



UCF

# 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**

PAGE 2

*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 "Keii Watson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

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."*

*- 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

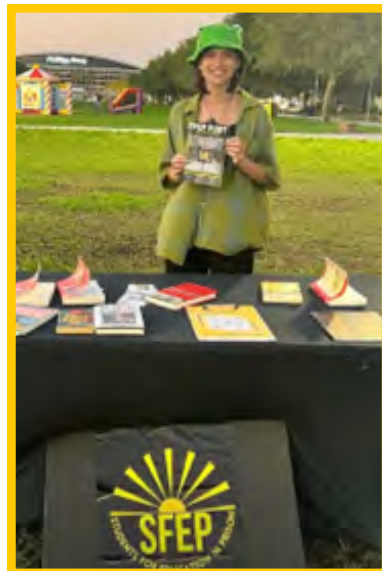


Rick Brunson and Raine Keenan

# 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

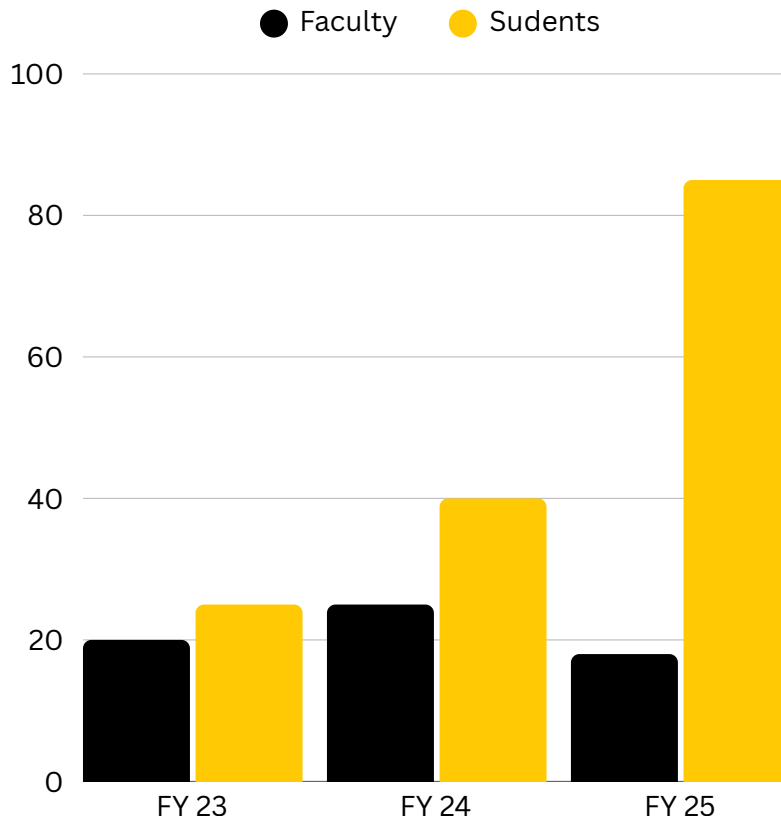
(Lower right) **Rick Brunson** presenting about The Unheard Society



# 3-YEAR REVIEW

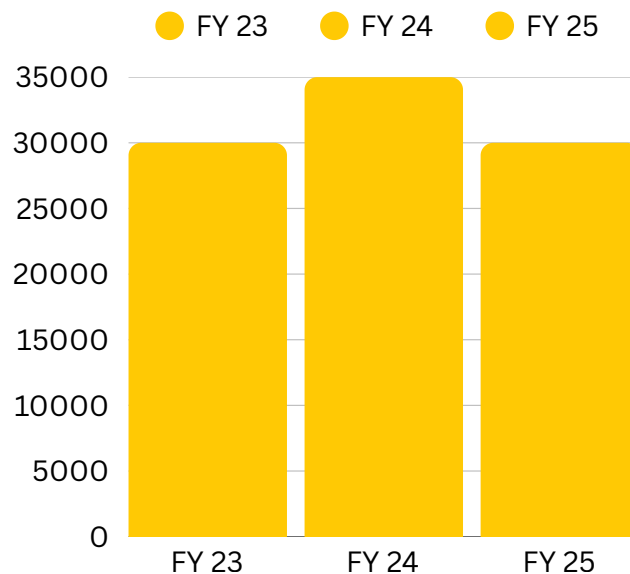
## Faculty and Student Volunteers

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.



“Whether we live in prisons of concertina wire or in a tangled web of pain from our own trauma or brokenness, we all crave the same thing. A little freedom.”

- Rick Brunson  
FPEP Teacher



**FLORIDA PRISON  
EDUCATION PROJECT**

# FINANCIAL REPORT

	FY 25	FY 24	FY 23
<b>Expenses</b>			
Personnel: Administrative	\$35,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$27,000.00
Personnel: Programmatic	\$39,000.00	\$34,000.00	\$37,100.00
Personnel: Technical/Production	\$10,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Outside Fees and Services: Programmatic	\$10,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Outside Fees and Services: Other (all other outside contractors)	\$5,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
Travel	\$1,850.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00
Marketing	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Remaining Operating Expenses	\$15,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$116,850.00</b>	<b>\$115,500.00</b>	<b>\$114,600.00</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Private Support (from Foundations)	\$105,000.00	\$90,000.00	\$90,000.00
Private Support (Funds from Individuals)	\$5,427.84	\$6,714.00	\$5,320.00
Government Support (Federal)	\$ -	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Gov't Support (State/Regional - E&G)	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$125,427.84</b>	<b>\$121,714.00</b>	<b>\$120,320.00</b>

