Corrections Education Leadership Academy 2022
Application

The Vera Institute of Justice is pleased to announce the opportunity to apply to the second cohort of the Corrections Education Leadership Academy (CELA).

Background Information: CELA is an annual leadership academy for current and future state corrections education leaders. Our goal is to provide professional development opportunities that will help corrections education leaders expand and develop educational programs. To see a list of the first cohort, see https://www.vera.org/projects/college-in-prison/cela. Each year Vera hopes to recruit 10-12 cohort members who will be mentors to future cohort participants. Corrections education administrators at the state level, leaders at local facilities, deans and directors at colleges, and administrators at state higher education offices are all encouraged to apply.

This year’s topics include:

- preparing for Pell reinstatement
- addressing issues of race, equity, and inclusion
- statewide corrections policy and alignment
- leveraging data and research
- principles of workforce development
- innovations in pre-college education
- incorporating and expanding secure educational technology
- partnering with colleges and community-based organizations
- developing memoranda of understanding with colleges and reentry providers
- working with legislators and shaping legislative policy
- other issues identified by the cohort for study

CELA will begin April 2022. Applications are due January 14, 2022. Cohort members will be notified February 11, 2022.

CELA sessions will be held monthly via Zoom with additional resources available through a learning management system. Meetings will generally be two hours in length with opportunities for group discussion and presentations. Given the pandemic, CELA will hold one three-day in-person training at Vera’s Brooklyn offices when it is safe to do so. CELA is provided at no-cost to participants or their agencies. Travel and accommodations for the in-person training will be provided.

To Apply: Complete the application below and submit it via email in pdf format to bwalsh@vera.org by January 14, 2022.

Questions? Concerns? Want to learn more? Please contact Brian Walsh, Senior Program Associate and CELA coordinator at bwalsh@vera.org or 646-599-4614.
Application Assurances

- I understand that CELA will require ten 2-hour online meetings over twelve months.
- I understand that CELA will require two to four hours of reading and other preparatory work each month.
- I agree to attend a face to face training provided by the Vera Institute of Justice that will be held when it is safe to do so given COVID restrictions.

Name: ___________________________ Signature: ___________________________
Title: ___________________________ Agency: ___________________________
Email: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

Application Questions:

Please answer the following writing prompts in about 100-250 words each.

1. How would you describe your current prison postsecondary educational system? What are its strengths and weaknesses?

2. In your corrections system how do you see postsecondary education fitting within the larger goals of rehabilitation and reentry?

3. Share a story from your professional experience that you believe demonstrates some of your strengths, was enjoyable or rewarding, and that you are proud of.

4. What knowledge and/or skills do you hope to gain personally and professionally from CELA? Considering your experience, current role, and responsibilities, why do you want to take on additional learning and training?

Important: Please submit a letter of support from a senior agency leader (Secretary or Commissioner, Assistant Secretary or Commissioner, or division or administrative head) that states why you would be a good candidate for the academy and that the agency supports your participation by providing release time to attend both virtual and face to face training.

Reminder: Please submit both your application and your letter of support in pdf format to bwalsh@vera.org by January 14, 2022 at 5 PM ET.