work of the incarcerated fire crews.

In August 2022, a three-day, multicampus event involving Project Rebound staff from CSU campuses at Humboldt, Long Beach, Northridge, Sacramento, and San Francisco in collaboration with the College of the Redwoods Pelican Bay Scholars program at Pelican Bay State Prison. Over the course of three days, staff offered over 250 incarcerated students workshops, transcript evaluations, and other application and orientation resources.

9.3 Connections with Community-Based Organizations

Project Rebound campuses continue to be successful in cultivating strong, meaningful, and collaborative relationships with community-based organizations throughout the state. Project Rebound at CSU Long Beach and Northridge continue to partner with Homeboy Industries, the largest gang rehabilitation and reentry program in the world located in Los Angeles.

Project Rebound staff from LA Metro campuses at Long Beach, Northridge, Los Angeles, and Pomona provide monthly college preparatory workshops to its members. As a result, dozens of people are breaking free from prior lives of gang affiliation and instead embracing life-affirming social networks and futures through the transformative power of higher education. Project Rebound at CSU Northridge secured a CSU Hispanic-Serving Institutions Community Grant for their project “From Prison to Computer Science Careers: Creating Pipeline for Formerly Incarcerated People.” The project was designed and is being implemented by Project Rebound alumna Maria Martinez and three current Rebound Scholars, all of whom are Computer Science majors at CSU Northridge. With the goal of building a pipeline for formerly incarcerated people to gain access to careers in computer science and technology, the project established a Community Fellows program at Homeboy Industries through which Project Rebound student fellows provide training to ten formerly incarcerated community fellows on computer literacy, basic fundamentals of JavaScript code, and prepare them to apply to Next Chapter’s eight-month paid software engineering apprenticeship program, which aims to set them up for successful careers in computer science.

Project Rebound at Sacramento State University and its Career Center provide paid internships to Rebound Scholars through the PRIME internship program. The program has placed several Rebound Scholars in internships in the State Capitol to gain professional development through working in legislative offices. The PRIME program is currently working with Volt Inc. to offer second chance employment opportunities with Apple. Apple has worked with several agencies to provide technical jobs to individuals with incarceration histories and through this partnership three Sacramento State Rebound Scholars have been placed with internships at Apple’s Elk Grove warehouse. Sacramento State has also developed excellent relationships with community nonprofits such as the Insight Garden Program, which brings horticulture and therapy into eleven adult prisons within the CDCR, and other related organizations such as Root and Rebound and the Anti-Recidivism Coalition, which provided Sacramento State Project Rebound \$25,000 in grant funds to support student internships.

CSU Fresno continues to partner with Community Based Organizations such as Barrios Unidos, Insight Garden Program Root & Rebound, Workforce Development, Impact Justice/California Justice Leaders and City of Fresno Office of Neighborhood Safety & Community Engagement. Cal State Fullerton continues to celebrate its 5-years of partnership with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). This partnership provides experienced mentorship pairing with interested Rebound Scholars and retired professional in the community. Over the years, OLLI mentors have held 32 workshops covering a variety of topics that are of interest to the Rebound community (e.g., mental health, financial literacy, applying to graduate school, choosing the right careers and professions, etc.). The mentors received Certificates of Recognition from Senator Josh Newman (D-29) for the commitment and service to Project Rebound.

10. JUVENILE JUSTICE ENGAGEMENT

The CSU Project Rebound Consortium is embarking upon a number of systemwide initiatives to build postsecondary educational pathways for juvenile justice system-involved youths. Most youths who are incarcerated have significant histories of trauma and other adverse childhood experiences, and incarceration increases their risk of ongoing victimization and trauma. Juvenile incarceration also increases the likelihood of adult incarceration by 40 percent. Project Rebound, with its abundant collect expertise bred from lived experience, higher education, and the successful construction of a prison-to-college pipeline, is seeking to increase its statewide impact on disrupting the school-to-prison pipeline that derails the education and personal journeys of so many would-be first-generation college students.

First, the CSU Project Rebound Consortium solicited applications from Consortium Member and Expansion Campuses to receive support for postsecondary activities specifically geared toward juvenile justice system-involved youths and to participate in a multi-campus Project Rebound Learning Community for Juvenile Justice Engagement. The Consortium issued awards to seven Rebound Campus programs – Fresno, Fullerton, Humboldt, Pomona, Sacramento, San Bernardino and San Marcos. Campuses were selected based on the demonstrated strength and

promise of their existing partnerships with agencies and/or organizations relevant to serving juvenile justice system-involved youths and/or the campus's demonstrated experience or promise in participating in successful programs focused on mentoring, empowering, and/or building postsecondary educational pathways for juvenile justice system-involved youths, including (but not limited to) prematriculation advising, transfer navigation, mentorship, college outreach and exposure programming, and empowerment curricula aimed at inspiring and uplifting system-involved youths to pursue the transformative power of higher education.

The Project Rebound Learning Community for Juvenile Justice Engagement (hereafter Juvenile Justice Learning Community) consists of Project Rebound executive and program staff and juvenile justice system-impacted student assistants from each participating campus program. Beginning Winter 2022, Learning Community members began participating in ongoing meetings and virtual and in-person convenings where they are engaged in research and planning, discussing workshops, professional development, and networking opportunities designed to strengthen Project Rebound campus programs' postsecondary educational activities with system-involved youths and research and leverage existing policies to develop interagency agreements and instruments to advance and facilitate the scalable replication of this work at participating campuses and other Consortium Member and Expansion campuses.



**Cal State Fullerton
Juvenile Justice team**

The Juvenile Justice Learning Community will collaboratively design curricular modules, drawing upon existing Project Rebound programmatic efforts, to develop trauma-informed, culturally competent outreach, college orientation, empowerment, and advising tools tailored to system-involved youths and intended for common use across the Consortium. During the 2022-23 academic year, each participating campus team will take turns hosting and shadowing other campus teams to foster inter-campus collaboration and increase the cross-system program quality, efficiency, consistency, and accountability of Project Rebound's multi-campus juvenile justice work. Campus teams will collaborate and consult with one another as well as with currently incarcerated and recently released youths to contribute to the design of the curriculum to best meet youths' needs, including (but not limited to) developing youths' wellness, academic readiness, and social capital through academic, life skills, and career development. These modules will then serve as the basis for workshops offered through the broader Consortium Learning Community in the 2023-24 academic year.

Several other initiatives are underway as follows. For example, the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), in partnership with the San Francisco State University (SFSU) College of Ethnic Studies and Project Rebound, have launched the first-ever university-level certificate program for DJJ youth. Thirty-three students from two facilities – Stockton Chandelarian Youth Correctional Facility and Ventura Youth Correctional Facility - enrolled in the Ethnic Studies curriculum, taking classes via video conference. Students in the certificate program 12 units of courses in the disciplines of Ethnic Studies: Africana Studies, American Indian Studies, Asian American Studies, Latina/Latino Studies and comparative Race and Resistance Studies. The program develops critical analysis as students learn about the importance of history, science, culture, and community. In January 2023, members of the San Francisco State University's team participated and honored the students in custody at both locations who completed the 12-unit certificate. The next phase of the program is for the County of Santa Clara to provide access to Project Rebound for County Probation Department's youth residing at Juvenile Hall and the William F. James Ranch to enroll in the program. The hope is to replicate this experience and provide additional opportunities for similarly situated students after the closure of DJJ on June 30, 2023.

A delegation from the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) and Project Rebound Consortium Executive staff observed Cal State Fullerton's new juvenile justice program, Dare to Dream: Pathways to Post-Secondary Education for Incarcerated Youth offered at the Youth Guidance Center in Orange County. The OYCR engaged with incarcerated students and learned about their unique needs and barriers to accessing housing, higher education and employment. Providing face-to-face instruction allows for a more personal and dynamic learning experience, which leads to a better understanding and retention of the material. The class started with students and staff creating a brave learning environment which allows for students to be vulnerable and show up as their authentic selves. Students journal about



their personal dreams, fears, and challenges. This first cohort of 11 students were provided an opportunity to visit the Cal State Fullerton campus and the John Irwin Memorial Housing Initiative, as well as observe and participate in a classroom lecture and speak with Rebound Scholars. Students completed reading assignments, engaged in classroom activities, and attended an on-site graduation ceremony. The OYCR visit concluded with a campus tour and conversation with Rebound Scholars at the Center for Hope and Redemption and tour of the John Irwin Memorial Housing Initiative. Dare to Dream: Pathways to Postsecondary Education for Rebound Scholars at Cal State Fullerton participated in and completed an extensive Academic Advisor Training facilitated Rebound-Secondary Education for incarcerated Youth curriculum is also offered at the Youth Leadership Academy and Juvenile Hall (Girls Division).

