Areas that meet the strategic priorities for the university and the WGC

- Focus on retention/graduation
- Increase undergraduate opportunities, i.e., building the endowment; involving students in research or service learning project with a collaborative bent
- Promote graduate student participation in research
- Focus on collaboration
- Follow the land grant mission to fund projects that support needs in the region and the state with emphasis on collaboration between colleges/departments/units
- Invest in faculty excellence
- Recruit first-generation students from Arkansas
- Advance the mission of the WGC

Identifying Information:

College or Unit Affiliation

Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences
Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design
J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences
Sam M. Walton College of Business
College of Education and Health Professions
College of Engineering
Honors College
Graduate School and International Education
School of Law
Student Affairs
University Libraries
Other

*Please specify **OTHER** unit affiliation:* Graduate School and International Education

Title of Proposal: Returning Home: The Individual, Social, and Structural Barriers to Successful Community Re-entry

Primary Contact and Title: Lauren Copley Sabon

Primary Contact E-mail: copley@uark.edu

Primary Contact Phone Number: 4795755560

Project Summary (200 word maximum)

Arkansas has one of the highest incarceration rates in the U.S., especially among women. More than 60% of incarcerated women had at least one custodial child prior to going to prison. This outreach community-based project conducts a community needs assessment, documenting the challenges of formerly incarcerated men and women returning to their communities in Northwest Arkansas from jail or prison. Using literature reviews, life history interviews with returning offenders and their families, and quantitative data collection at a local transition center, the researchers will provide information to guide social service agencies and neighborhood development initiatives combatting issues affecting individuals' self-sufficiency and successful reentry. This mixed methods research project combines intake assessment data from a local transition center with interview data to provide profiles of the demographics and service needs (age, race, education, number of children, custody information, substance use, mental health, employment, family support, justice involvement, etc.) of this population. The data will be used to create a descriptive profile of the population and their challenges, focusing on gender and culturally-specific needs of formerly incarcerated men and women upon release from Arkansas correctional facilities. Data will be presented to local social service groups and nationally to the criminological community.

Is this

- ○ an expansion of a current program
- ◉ a new program

Please list media sites (if any) utilized by your project or program to publicize the project/program, i.e., website, social media, etc.

Returning Home, Inc. www.returninghomenwa.com and Facebook @returninghomenwa

Phoenix Recovery, Inc. Facebook @phoenixarkansas

Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice

http://fulbright.uark.edu/departments/sociology/ and Facebook

If your project is funded, describe innovative ways how the WGC will be recognized in the success/completion of your project:

All publications related to this project will include a notation thanking the Women's Giving Circle for their contribution to the success of the project and the dissemination of project data outcomes. In addition, the Women's Giving Circle will be recognized for their support of the project on all brochures advertising the project.

The representatives of Women's Giving Circle will also be invited to local data presentations to social service providers to recognize their contributions and inform them of the project outcomes and impact on the local community.

Grant Proposal

What is the specific scholarly or community needs your grant request addresses? (100 word maximum)

Arkansas has one of the nations' fastest growing correctional populations with the prison admission rate increasing 73% for women and 47% for men since 2008. Scholarly and public discussions regarding reentry, community corrections, and the impact of incarceration on communities have largely ignored many difficulties facing former inmates. There is a lack of systematic information on prisoner re-entry in Arkansas including preparing for release, re-entry barriers, services needed and provided, and collateral consequences on families and communities. To address this, we will analyze individual and systemic barriers facing returning inmates and conditions and services that facilitate reintegration and post-release success.

How does your proposed project or program assess how these needs will be redressed? *(100 word maximum)*

We will assess re-entry service needs using intake assessments and information gathered during interviews to provide a full profile of the demographics and service needs (age, race, education, number of children, custody information, substance use, mental health, employment, family support, justice involvement, etc.) of this population to report on gaps in service. Information regarding services provided in the community and outcomes regarding successful reentry (justice re-involvement, found employment, family reunification, etc.) will be assessed using transition center records and participant self-reports at three and six months. Recidivism rate data will be reported to the State for evaluation of correctional programming.

