Opportunity
Campus Within Walls educates both community and prison partners on the transformative potential and importance of higher education. Providing educational opportunities to incarcerated students reduces recidivism and increases students' investment in their communities. By having these programs crime is decreased.

Community Context
Through a partnership with Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC), Campus Within Walls provides a college education at five state prisons in Central Virginia and has serviced 6,000 students since its inception in 1985. Hundreds of SVCC instructors have helped incarcerated students learn and grow over the last 38 years. A full-time staff of professional instructors hold master’s or doctoral degrees in their fields, and part-time faculty include local lawyers, bankers, accountants, nurses, computer programmers and electricians.

95%
Nationwide, almost 7 out of every 10 incarcerated people are rearrested within three years of their release from prison.

50-state study found that recidivism rates for incarcerated people who participated in prison postsecondary education programs are on average 46 percent lower than those who did not take college classes.

Every $1 invested in prison education programs saves taxpayers between $4 and $5 in three-year reincarceration costs on average.

95% of people in prison will eventually be released.

Lessons Learned
Everyone deserves a second chance. Providing opportunities to incarcerated students through higher education prepares them for future success. Which allows them to obtain jobs with a livable wage.

Students in carceral settings have some of the highest GPAs. Campus Within Walls students commit themselves to the program. When given the opportunity, they often become lifelong learners and are inducted into Phi Theta Kappa honorary fraternity.

Education reduces recidivism. Campus Within Walls encourages student agency, equipping students with tools to accrete to be active participants in society post-incarceration. Providing a college education and workforce skills after completion of the program.

Next Steps
• Establishing clear communication between SVCC Campus Within Walls and the community will be a critical piece in shaping a positive dialogue around corrections education and attaining the resources needed to be successful.
• Involving more community stakeholders and organizations in the program will be key to sustainability and expansion.
• Improving communication with prospective students will create pathways for increased enrollment and sustainability. Campus Within Walls’ goal is a 10% increase for admissions and retention 2024.