CSU Fresno has partnered with Focus Forward and the Fresno County Juvenile Justice Campus (JJC) to provide Rebound Scholars as mentors for the youth housed at the JJC. Two Rebound Scholars at time are gaining professional workplace skills by working with the Fresno County Juvenile Justice Campus (JJC) and Focus Forward under a service they provide, Pipeline to Opportunity (P2O), within the institution. P2O is a post—secondary education program developed in 2019 by Focus Forward to introduce higher education options to students at the JJC. Some of the tasks include assistance explaining FAFSA, navigation of the student portals, compiling case notes, meeting regularly with the students in the P2O program for encouragement and support, as well as accompanying the student in P2O and the staff of Focus Forward to the pre-release outing to the local Community College Campus. The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office is reviewing the Fresno model for implementation in all state juvenile facilities, and Fresno State student mentors were asked to lead the tour for the visitors from the Chancellor's Office. CSU Fresno is also expanding its partnership with the JJC in Madera County and is currently engaged in outreach at high schools and extended learning campuses and have solid pipeline with the youth schools in areas such as Avenal, Madera, Delano, Fresno and Lindsay.

CSU Sacramento is part of the multi-campus “Building Postsecondary Pathways for Juvenile Justice System-Involved Youth” consortium and plans are underway to continue building out the CSU Project Rebound Outreach Program (CSU PROP) at Valley State Prison with the Youth Offender Program (YOP) there. Approximately 30 YOP participants recently completed the pilot program. Working in collaboration with William Dickinson, Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Kern County Probation and CSU Bakersfield's Project Rebound staff, CSU PROP will soon be implemented at three Kern County youth facilities – Kern Crossroads Facility and APEX Academy, Camp Erwin Owen; and Youth Detention Center/Pathways Academy. Plans are also underway to implement CSU PROP to the Keifer Juvenile Detention Center, Solano County Juvenile Detention Facility, and the Yolo Juvenile Detention Facility. **“My goal is to use my degree to inspire the youth who have entered the criminal justice system and those who have served their time paying off their debt to society with educational achievement”**
Johnny Lavender (CSU Bakersfield)

CSU Long Beach has partnered with the Youth Guidance Center in Santa Ana, where program staff is able to have one-on-one conversations with the youth and provide mentorship

and motivation. In addition, Project Rebound was able to bring currently incarcerated youth to the campus and provided them with a guided campus tour. The campus also hosted a First Time Annual Youth conference which strengthened their partnership with community stakeholders and non-profits. The conference drew in nearly 250 youth from the LA region.

Project Rebound at CSU San Marcos established the Each One Teach One Mentorship Program, which links at-risk youths from the local Juvenile Court & Community Schools and regional continuation high schools with Project Rebound student mentors who support them on their path to high school graduation and encourage them to advance to college. Project Rebound works directly with regional school districts to identify and provide opportunity to prospective students. Then Project Rebound collaborates with CSU San Marcos faculty to cultivate opportunities for high school students to participate in university-level classes and campus activities.

11. EXPANSION PLAN

After the primary strategic goal of strengthening existing programs, the second goal of the *California State University Project Rebound Consortium Strategic Plan* (Appendix D) is to expand the Project Rebound Consortium to include new CSU campuses by providing funding, training, guidance, and technical support to CSU campuses that aspire to join the Project Rebound Consortium and establish Project Rebound programs on their campuses. In 2020, the Consortium Executive Committee released a Request for Proposals (RFP) inviting CSU campuses that aspire to be considered for probationary membership in the Project Rebound Consortium to submit proposals. To be eligible to apply, aspiring campuses must have worked with Project Rebound Consortium staff to build their campuses' capacity to serve and foster the academic success, psychosocial well-being, and community engagement of formerly incarcerated students.

Five CSU campuses were selected for probationary membership into the Project Rebound Consortium in 2020 based on their proposals' quality and strength of alignment with the Consortium Strategic Plan, the demonstrated degree of campus buy-in, administrative support, and organizational readiness, as well as the ambition and demonstrated feasibility of campus work plans. Since 2020, these five expansion campuses—Cal Poly Humboldt, CSU Long Beach, CSU Northridge, CSU San Marcos, and CSU Stanislaus—have been awarded \$2.3 million on an annually renewable basis while being provided ongoing guidance, technical support, and mentorship by the Consortium administrative campus and other member campus program staff.

Expansion campus programs at CSU Long Beach and CSU Northridge demonstrated such remarkable tenacity and efficacy in establishing robust programs to support formerly incarcerated students that, after two exceeds expectations annual reviews, the Consortium Executive Committee unanimously voted to extend these two campuses membership status and augmented baseline funding beginning in the 2022-23 fiscal year. Both campus programs have demonstrated

Supporting the higher education and successful reintegration of the formerly incarcerated

outstanding ingenuity and dedication and have secured extensive campus and community support for formerly incarcerated students.

A sixth expansion program at CSU East Bay was launched in the Fall of 2022. Together, these six additional campuses significantly extend the regional scope of opportunity that the CSU provides to college-aspiring people with an incarceration experience. In Fall 2022, after just two academic years of operation, the first wave of expansion campuses created opportunity for 171 enrolled students in different parts of the state to access the transformative power of higher education, and by the end the 2022-23 academic year, these six campuses are expected to have cumulatively conferred 90 degrees to formerly incarcerated students.



In December 2022, the Consortium Executive Committee released another Request for Proposals (RFP) inviting CSU campuses that aspire to be considered for support to establish pilot Project Rebound programs on their campuses to submit proposals. CSU campuses selected for expansion campus status will receive Consortium financial and technical support to enable their campuses to build programs in alignment with the *CSU Project Rebound Consortium Strategic Plan* to support the higher education and successful reintegration of formerly incarcerated students. We expect to issue awards and establish new pilot expansion programs at additional CSU campuses by the end of 2023.

Project Rebound Staff



CSU Bakersfield



Cal State East Bay



Fresno State

Project Rebound Staff



Cal State Fullerton



Cal Poly Humboldt



Cal State Long Beach

Project Rebound Staff



Cal State Los Angeles



CSU Northridge



Cal Poly Pomona

Project Rebound Staff



Sacramento State



CSU San Bernardino



San Diego State

Project Rebound Staff



San Francisco State



CSU San Marcos



Stanislaus State



The California State University

P|R PROJECT REBOUND CONSORTIUM

Supporting the higher education and successful reintegration of the formerly incarcerated

CAMUS DIRECTORY

Northern

Cal Poly Humboldt University

Telonicher House + Nelson Hall East,
Rm.116/118 1 Harpst Street
Arcata, CA 95521
ProjectRebound@humboldt.edu
(707) 267-7608

Sacramento State University

6000 J Street
Lassen Hall, 2104
Sacramento, CA 95819
ProjectRebound@csus.edu
(916) 278-6794

San Francisco State University

1650 Holloway Avenue, T-161
San Francisco, CA 94132
ProjectRebound@asi.sfsu.edu
(415) 405-0954

Cal State East Bay

25800 Carlos Bee Boulevard, Robinson
Hall 242 Hayward, CA. 94542
ProjectRebound@csueastbay.edu
(510) 885-3332

Central

CSU Bakersfield

9001 Stockdale Highway, MS
47SA Bakersfield, CA 93311
1099ProjectRebound@csub.edu
(661) 654-3553

Fresno State University

2576 E. San Ramon, MS/ST 104
Fresno, CA 93740
ProjectRebound@csufresno.edu
(559) 278-2313

Stanislaus State

One University Circle
Mary Stuart Rogers, Suite 160
Turlock, CA 95382
ProjectRebound@csustan.edu
(209) 667-3039

Southern

Cal State Fullerton

800 N. State College Blvd, LH-530
Fullerton, CA 92831
Rebound@fullerton.edu
(657) 278-7859

Cal State Long Beach

1250 Bellflower Boulevard, SSPA 031
Long Beach, California 90840
ProjectRebound@csulb.edu
(562) 270-3989

Cal State Los Angeles

King Hall D137
5151 State University Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90032
ProjectRebound@calstatela.edu
(323) 343-5230

CSU Northridge

CHS JR Hall 148
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA 91330-8246
ProjectRebound@csun.edu
(818) 677-5410

Cal Poly Pomona University

3801 West Temple Avenue
Trailer 13C
Pomona, CA 91768
ProjectRebound@cpp.edu
(909) 869-5057

Cal State San Bernardino

5500 University Parkway, FO-242
San Bernardino CA 92407
ProjectRebound@csusb.edu
(909) 537-4351

San Diego State University

5500 Campanile Drive, PSFA 101C
San Diego, CA 92182
ProjectRebound@sdsu.edu
(619) 594-2367

CSU San Marcos

Kellogg Library 1101
333 S. Twin Oaks Valley Road
San Marcos, CA 92096
ProjectRebound@csusm.edu
(760) 750-4016

The logo for The California State University, featuring the letters 'CSU' in white on a red rectangular background.

