

FS NEWS: Falling Leaves Edition

Hello Fair Shake Readers!

As you begin to read the newsletter, I want you to know that we are a 2,488-strong force for GOOD.

It's travel season again and I've just returned from Idaho where they have been utilizing the Fair Shake software for more than 4 years. The folks in the institutions wanted me to shout out to the donors with a big THANK YOU for making it possible for me to connect with them – in person – so that we could have conversations about building our reentry safety net together. There are a lot of great things going on in the education department there! Too many to list, but hopefully I will have a promo video – entirely created and edited inside the institution by incarcerated learners– to share on the website and in the software soon!

I would also like to thank you, Donors, for your dedicated support...which is allowing me to increase the amount of pages that I can include in each reply to requests for information. Since one ounce is \$.55 and an extra ounce is just \$.15, I've decided that the folks who write...and are unable to receive the newsletter, should receive a copy of the most recent newsletter and the free books list, in addition to the 5 double-sided flyers that I've been sending out for years. As we grow our network I believe that we will soon be able to include and incorporate their ideas, too!

And finally, Donors...who I count as folks who donate to our collective knowledge base as well...thank you for sharing your correspondence course suggestions, which I've sent to Paul in the penitentiary in Indiana, and also your reflections to my question for the conference. I'm excited to share the responses to both below. We can't build a better future without building our network! Ubuntu!!

FREEDOM POTENTIAL FACTORS

Shared by Fair Shake readers...answering the question "What traits, strengths, skills, knowledge or other attributes could a person demonstrate to show they are adequately prepared to address concerns for safety and security, while simultaneously addressing their needs for social engagement, civic participation, and the multifaceted challenges of reentry success?" (By the way, the folks in Idaho were STUNNED by this idea and question ~ :)

The list was very long, so I concentrated it into the 20 top factors:

1. Communication / Networking / Listening Skills / Bilingual
2. Vision and foresight
3. Perseverance, Will Power, Dedication, Discipline, Sacrifice, Self-Control, Patience, Passion
4. Humility, Fallible, generous in spirit toward others, Humanness, Reflection
5. Willingness to learn, accrued life-long education, actively involved in education of all kinds, inquisitive
6. Positive relationships, love & respect for self & others, family, friends, relational,
7. Faith, belief in yourself, belief in opportunities, potential, relationships, support network
8. Ownership, Accountability for choices, resiliency, realistic and transformed perspective, involved
9. Creativity
10. Confidence
11. Trust, Loyalty, Integrity
12. Open-Mindedness

13. Critical thinking, boundaries, disengagement from non-supportive people, values
14. Tolerance, Compassion, Volunteerism, Give Back to Community
15. Expression of universal connectedness
16. Adaptability, willingness to change
17. Initiative, Drive, Autonomy, Agency,
18. 'Democratic' (fair and just for all), civic participation, social engagement
19. Health awareness (mind and body)
20. Holistic approach! ("risks" are fluid)

Thoughts???

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A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY BACK FROM BOISE

I decided not to open my computer on the flight home and, instead, pulled out the document "Training to See Risk: Measuring the Accuracy of Clinical and Actuarial Risk Assessments Among Federal Probation Officers". The person sitting next to me said "I couldn't help but see the title of the article you're reading. Do you mind if I ask you what you do?" He told me he is a programmer for a software company that builds assessment and case plan tools for jails, prisons and parole and probation. We spent the remainder of the flight discussing how assessment tools work, where they fall short, and why the tools don't include 'Freedom Potential Factors'. He said they use the term 'protection factors' so I started contemplating the idea of Freedom PROTECTION Factors. I'm curious to hear what you think!

INCARCERATION NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

PA: Encouraging Clemency Requests

Pennsylvania gives automatic life sentences for first-degree murder, felony murder, and participation in a felony that results in a death. Plus, Pennsylvania is one of only five states that exclude all lifers from parole consideration. As a result, Pennsylvania is home to 10% of the nation's prisoners, 5400, serving life without parole. Even as violent crime fell 20.9% statewide from 2003 to 2015, the lifer population grew 39.7%. Today, PA Lt. Gov. John Fetterman is pleading with lifers to apply for clemency. Fetterman has made clemency reform a focus, eliminating application fees, embarking on a project to streamline and digitize applications, and seeking to turn what has been an opaque process into a transparent, accessible one.

FL: Judge Blocks "Poll Tax" created to restrict formerly incarcerated from voting!!

As we all know, the citizens of Florida were finally able to restore voting rights to 1.5 million formerly incarcerated citizens. The Republican Governor and the Republican-controlled Legislators, however, thought they could circumnavigate the will of the voters and continue to suppress predominantly-Democrat voters by refusing the right to vote to anyone with fines or costs stemming from convictions. Federal Judge Robert Hinkle, in Tallahassee, issued a preliminary injunction last week, and cited his 2005 statement: "access to the franchise cannot be made to depend on an individual's financial resources." The battle is not yet over, however. Florida can challenge the injunction or postpone action until the trial, which is set for April 2020.

ID: Reentry One Stop Shops – the first two opened in Boise and Idaho Falls

Reentry One Stop Shop @ Center for Hope

530 E Anderson St. Idaho Falls, ID 83401 208-538-1888

<http://www.centerforhopeif.com/>

Idaho DOC Reentry One Stop Shop

8620 Emerald St Ste. 150 Boise, ID 83704 208-605-4611 Mentors available!

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES:

Thank you, Readers, for helping me get this list off to Paul, the person in the Indiana Penitentiary who was looking for “\$500/class credit-bearing courses to take. Other suggestions were sent in, but did not include contact or program information. I pursued all leads, but only these ‘proofed’. If you can increase this list, please send complete contact information and available courses or programs. (CAVEAT: I did not vet these schools to find out if they are for-profit or not-for-profit and I am always suspicious of business schools as they are most likely to be ‘for profit’ and have ‘certificates’ that not valid at universities should you wish to pursue a higher degree. I suspect the same is true for ‘religious studies’.)

