



ANNUAL REPORT

"He who opens a school door, closes a prison."
— Victor Hugo

FY 2025



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<https://cah.ucf.edu/fpep>



**FLORIDA PRISON
EDUCATION PROJECT**

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”

- Malcolm X

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*Thank
You*

TO OUR SUPPORTERS

FPEP provides educational opportunities to incarcerated and system-impacted people and researches the societal benefits of prison education.

Because of your support, this fiscal year we...

- Taught **20 classes** in **4 correctional institutions** to **179** incarcerated students
- Tutored **20 incarcerated students** working on their **GEDs**
- Awarded **179** Continuing Education Certificates
- Donated **30,000** books to prisons throughout the state
- Launched the **Florida Coalition for Higher Education in Prison**, a statewide network
- Hosted ***Amplifying Voices***, an FCHEP symposium
- Released the **4th** season of FPEP's Podcast, ***The Unheard Society***



LOOKING AHEAD

Next year, FPEP will invite more organizations to join the Florida Coalition for Higher Education in Prison, offer more classes, begin a peer mentoring program, and involve more faculty and students in this important community initiative.

Thank you for your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keri Watson".

Keri Watson

Director, Florida Prison Education Project and
Florida Coalition for Higher Education in Prison

"I am eternally grateful to the Florida Prison Education Project and UCF for their instructors. They are very good at broadening our minds."

*- Michael Taylor
(FPEP Student)*

2024

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Raised **\$5,427.84** in private donations
- Received a 3-year **\$750,000** grant from the **Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**
- Received **\$120,000** from the **Laughing Gull Foundation**



(Left) **Michael Kostis, FCHEP Coordinator**, and student volunteers delivered **thousands** of books to prisons throughout the state.



(Above) Student volunteers sorted and packed books.

OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

- Sponsored **11 faculty** at the FCTL Summer Institute
- Mentored **25 undergraduate student** volunteers from across majors
- Hired **4 system-impacted Knights**
- Awarded a **\$1,000 scholarship** to a system-impacted UCF Knight

*"I can't overhaul our judicial system,
but I can join the others who are
making a difference for the
individuals impacted by it."*

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*- Kristina Tollefson
(FPEP Professor)*

FPEP SERVING INCARCERATED STUDENTS



In FY 2025, UCF faculty
volunteers taught **20 face-to-**
face classes in 4 prisons to 179
incarcerated students.





FPEP SERVING THE UNHEARD SOCIETY

The Unheard Society is a series of podcast episodes written by Rick Brunson's **FPEP students** in RTV 3301 Electronic Journalism I and produced by **UCF journalism students** in the Nicholson School of Communication and Media.

(Right) In April 2025,
UCF students **Ella Shockley** and **Emily Ching** won an award in the Florida Association of Broadcast Journalists' **Culture/Historical - College Radio** category for their Unheard Society episode



(Below) Rick Brunson and Alex Gormley presenting

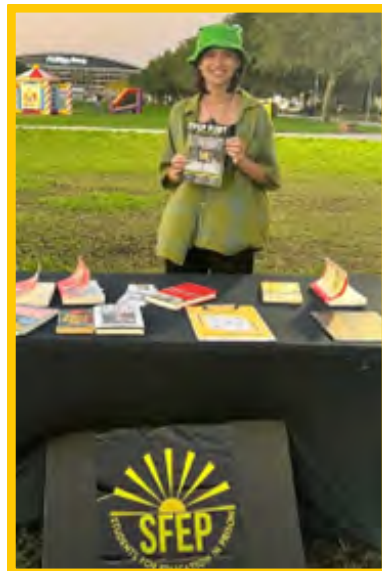


Rick Brunson
and
Raine Keenan

FPEP SERVING STUDENTS ON CAMPUS

In FY 2025, FPEP...

- Published 2 issues of *The FPEP Post*, a student-produced magazine
- Sponsored the RSO: **Students for Education in Prison (SFEP)**
- Awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to a system-impacted UCF Knight



- FPEP Post covers
- Volunteers tabling on campus handing out magazines and promoting education
- SFEP tabling to bring in more club members
- SFEP club meeting

FPEP SERVING THE COMMUNITY



In October 2024, SFEP partnered with She Got Up! in Orlando, volunteering to help returning women get involved with social services



In April 2025, FPEP hosted *Amplifying Voices* the inaugural symposium for the Florida Coalition for Higher Education in Prison



FPEP SERVING FACULTY

In May, 2025, FPEP sponsored **11** faculty at the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning Summer Institute where participants interested in becoming part of FPEP engaged in three days of workshops and professional development discussions.



(Left) **Michael Kostis** and **Jack Blanton** presenting about FCHEP

(Upper right) **Aiya Messina** at the open poster session

(Lower right) **Rick Brunson** presenting about The Unheard Society

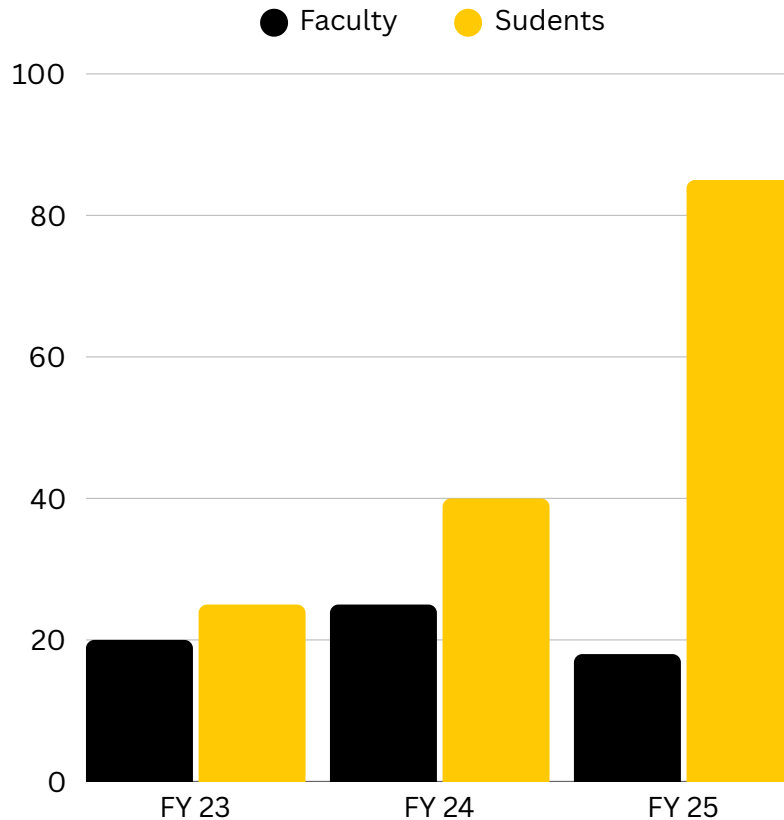


3-YEAR REVIEW

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Faculty and Student Volunteers

FPEP CONTINUED TO RAISE CAMPUS AWARENESS AND ENGAGED MORE FACULTY AND STUDENTS IN THIS IMPORTANT INITIATIVE.



Book Donations

FPEP CONTINUED BOOK DONATIONS THIS YEAR AND STRENGTHENED THIS IMPORTANT INITIATIVE.