CSU

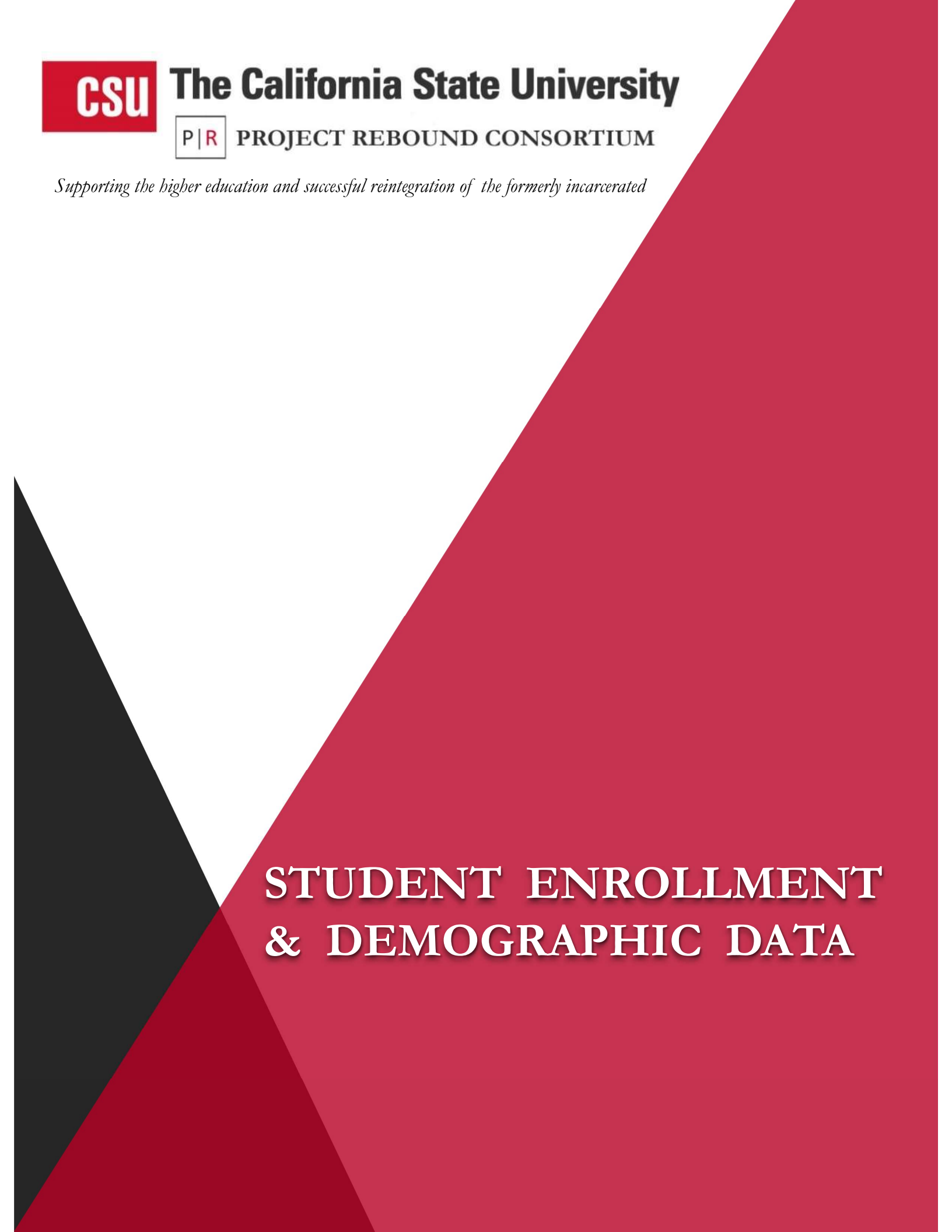
The California State University

The logo for Project Rebound Consortium, consisting of the letters 'P' and 'R' in a white box with a vertical line between them.

P|R

PROJECT REBOUND CONSORTIUM

Supporting the higher education and successful reintegration of the formerly incarcerated

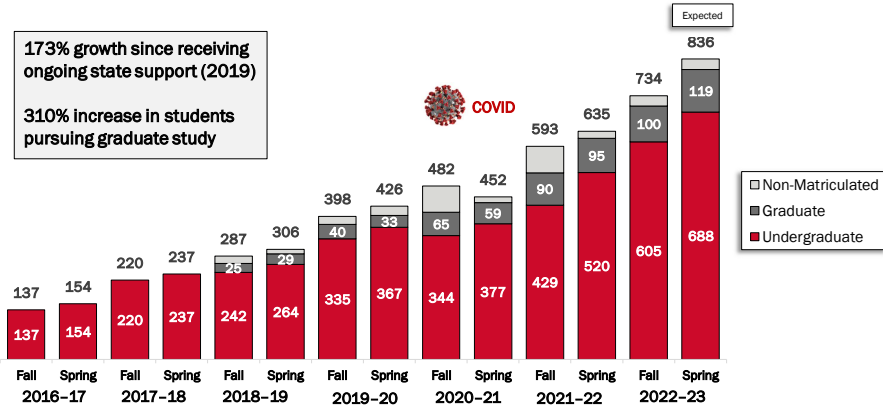
The background features a large, abstract graphic composed of several overlapping triangles. A large red triangle points from the top right towards the bottom left. A smaller, darker red triangle is nested within it, pointing from the bottom left towards the top right. A black triangle is located on the left side, pointing from the top towards the bottom. The overall composition is dynamic and geometric.

**STUDENT ENROLLMENT
& DEMOGRAPHIC DATA**

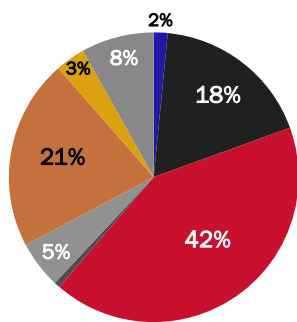
TOTAL STUDENTS ENROLLED

173% growth since receiving ongoing state support (2019)

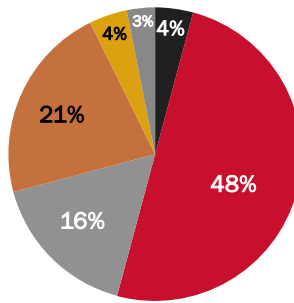
310% increase in students pursuing graduate study