Describe any unique and/or innovative aspects of your project or program that improves what is already known about your area of inquiry. *(100 word maximum)*

No systematic research of this kind on this topic has been done in this area. In this mixed method research, quantitative data on recidivism, needs assessments, and service provisions will be supplemented with qualitative data from former inmates about their experiences in re-entry, the barriers they face, and their lives after release to give further context to issues facing those convicted of crimes and collateral consequences on community and family. This will be of particular interest to state and social service groups as they seek to address social problems in Northwest Arkansas, many exacerbated by mass incarceration.

Please list up to five (5) expected outputs and outcomes with corresponding measurements (Please note: just listing outputs is not sufficient.)

1. Area level of service needs assessments and technical reports will be created using the transition center intake assessments and qualitative information gathered during interviews to provide a full profile of the demographics and service needs (including age, race, education, number of children, custody information, substance use, mental health, employment, family support, justice involvement, etc.) of this population. This data will be provided to the transition center and associated social service groups for their records and used in raising awareness. The data will also be used to determine gaps in services in Northwest Arkansas and provide statistical representations of the issue of re-entry and its collateral consequences. Service providers can used this information for future grant proposals and fundraising to address these issues.
2. There will be 3 and 6 month assessment reports about re-entry outcomes for participants (experiencing justice re-involvement, found employment, family reunification, etc.) to determine local re-entry successes and continued needs. This data will be provided to the transition center and associated social service groups for their records and public awareness campaigns. The data will also be used to determine the recidivism rates of former offenders living in Northwest Arkansas and their struggles and successes in re-entry and the collateral consequences of their incarceration. This information will be used by service providers for future grant proposals and fundraising to address these issues and advocate for change at the state and national level.
3. The graduate assistant assigned to this project will present analyses and findings at a national academic conference to bring awareness to these issues, participate in scholarly discussions, and gain valuable research and professional experience.
4. The data from this project will be analyzed by the researchers (including the graduate assistant) also for the purpose of scholarly publication in peer reviewed journals to address the research and knowledge gaps about the effectiveness of transition centers, barriers to re-entry, and collateral community consequences of mass incarceration.

Document if there are other programs/projects that attempt to address the same needs as your proposal. If so, describe whether and how you will collaborate with them. *(100-word maximum)*

No known project studying these issues exists in this geographical area.

Demographic Considerations

First generation students engaged in the project: (●) Yes ( ) No

Number of current UA students engaged in the project: 7

Geographic region served:

(●) Northwest Arkansas
( ) Southwest Arkansas
( ) Northeast Arkansas
( ) Southeast Arkansas
( ) Central Arkansas
( ) Campus

Budgetary Considerations

Have you received WGC Funding before?

( ) Yes
(●) No

Please provide the year(s) and project name(s)

Total proposed budget for project or program: (proposed budgets of more than $20K will not be considered; in typical years WGC proposals fall within in the $5-10K range).

$19987

Should match Item 1 on Budget Request sheet.

Please list total funding commitments from external or campus sources to date:

$600

Should match Item 2 on Budget Request sheet.

How much, if any, of your request involves funding for the following?

Please estimate using percentages

Student Compensation 94 %
Equipment 6 %

Total funds requested from WGC Grant:
$19987
Should match Item 3 on Budget Request sheet.

If this project or program will continue after WGC grant money has been spent, please describe how you will continue to fund this project or program *(100-word maximum)*

Analysis of new assessment data and life history interview data will be continued via an undergraduate research internship through the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice to provide continual program data to the transition center and associated social service agencies.

In the rare case that grant resources cannot be expended, be prepared to return the remaining funds to WGC.

If selected as a recipient for a WGC grants, you will be required to submit two progress reports, including a budget summary, as well as a poster of your project for purposes of grant presentation.

Please be sure to save this document within the Grant Application Packet.