

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: FLORIDA PRISON EDUCATION PROJECT

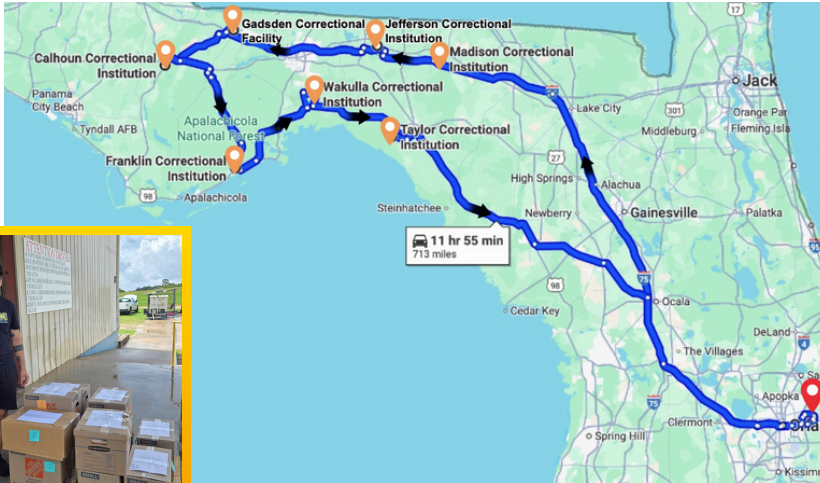
Congratulations to Florida Prison Education Project students at Polk Correctional Institution who recently completed Income Taxes I with Dr. Elio Alfonso, Associate Professor of Accounting at the University of Tampa.

This course teaches students to prepare accurate and complete income tax returns.



FCHEP UPDATES

BOOKS BEHIND BARS: DELIVERING TO REGION I



To donate books to FCHEP, contact:
michael.kostis@ucf.edu

FCHEP donates books **4** times a year to prisons within each region of the Florida Department of Corrections.

For our Quarter 3 donation, we donated over **2,000 books to 7 prisons**, serving over **8,000 people incarcerated in Florida**.

This November, we will be donating **thousands** of books to **7 prisons** in **Region 4** (South Florida).

TEACHER'S EXPERIENCE INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT

Teaching at the correctional facility, specifically Everglades Correctional, has been transformative in many ways. On a professional level, it has allowed me to refine my pedagogical skills, since teaching in a correctional setting presents unique challenges not encountered on the outside.

On a personal level, teaching at Everglades Correctional has shown me the transformative power of education and how individual actions can contribute to that cause. I have the opportunity to see students progress from start to finish and to witness the impact of my lectures. Most importantly, I can contribute positively to their futures despite their past.

Jairo R. Ledesma
Associate Professor, History & Sociology
Charles A. and Carrie Mastronardi Endowed Teaching Chair
Communications, Humanities, & Social Sciences
Miami-Dade College



EVENTS

October 9, 2025

6 PM - 7:30 PM

Community Spring Open House
218 NW 2nd Ave, Gainesville

October 16, 2025

1 PM - 3 PM

**Central Florida Reentry Network:
Struggle to Strength**
1392 E. Vine St., Kissimmee, FL

October 24-26, 2025

**Florida Restorative Justice Association's
Down South Conference**
St. Paul's United Methodist Church,
Tallahassee, Florida

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

Lady Perez

Musan, MSW is a
psychotherapist
researcher and
advocate
committed to



mental health and higher education
for system-impacted communities.
Formerly incarcerated herself, she
brings both lived experience and
professional expertise to her work,
bridging the gap between research,
practice, and policy. She is the
founder of MIND Whole Wellness, a
growing initiative dedicated to
holistic and trauma-informed care,
and she provides psychotherapy
throughout Florida with a focus on
evidence-based and mindfulness
approaches.

Contact: funcke@umich.edu

FCHEP IN ACTION

Are you passionate about expanding access to higher education in prisons? Join us at the Florida Coalition for Higher Education in Prison (FCHEP) and become part of a transformative movement. Whether you're interested in volunteering with us, partnering organizations, or simply learning more, FCHEP is your gateway to involvement.



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