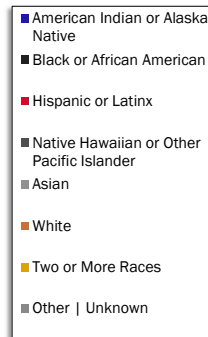
RACE/ETHNICITY



Project Rebound Students
Fall 2022

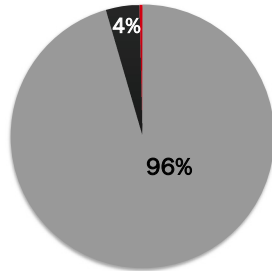


CSU Students
Fall 2022

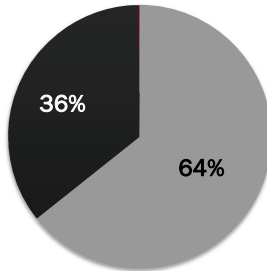


GENDER

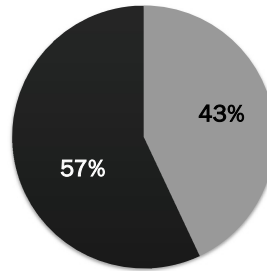
Male Female Non-Binary



State Prison Population
Feb 2023



Project Rebound Students
Fall 2022

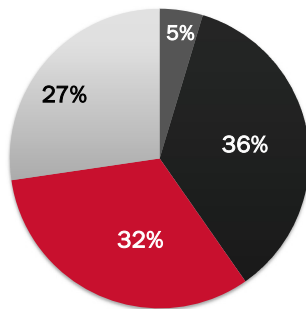


CSU Students
Fall 2022

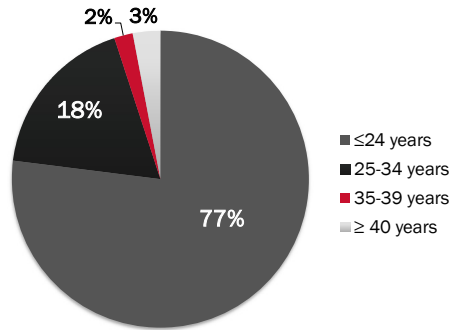


AGE

≤24 years
25-34 years
35-44 years
≥ 45 years



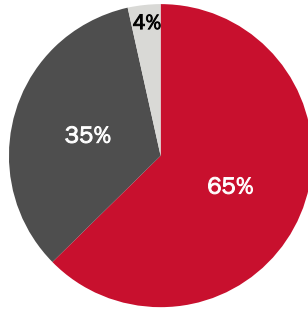
Project Rebound Students
Fall 2022



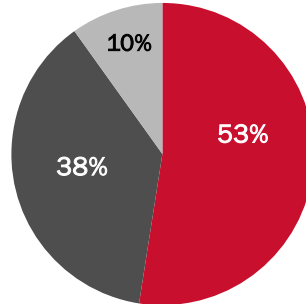
CSU Students
Fall 2022



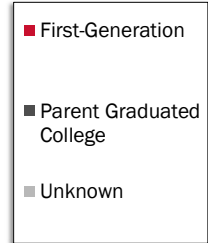
FIRST-GENERATION



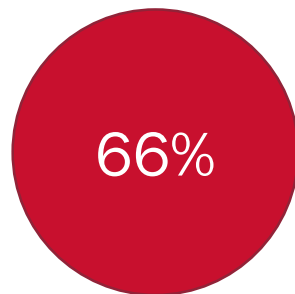
Project Rebound Students
Fall 2022



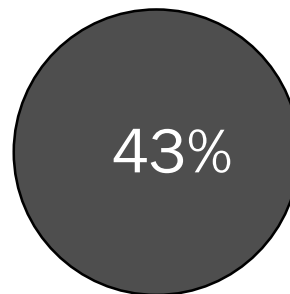
CSU Students
Fall 2022



PELL GRANT RECIPIENTS



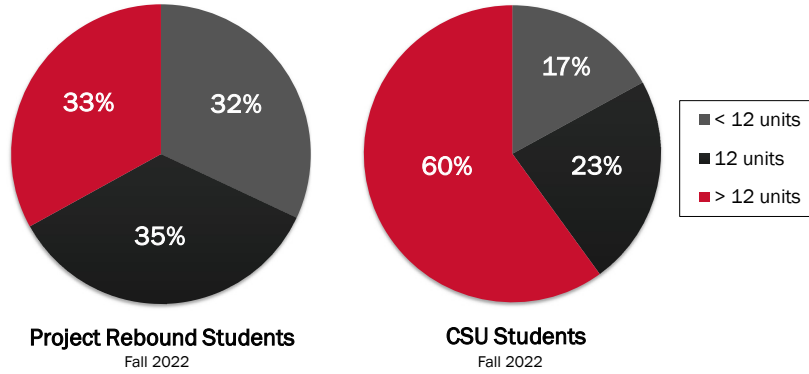
Project Rebound Students
Fall 2022



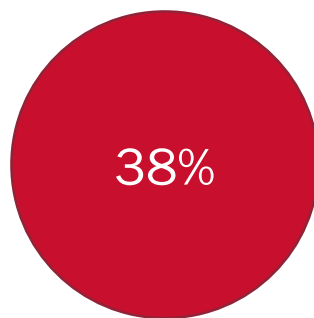
CSU Students
Fall 2021



UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC UNIT LOAD



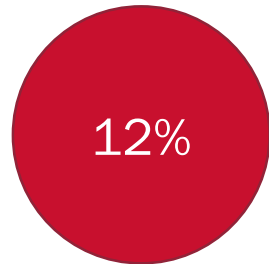
PARENTS OF MINOR CHILDREN



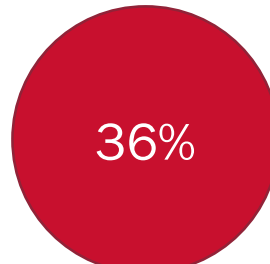
Fall 2022

Project Rebound breaks *intergenerational* cycles of poverty, undereducation, homelessness, addiction, and incarceration, thus fostering a safer, healthier, and more prosperous future for California.

PRIOR FOSTER CARE SYSTEM AND JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT

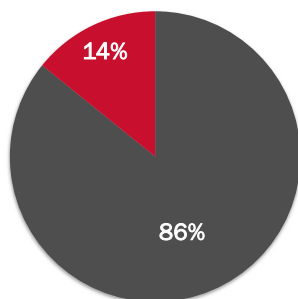


Foster Care System Involvement
Fall 2022

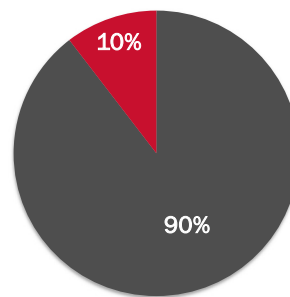


Juvenile Justice System Involvement
Fall 2022

UNDERGRADUATE VS. GRADUATE ENROLLMENT



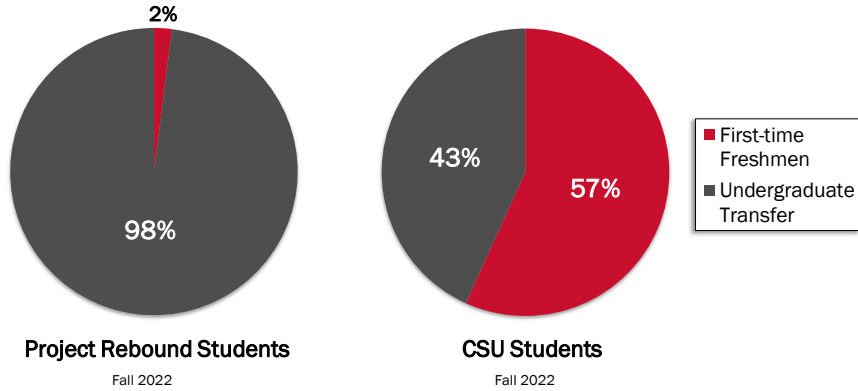
Project Rebound Students
Fall 2022



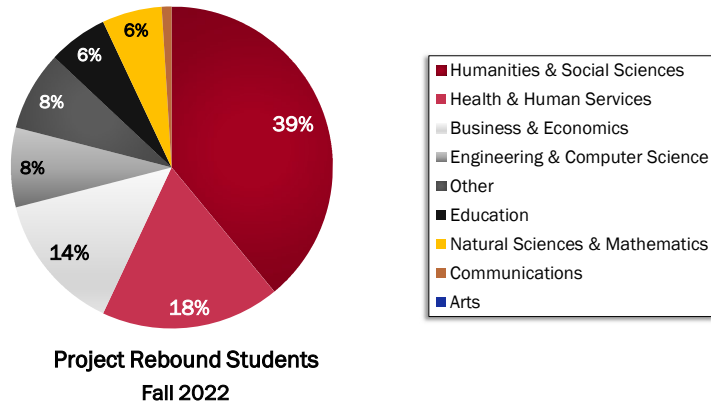
CSU Students
Fall 2022

■ Undergraduate
■ Graduate

FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN VS. TRANSFER STUDENTS FALL 2022



