

## THE ISSUE

Our state has a prison problem. Recidivism is defined as the tendency to relapse into a previous condition or mode of behavior; especially relapse into criminal behavior. We need to rethink prison as a punishment and begin to utilize it as place to end the destructive cycle of crime and addiction.

Post-secondary education is a proven and powerful part of reducing recidivism. BEST seeks to emulate the success of the Prison Entrepreneurship Program in Texas whose graduates have a 7% recidivism rate, saving taxpayers millions of dollars, and increasing the safety of the community.

*"Participation in prison education, including both academic and vocational programming, was associated with an over 40% reduction in recidivism-saving \$4 to \$5 for each dollar spent." -2013 RAND Corporation Study*



46% OF RELEASED INMATES RETURN TO PRISON WITHIN 3 YEARS



\$62 Mil ANNUAL COST TO REINCARCERATE THE 46%



60% OF RE-INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS WERE WITHOUT EMPLOYMENT WHEN PICKED UP AGAIN



UNITED STATES HAS 5% OF WORLD'S POPULATION



25% OF WORLD'S PRISONERS ARE IN THE UNITED STATES



33% OF INCARCERATED FEMALES IN THE WORLD ARE IN THE UNITED STATES

## SUCCESS



*BEST graduates turn to receive recognition from the audience.*

**BEST Graduates**

**BEST Graduates reincarcerated**

**BEST Graduates released as of \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ % recidivism**

BEST started October 21, 2014 at Charles Bass Correctional Complex. Eighteen men graduated with their own business plan after spending six hours per day together, Monday through Friday for six months. BEST moved to the Tennessee Prison for Women after CBCX closed. Over 80 volunteers have been involved in each cohort.

Electronic tablets, provided by partner Innertainment Delivery Systems, deliver curriculum, including the Nashville Entrepreneur Center PreFlight materials, a variety of TED Talks and documents. Belmont students serve as EntrePartners in the development of business plans by doing vital research and consulting.



*Karen Vander Molen directs class discussion.*

## GRADUATES



NOT ONLY DOES THE ADVICE AND STRATEGIES IMPACT ME, BUT IT ALLOWS ME TO SHARE THIS KNOWLEDGE I'VE LEARNED WITH THOSE IN NEED OF HELP AS WELL.

**ANTHONY, COHORT 1 2014-2015**



ALL I CAN CONTINUE TO DO IS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS FRESH START, LEARN GROW AND GAIN ALL KNOWLEDGE DAILY TO PURSUE MY HOPES AND DREAMS.

**CHRISTINE, COHORT 2 2015-2016**



I'M JUST REMINDED HOW IN-DEPTH BEST IS. I LOVED EVERY DAY OF CARVING OUT A BETTER FUTURE.

**TAMIKYO, COHORT 3 2016-2017**



THIS PROGRAM IS THE MOST AMAZING, LIFE CHANGING PROGRAM IN THE WORLD!!

**KRISTINA, COHORT 4 2017-2018**

