



# STATE OF IOWA

KIM REYNOLDS, GOVERNOR  
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DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
BETH A. SKINNER, PhD, DIRECTOR

July 20, 2023

Hello Everyone,

IDOC along with our partner colleges wanted to clarify a few things regarding post-secondary education. Beginning July 1, 2023 incarcerated individuals may be eligible for Pell Grants regardless of sentence length or conviction. We are fully committed to ensuring that our incarcerated students have access to quality post-secondary education options that will set them up for success once they are released.

Due to the current realignment of state agencies, the DOC is delaying the application process for colleges to become Prison Education Programs (PEPs) until 2024. The plan is to continue with the colleges that are currently offering programming through Pell grants under the Second Chance Pell experiment or through private funding. These colleges have the option to continue offering the same programs and continue enrolling new students including lifers. The goal is to have post-secondary education options at each facility in the future.

We understand this delay may cause some frustration, however, we believe rushing the process is not the best course of action. Delaying the implementation of Pell for all will allow the IDOC and current/future colleges to work through the guidelines established by the Federal Department of Education. Any college wanting to offer programming that uses Pell grant funding must go through the process of being approved as a Prison Education Program (PEP) by the DOC, their accreditor, and the U.S. Department of Education.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Sincerely,

Iowa Department of Corrections  
Des Moines Area Community College  
Grinnell College  
Iowa Central Community College  
Iowa Western Community College  
Southeastern Community College

The mission of the Iowa Department of Corrections is:  
**Creating Opportunities for Safer Communities**

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