ACADEMIC MAJORS





The California State University

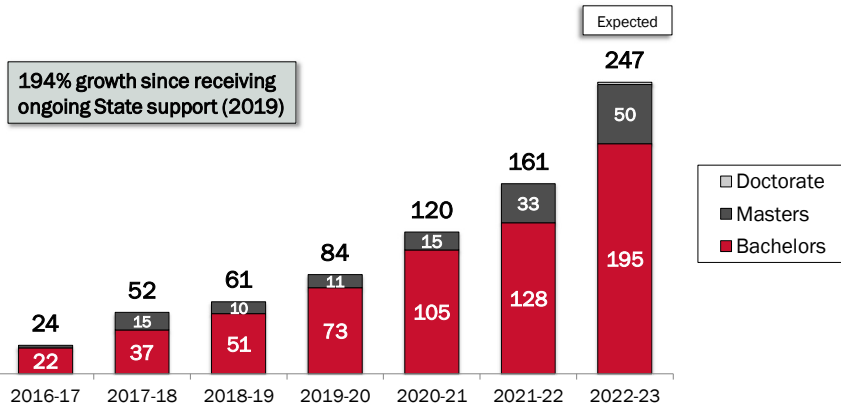


PROJECT REBOUND CONSORTIUM

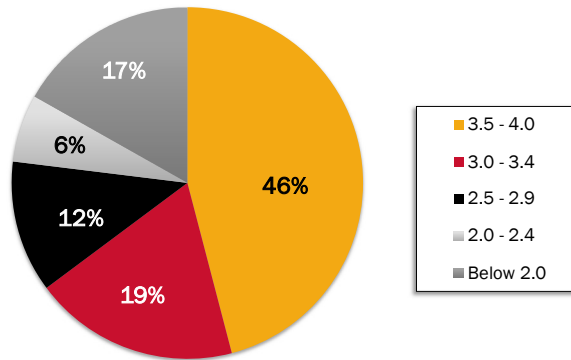
Supporting the higher education and successful reintegration of the formerly incarcerated

PROGRAM OUTCOMES DATA

TOTAL DEGREES CONFERRED

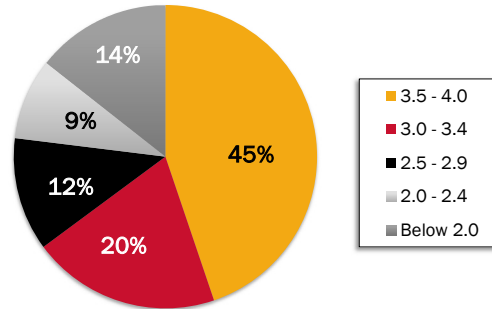


SEMESTER GRADE POINT AVERAGE



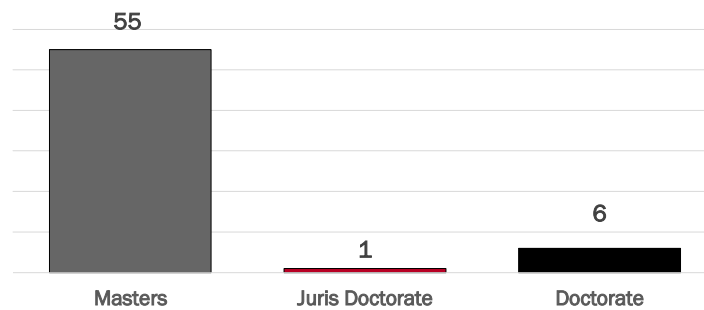
Fall 2022

SEMESTER GRADE POINT AVERAGE DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC

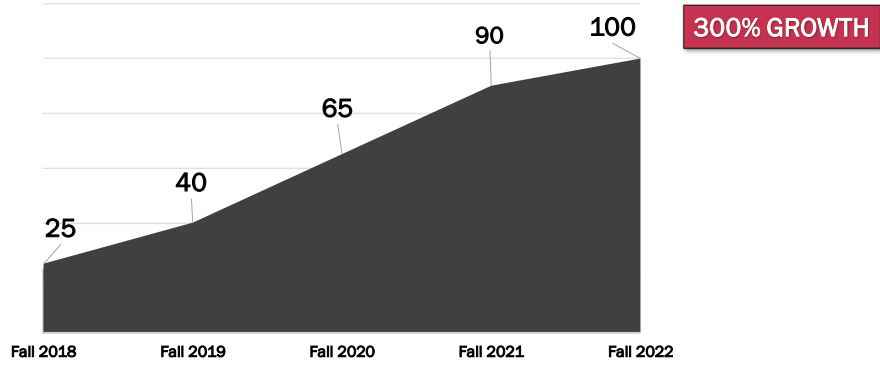


Post-COVID
Spring 2020 - Spring 2022

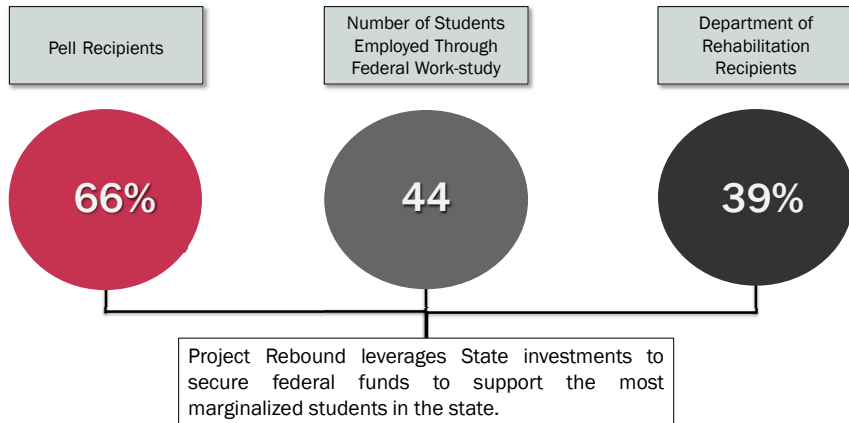
NUMBER OF STUDENTS ADMITTED TO POST-GRADUATE PROGRAMS, 2022



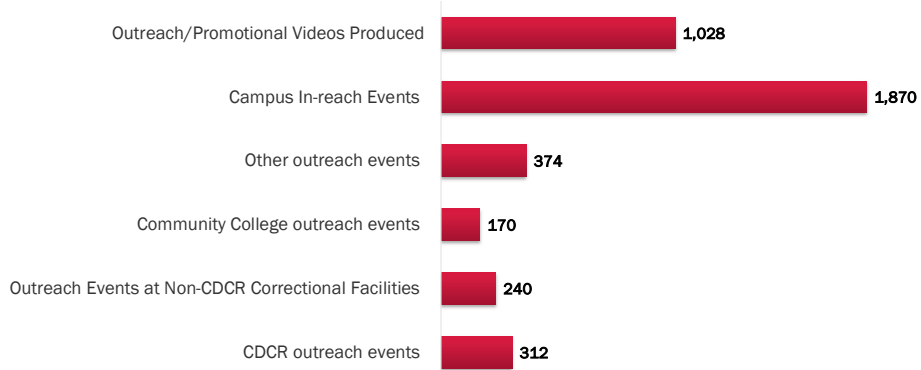
NUMBER OF PROJECT REBOUND STUDENTS ENROLLED IN GRADUATE PROGRAMS



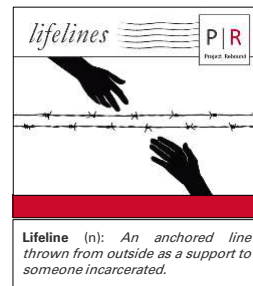
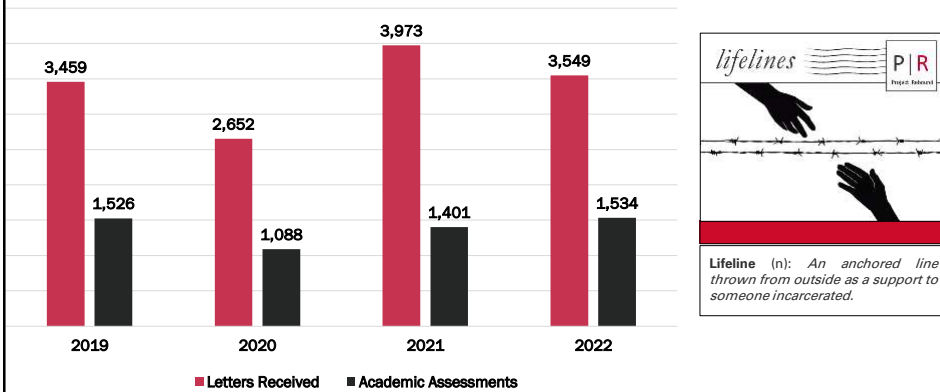
SECURING FEDERAL RESOURCES