Adams State University, 208 Edgemont Boulevard, Alamosa, CO 81101 800-548-6679
Arizona State University, 1151 South Forest Avenue, Tempe, AZ 85287
Blackstone Career Institute, 1011 Brookside Road Suite 300, Allentown, PA 18106
California Coast University 925 N Spurgeon St, Santa Ana, CA 92701
Ohio University, 281 West Lane Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210
Ohio University Undergraduate Courses Chubb Hall 120 , 1 Ohio University Athens, OH 45701
Louisiana State University 2148 Pleasant Hall Baton Rouge, LA 70803 Phone: 833-280-5634
UW Platteville 1 University Plaza, Platteville, WI 53818 (608) 342-1491
Upper Iowa University 605 Washington St Fayette , Iowa 52142
University of South Dakota 414 East Clark Street McKusick Center, Room 211 Vermillion, SD 57069

Religious Studies:

Christian Bible College and Seminary GECCS P.O Box 230805 Montgomery, Alabama 36123
Ashworth College 6625 The Corners Parkway, Suite 500 Norcross, Georgia 30092
Catholic Doors Ministry P.O. Box 7615 Saskatoon, SK, S7K 4R4, Canada

Of course there is always the CLEP and DANTES!

Did you know that you can ‘test out of’ about 35 100 and 200 level courses for \$80 per exam? These exams are offered and accepted in more than 1800 universities around the country. If you’re interested, ask an internet-connected person to check out: <https://clep.collegeboard.org/exams> or <https://www.dantes.doded.mil/>

THINKING OF BECOMING A HEMP FARMER?

Hemp news is exciting these days! It is rarely dismal, as it was when I was making hemp-based body care products in the 90’s....like when the FDA seized a train car full of bird seed coming in from Canada and declared it illegal according to an “Interpretive Rule” they made up (but which, ultimately did not stand up in court). Last year’s approval of the Farm Bill, which included growing hemp, was immediately followed by a USDA license restriction: a 10-year ineligibility ban on individuals convicted of a state or felony-controlled substance charge any time after December 20, 2018. States like Illinois and Texas, apparently, are working to remediate this limitation, but for now, it stands as a federal ban. For more information on this article and hemp farming in the US, write to: Hemp Industries Association, 24 W. Camelback Rd. #A449, Phoenix, AZ 85013

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A UPS DRIVER?

The Fair Shake office is about to open (after 10 years, it’s moving out of my home!) and the UPS driver who delivers there said that they cannot keep up with demand! They are adding two days soon and the work day will soon increase to 14 hours. He started just 5 years ago and is ‘climbing the ladder’ quickly. When he started, Amazon was 20% of their business and now it’s 65%. They are purported to have a great benefits packages and I’ve heard from many employees that they are not shy to hire formerly incarcerated folks.

FAIR SHAKE IS NOT AN INFORMATION BOOTH:

Sorry, but I can do no personal work for anyone. I run Fair Shake completely by myself, although my partner, Vern, sometimes helps me respond to emails. Neither of us are equipped to accommodate individual requests for state, federal or legal information. I build the website, the data base and the software - and keep everything free - to provide unlimited and unrestricted access to anyone and everyone...including family members, case managers and institutions through the software. We must all work on getting more resources into the institutions! I will commit to doing my part by constantly adding information to the website and annual software updates!

BOOK REVIEW:

I have 4 books going right now...all of which I recommend, but none of which I have finished. I was going to finish one for this issue of the newsletter, but got side-tracked by wanting to recommend a book by Vine Deloria, Jr. (because I wanted to include his quote below). Instead of finishing one of the 4 books, I ordered "Red Earth, White Lies: Native Americans and the Myth of Scientific Fact". I'll have a review on that for the next issue and if you have read it and would like to share your reflections, I could include a few lines in the newsletter!

My current reading list is:

- *The Tyranny of Metrics by Jerry Z. Muller
- *Education In A Time Between Worlds by Zak Stein
- *Why They Do It by Eugene Soltes (about white collar crime)
- *The Cartoon Guide to Statistics by Larry Gonick & Woollcott Smith

Quote: from Vine Deloria, Jr., through an interview with Derrick Jensen

"Now, every society needs educated people, but the primary responsibility of educated people must be to bring wisdom back into the community and make it available to others. Because of hierarchies, European thinkers have not performed their proper social function. Instead, science and philosophy have taken the path already taken by Western religion and mystified themselves. The people who occupy the top positions in science, religion, and politics have one thing in common: they are responsible for creating a technical language incomprehensible to the rest of us, so that we will cede to them our right and responsibility to think. They, in turn, formulate a set of beautiful lies that lull us to sleep and distract us from our troubles, eventually depriving us of all rights including, increasingly, the right to a livable world."

I have another newsletter worth of information built up which I plan to send soon ~ :)

To our successful transitions ~

Ubuntu! ~ sue

Fair Shake

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Westby, WI 54667

As always, remember to look up free support in your phone-gizmo:

2-1-1

Fairshake.net

Rzero.org

And HelpYourselfTherapy.com