OUTREACH & RECRUITMENT, 2022



PROVIDING INSPIRATION AND ADVISING TO CURRENTLY INCARCERATED PEOPLE

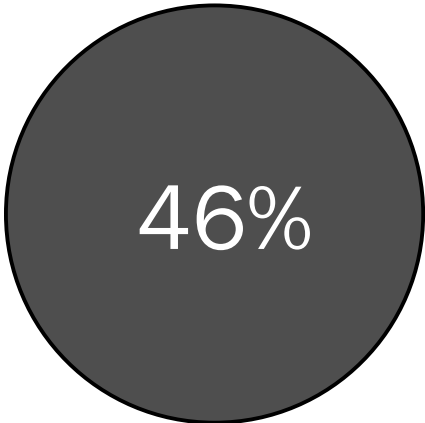


RECIDIVISM



Project Rebound Students

Fall 2022



State of California

2019



Student Basic Needs Assessment

In the Spring of 2021, experiencing how the COVID-19 pandemic was exacerbating the housing and food insecurities of Project Rebound students, the CSU Project Rebound Consortium conducted a Basic Needs Assessment. The survey was taken by 322 Project Rebound students from fourteen campuses, which constituted 71% of the 452 students enrolled at the time that the survey was distributed. The survey confirmed the distressing impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic had on one of the CSU's most marginalized student populations in 2020 and 2021. Here is a snapshot of the survey findings:

- **Unemployment**: 58% of Project Rebound students reported that they lacked stable employment during the prior 12 months, and 41% became unemployed, 61% of whom were unable to access unemployment benefits.
- **Financial hardship**: 65% of Project Rebound students report that it has been difficult or extremely difficult for them and their families to pay for basic needs (e.g., food, housing, transportation, utilities) during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Housing insecurity**: 27% of Project Rebound students report that they or a member of their household needed to apply for housing subsidies, allowances, or register for eviction protection due to COVID-19.
- **Food insecurity**: 66% of Project Rebound students reported that in the past 30 days they often or sometimes couldn't afford to eat balanced meals.
- **Family obligations**: 38% of Project Rebound student survey respondents are parents of minor children, and 28% of Project Rebound students report spending more than 40 hours per week on average attending to family obligations while enrolled in school.
- **Essential workers**: 60% of Project Rebound students were employed or volunteered as essential workers during the heights of the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., in agriculture, education, emergency services, food service and delivery, healthcare), working an average of 28 hours per week.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF CONSORTIUM SYSTEM-WIDE STATE BUDGET
 FY 2022-2023 (Fall Revise)

	Section I	Section II	Section III
	Base Allocation	One-Time Operations Allocation	Total
Administrative Campus (Fullerton)			
Consortium Administration	\$ 580,003	\$ 25,000	\$ 605,003
Campus Apportionments for Direct Student Support		\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
Systemwide Staff Professional Development	\$ 125,000		\$ 125,000
Innovative Initiatives RFP		\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
Juvenile Justice Engagement RFP		\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Web Development		\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000
Grant Development		\$ 112,500	\$ 112,500
Learning Community & Convenings	\$ 135,000		\$ 135,000
Strategic Planning		\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Systemwide Program Assessment		\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Reserve		\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
Administrative Campus Total	\$ 840,003	\$ 3,897,500	\$ 4,737,503
Member Campuses			
Bakersfield	\$ 302,500	\$ 41,000	\$ 343,500
Fresno	\$ 330,000	\$ 82,000	\$ 412,000
Fullerton	\$ 330,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 480,000
Long Beach	\$ 275,000	\$ 87,740	\$ 362,740
Los Angeles	\$ 330,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 360,000
Northridge	\$ 275,000	\$ 32,000	\$ 307,000
Pomona	\$ 300,662	\$ -	\$ 300,662
Sacramento	\$ 330,000	\$ 94,804	\$ 424,804
San Bernardino	\$ 302,500	\$ -	\$ 302,500
San Diego	\$ 302,500	\$ 37,500	\$ 340,000
San Francisco	\$ 302,510	\$ 41,918	\$ 344,428
Member Campus Total	\$ 3,380,672	\$ 596,962	\$ 3,977,634
Expansion Campuses			
Humboldt	\$ 180,000	\$ -	\$ 180,000
San Marcos	\$ 103,652	\$ 60,000	\$ 163,652
Stanislaus	\$ 149,804	\$ 25,000	\$ 174,804
Expansion Campus Total	\$ 433,456	\$ 85,000	\$ 518,456
TOTAL CONSORTIUM BUDGET	\$ 4,654,131	\$ 4,579,462	\$ 9,233,593

Beginning with the 2023-24 fiscal year, the Project Rebound Consortium plans to employ a differential funding formula, currently in development, to equitably and transparently augment and sustain support for Project Rebound Consortium member campus programs. Plans are to join a standard baseline operating budget with augmented baseline funding based on fulltime equivalent student enrollment in campus programs. Baseline allocations will be supplemented by one-time funding allocations, including an equity allocation tied to indices of student need such as number of Pell Grant recipients, students who have exhausted their lifetime Pell Grant eligibility, AB 540 students, and student parents of minor children, as well as a student success allocation informed by campus program outcomes like persistence and graduation metrics.



The California State University



PROJECT REBOUND CONSORTIUM

Supporting the higher education and successful reintegration of the formerly incarcerated



STRATEGIC PLAN

2019-2024

Ratified Unanimously by the Consortium Executive Committee on August 27, 2019
Endorsed by Lead President Framroze Virjee on December 2, 2019
Approved by Chancellor Timothy White on February 5, 2020



STRATEGIC PLAN

2019-2024

Introduction

Developed collaboratively by the CSU Project Rebound Consortium, ratified unanimously by its Executive Committee, and approved by Consortium Lead President Framroze Virjee (CSU Fullerton) and CSU Chancellor Timothy P. White, this Strategic Plan articulates the history, mission, vision, values, and goals of Project Rebound, and presents an ambitious road map for expanding and enhancing the CSU Project Rebound Consortium into a publicly funded network of campus-based programs across the California State University.

The integrity, success, and credibility of the CSU Project Rebound Consortium requires that our programs operate with a common mission, vision, and set of guiding values and goals, a joint commitment

to quality, and a shared rubric of programmatic elements and service objectives. This Strategic Plan is intended as a roadmap and a rubric to guide and hold accountable Member Campus programs within the Consortium as well as other CSU campuses that aspire to join the Consortium, create programs using the Project Rebound model and brand, and be eligible for Consortium financial support and professional development.

In order for a campus to be ratified as a member of the Consortium and for a Member Campus to remain in good standing and continue to use the Project Rebound name and brand, it must work with the Consortium Learning Community—led by the Consortium Director of Program Development, in conjunction with the Consortium Executive Committee and senior Project Rebound staff at Member Campuses—to embody the mission, vision, values, and goals as well as implement the preponderance of the Key Program Elements and Key Service Objectives articulated in this Strategic Plan.



THE NEED

The United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world, and California has the largest prison and jail systems in the country. Mass incarceration drains state budgets, depleting public resources that might otherwise be allocated to strengthen social safety nets and improve educational access and quality; it is also a significant generator of social inequality, contributing to the creation of a class of people permanently locked out of the opportunities of mainstream society, even well after release.

Formerly incarcerated people face momentous obstacles to successful reentry, including barriers related to access to affordable housing, transportation, and gainful employment. They also face tremendous roadblocks in accessing the transformative power of higher education, which for many is the pathway to a more purposeful and prosperous life.

While possessing knowledge, experience, and skill that stand to enrich the university community, formerly incarcerated students (and aspiring students) have uniquely urgent needs in navigating academic institutions, accessing the academic and student supports, and acquiring the soft skills and social capital necessary for academic and postgraduate success.

MISSION

The mission of the CSU Project Rebound Consortium is to **support the higher education and successful reintegration of the formerly incarcerated** through the mentorship and living example of other formerly incarcerated students, graduates, faculty, and staff. Project Rebound constructs a life-affirming alternative to the revolving door policies of mass incarceration by making higher education more accessible and supportive of formerly incarcerated students so that they can acquire the knowledge and skills of a university education, enhance their capacity for civic engagement and community leadership, secure meaningful and gratifying employment, empower themselves and their families, and ultimately make stronger, safer communities.

HISTORY OF PROJECT REBOUND

In 1952, John Irwin (1929-2010) robbed a gas station and served a five-year sentence for armed robbery in Soledad Prison. During his time in prison he earned 24 college credits through a university extension program. After his release from prison, Irwin earned a B.A. from UCLA, a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley, and then served as a Professor of Sociology and Criminology at San Francisco State University for 27 years, during which he became known internationally as an expert on the U.S. prison system.

In 1967, Irwin created Project Rebound as a way to matriculate people into San Francisco State University directly from the criminal justice system. Since the program's inception, hundreds of formerly incarcerated people have obtained bachelor's degrees and postgraduate degrees. In 2016, with the support of the Opportunity Institute and the CSU Chancellor Timothy White, Project Rebound expanded beyond San Francisco State into a consortium of nine CSU campus programs.



The CSU Project Rebound Consortium is now a state- and grant-funded network of programs operating at CSU campuses in Bakersfield, Fresno, Fullerton, Los Angeles, Pomona, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, and San Francisco. Since 2016, Project Rebound students system-wide have earned an overall grade point average of 3.0, have a zero percent recidivism rate, and 87% of graduates have secured full-time employment or admission to postgraduate programs.

VISION

We envision a just and equitable world in which all people, including those with an incarceration experience, have access to high-quality higher education and comprehensive student support services that foster achievement, transformation, empowerment, social responsibility, and flourishing.



GUIDING VALUES

- 1. The Intrinsic Value of Persons.** We believe that every person has inherent value and holds the power of possibility and transformation within them.
- 2. Equitable Access to Education.** We believe that access to meaningful, high-quality, face-to-face higher education is fundamental to breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty, abuse, addiction, unemployment, and confinement.
- 3. Formerly Incarcerated Leadership.** We believe that the integration, education, and leadership of formerly incarcerated people are essential to the work of creating solutions to the social crisis of mass incarceration.
- 4. Education as Public Safety.** We believe that meaningful, high-quality higher education ultimately makes stronger, safer communities; we believe that public resources are better invested in education and other opportunities for transformation than prisons and punishment.
- 5. Civic Engagement.** We believe that community engagement is at once a right, a responsibility, and a means of empowerment; we aim to inspire all Rebound Scholars to be informed and engaged civic agents.



KEY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

1. **Foster a college-going culture among and build recruitment pathways for currently and formerly incarcerated people.**
 - a. Conduct off-campus and on-campus outreach, recruitment, and informational sessions, including in jails/prisons.
 - b. Respond to all letters and inquiries.
 - c. Communicate with potential applicants regarding admissions requirements and processes.
2. **Help prospective students prepare, apply, and matriculate.**
 - a. Conduct initial college assessment and provide detailed feedback to prospective students.
 - b. Help prospective students develop an admissions plan.
 - c. Help prospective students apply for admission.
 - d. Help prospective students apply for financial aid.
 - e. Help prospective students complete the steps needed to enroll.
 - f. Help prospective students remove obstacles to academic enrollment (e.g., filing appeal forms for admissions, loan rehabilitation, probationary forms, etc.).
3. **Support enrolled students to persist, graduate, and pursue career options.**
 - a. Provide referrals and connections to reentry service providers.
 - b. Support students to obtain appropriate academic advising.
 - c. Help students register for courses and navigate campus technology, such as course management systems.
 - d. Help students develop study skills and other “soft” skills needed to succeed.
 - e. Provide direct financial support to assist with critical needs such as books, school supplies, transportation, meals, application and test fees, based on available resources.
 - f. Maintain an environment that cultivates inclusive community and a sense of belonging among students.

4. **Support enrolled students to participate in student life and leadership, community service, and civic engagement.**
 - a. Advise and assist students to create and maintain an active student club or organization as appropriate.
 - b. Cultivate supportive relations and advocate with Associated Students.
 - c. Cultivate supportive relations and advocate with local, state, and federal elected officials.
 - d. Encourage student community service and civic engagement.

5. **Establish and foster empowering networks among Project Rebound alumni and students.**
 - a. Build and maintain a Project Rebound Alumni Association.
 - b. Host or foster events that bring Project Rebound alumni and existing Project Rebound students together.
 - c. Leverage Project Rebound alumni success to create opportunities for other Project Rebound alumni, graduates, and students (e.g., internships, fellowships, jobs).





KEY PROGRAM ELEMENTS

1. The programmatic anchor of Project Rebound is a full-time **Program Director or Coordinator** who (a) at a minimum possesses a bachelor's degree, (b) has an incarceration experience, and (c) has experience successfully navigating a university campus that enables them to effectively mentor formerly incarcerated students and build community among formerly incarcerated students and the wider university community. Program Coordinators are entry-level and/or do not supervise non-student staff. Program Directors have at least two years experience running student support or reentry support or related programs. Larger and more developed programs may have additional staff responsible for coordinating, for example, outreach or housing. Priority for such coordinating positions should likewise be given to people possessing experience both with incarceration and university campus life.

2. The Program Director or Coordinator reports to an **Executive Director** who is a tenure-track faculty, MPP, or senior staff member and who has an incarceration

experience and/or has a demonstrated commitment to the empowerment of people whose lives have been directly impacted by the criminal justice system. The Executive Director oversees executive and administrative duties, including supporting and supervising the Program Director or Coordinator, hiring and retaining competent, qualified staff, overseeing campus program budgets, and serving as the primary liaison between the campus program and the Consortium, as well as between the campus program and the campus President, Vice Presidents, Deans, and other administrators. The Executive Director serves as Principal Investigator for intramural and external grants and contracts, coordinates their campus with the Consortium Learning Community, provides reports and information requested by the Consortium in a timely manner on behalf of their campus, and actively engages in development such as philanthropic fundraising and/or grant writing and reporting, and/or other program development work that directly supports and enhances the scope of opportunity for formerly incarcerated students and staff.

3. Every campus program must have a **central, accessible physical location on campus** with a unique mailing address and phone number) that contains meeting space that provides opportunity for both privacy and community.

4. Every campus program must foster an environment that cultivates **inclusive community** and a sense of belonging among students.

5. Every campus program must maintain strong **relationships with partners and champions across campus**, especially in Admissions, Financial Aid, Academic and Student Affairs, Associated Students, University Advancement, Career Services, Contracts and Grants, Human Resources, and University Outreach.

6. Every campus program must have established and effective processes for student advising and assistance with registration, academic planning, tutoring, and other **academic supports**.

7. Every campus program must foster a structured **peer support network** for Project Rebound students.

8. Every campus program must, based on available funds, provide **direct student financial support** to assist with critical needs such as books, school supplies, transportation, meals, housing, application and test fees, graduation costs, regalia, stoles, or other related needs.

9. Every campus program must build and maintain strong **relationships with external partners** such as prisons/jails, probation and parole departments, community-based organizations and reentry service providers who can assist Rebound students with housing, food security, legal services, and other aspects of transition and wellness.

10. Every campus must establish and maintain strong **collaborative partnerships with local community colleges** to strengthen the prison to college pipeline.



CSU

The California State University

P|R

PROJECT REBOUND CONSORTIUM

GOALS AND GROWTH PLAN

FOR 2019-2024





GOALS AND GROWTH PLAN: OVERVIEW

- 1. Grow and improve the existing CSU Project Rebound Consortium.**
- 2. Expand the CSU Project Rebound Consortium to include new member campuses.**
- 3. Strengthen opportunities for the holistic healing, development, and success of formerly incarcerated students.**
- 4. Engage in public education and advocacy in order to inspire other institutions of higher education and build a movement to promote equity and social justice for people directly impacted by mass incarceration.**
- 5. Conduct rigorous research and program evaluation to facilitate progressive program improvement and produce knowledge that educates the public and centers the agency and humanity of formerly incarcerated people.**

GROW AND IMPROVE THE EXISTING CSU PROJECT REBOUND CONSORTIUM

GOAL 1



The first strategic priority of the CSU Project Rebound Consortium is to strengthen existing programs and build the robust organizational infrastructure that will be required to thoughtfully scale our success, constructing a coordinated, longitudinally sustainable, state-funded network of campus-based student support programs.

OBJECTIVES

- Develop, strengthen, and increase the organizational capacity and effectiveness of the original nine campus programs.
- Foster inter-campus collaboration and support to increase cross-consortium program quality, integrity, consistency, and accountability.
- Develop, standardize, and publicize the Project Rebound brand as a collaborative, multi-campus consortium.
- Develop and expand post-release outreach and recruitment pathways for currently and formerly incarcerated people.
- Promote innovation, uniqueness, and appropriate autonomy among member campuses to respond to local needs while actualizing the core mission, vision, values, and goals of the CSU Project Rebound Consortium.
- Leverage state support to increase and expand external grants and philanthropic investment in campus-based and Consortium-level activities.

STRATEGIES

1. Recruit, retain, and provide ongoing meetings, workshops, professional development and networking opportunities for a high-quality and diverse faculty and staff to prepare them in supporting the academic success of Project Rebound students.

2. Construct a Consortium-wide Learning Community that fosters inter-campus collaboration and support, and increases cross-system program quality, efficiency, integrity, consistency, and accountability.

3. Create and disseminate guidelines for the consistent use of outreach, promotional, and programmatic materials that project the CSU Project Rebound Consortium as a strong, coherent, instantly recognizable brand identity.

4. Ramp up outreach and recruitment efforts on campus and in prisons (especially those that are either under-resourced or have strong college programs), parole meetings, community colleges, and community-based organizations to ensure a smooth transition from prison to the university.

5. Develop and administer an equitable annual Consortium-level general operating budget

Request for Proposal (RFP) process for existing campuses to fund innovative strategies to support the gradual increase of Project Rebound student enrollment and appropriate faculty, staff and facilities to promote Project Rebound student success.

6. Establish meaningful engagement with government agencies, community-based organizations, and employers in the implementation of Project Rebound to help coordinate services to students after release.

7. Establish an External Advisory Board for the Consortium, as well as campus-level advisory boards for each Member Campus program, with clearly articulated roles and responsibilities, comprised of active and engaged stakeholders who have an expressed interest in or knowledge of public safety, reentry, criminal justice, and/or higher education, and who are committed to advancing the mission, vision, values, and goals of the CSU Project Rebound Consortium.

8. Conduct comprehensive Project Rebound leadership training workshops for outreach and in-reach teams in order to standardize branding, mission, and communication of Project Rebound when engaging with the public.



GOAL 2

EXPAND THE CSU PROJECT REBOUND CONSORTIUM TO INCLUDE NEW MEMBER CAMPUSES

We will seek to train, support, and on-board our sister schools in the CSU that aspire to join the Project Rebound Consortium and found Project Rebound programs on their campuses. The Consortium intends to ensure that expansion takes place thoughtfully and equitably, balancing the goal of creating opportunities for formerly incarcerated students at new campuses with the prior goal of strengthening and improving our original nine campus programs.

OBJECTIVES

- Develop and implement a strategic and equitable budget allocation process for funding, training, and on-boarding additional campuses that aspire to join the CSU Project Rebound Consortium.
- Integrate emerging Project Rebound programs into a robust, supportive Learning Community of Consortium members (e.g., continuous outreach, mentoring, and program development).
- Integrate emerging Project Rebound programs into the Consortium collective governance structure.
- Assist new campus program staff with identifying formerly incarcerated students through structured outreach and in-reach events and activities.
- Help new campus programs develop strategic communications plans to promote Project Rebound in their respective regions.
- Provide continuous guidance, support, and technical assistance to foster the launch of Project Rebound on additional CSU campuses.

STRATEGIES

1. Connect with other CSU campus' orientation, recruitment and outreach departments and Student Success Teams to build a pathway for newly enrolled students to learn about Project Rebound.
2. Create a mentorship program to assist aspiring and probationary campus programs with understanding the mission, values, goals and Key Program Elements and Service Objectives of Project Rebound and help new campus staff build cross-campus relationships and community engagement.
3. Provide new staff with ongoing technical assistance on programmatic requirements, program design and curriculum development specifically structured for their location and student needs.
4. Connect returning students going to locations where there is not currently a Project Rebound to identify allies at an established Project Rebound site.
5. Conduct outreach to CSU campuses to promote interest in joining the Consortium.

**STRENGTHEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE HOLISTIC
HEALING, DEVELOPMENT, AND SUCCESS OF
FORMERLY INCARCERATED STUDENTS**

GOAL 3



We will seek to cultivate a culture of care and belonging for formerly incarcerated students on CSU campuses across the Consortium through community building, holistic peer-led and professionally supported healing practices and wraparound support that help Project Rebound students actualize their full potential.

OBJECTIVES

- Improve academic, psychosocial, and employment outcomes and reduce recidivism among formerly incarcerated students.
- Build the capacity of CSU campuses to support Project Rebound students with housing, financial, and food insecurities that compromise their ability to thrive academically.
- Cultivate cultures of care and belonging and peer-to-peer support among Project Rebound students on campus and across the Consortium through community building.
- Promote innovative and locally responsive practices that address the basic wellness needs of Project Rebound students (e.g., mental health, physical fitness, housing, and financial literacy).
- Develop an internship program and provide research and/or volunteer opportunities for Project Rebound participants.
- Establish hiring and career paths to promote career opportunities for Rebound Scholars at emerging Project Rebound programs.
- Hold regularly scheduled meetings and ongoing opportunities for systemwide networking, fellowship, and collaboration through in-person trainings, conferences and retreats to create a support network to share best practices, share challenges and successes.

STRATEGIES

1. Host regular retreats for all Project Rebound students across the Consortium community to bond, establish social networks, highlight student graduation and other academic achievements as well as issues related to physical, recovery, emotional, and spiritual wellness.
2. Create a Project Rebound Alumni Association that builds social and referral networks among Project Rebound students and alumni.
3. Develop and promote opportunities for peer mentorship among Project Rebound students and for Project Rebound students to mentor youth in the community (e.g., the Project Rebound DJJ Mentorship initiative).
4. Create and encourage opportunities for students to engage in high-impact practices.



ENGAGE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY IN ORDER TO INSPIRE OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND BUILD A MOVEMENT TO PROMOTE EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR PEOPLE DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY MASS INCARCERATION

GOAL 4



We will engage in public policy and advocacy in order to support reform related to criminal justice, access to higher education for formerly incarcerated people, fair chance hiring, voting rights, and the many collateral consequences of incarceration on local, national, and international platforms.

OBJECTIVES

- Humanize the image of currently and formerly incarcerated people in the dominant public imagination.
- Promote the voices and increase the visibility of formerly incarcerated students and staff.
- Develop opportunities for civic engagement and partnerships with advocacy and social justice organizations aimed at reducing barriers and enhancing opportunities for system impacted formerly incarcerated individuals.
- Provide scaffolded opportunities for formerly incarcerated students to take on leadership and decision-making roles.



STRATEGIES

1. Provide training and immersive learning experiences for students on public speaking, advocacy, and engagement with the media, including managing risk, protecting privacy, and conveying the humanity, assets, and knowledge of people with incarceration experiences.
2. Highlight the myriad accomplishments of Rebound Scholars and alumni at conferences, through videos, publications, and other media.
3. Increase connections between other formerly incarcerated student groups and programs and within the CSU, UC, and Community College system to ensure access and a seamless transition for students to higher education on every post-secondary level.
4. Provide seminars to departments such as academic counseling, as well as the larger campuses as a whole, to build understanding of the obstacles formerly incarcerated students face.
5. Encourage PR student participation in campus student life and leadership.
6. Work with campus partners and social justice advocates in the community to promote awareness of the effects of mass incarceration and hold on campus forums bringing awareness to the issues surrounding higher education and incarceration.
7. Collaborate with community and governmental relations and engage in outreach to state and local policymakers to build awareness of Project Rebound and support for policy change that ensures sustainability.



GOAL 5

CONDUCT RIGOROUS RESEARCH AND PROGRAM EVALUATION TO FACILITATE PROGRESSIVE PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT AND PRODUCE KNOWLEDGE THAT EDUCATES THE PUBLIC AND CENTERS THE AGENCY AND HUMANITY OF SYSTEM-IMPACTED PEOPLE

We will develop and implement holistic formative and summative program assessment, designed with formerly incarcerated stakeholder input, to identify and articulate the specific needs of formerly incarcerated students and the effectiveness of Project Rebound programmatic activities in meeting those needs and fostering student success (e.g., student retention, graduation, recidivism, employment, and wellness).

OBJECTIVES

- Construct and administer a Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify and employ a research team to coordinate a Consortium-wide formative and summative program assessment agenda that satisfies State Government reporting requirements, facilitates progressive program improvement, and produces knowledge that educates the public.
- Investigate the difficulties formerly incarcerated people face upon reentry and identify productive interventions.
- Collect quantitative and qualitative data to be used for assessing program effectiveness specific to program progress towards meeting expected objectives, tracking students' academic progress and participation, and providing feedback for program improvement.

STRATEGIES

1. Develop a comprehensive data collection, management, and evaluation system to inform program development and to communicate program outcomes (e.g., social integration, self-efficacy, retention rates, graduation rates, reduce recidivism).
2. Design and administer standardized mixed-method evaluation processes that include quantitative and qualitative aspects to assess programmatic strengths and weaknesses and measure student success using a host of metrics.
3. Disseminate research findings in the effort to facilitate progressive program improvement, shape policy, support advocacy, and inform public discussions related to criminal justice and higher education.