



RESOLUTION No. 2019-20-09

AUTHORED BY: A.S. Lobby Corps

REFERRED TO: A.S. Board of Directors

APPROVED: February 28, 2020

SUBJECT: Resolution in Support of *Project Rebound* at Humboldt State

WHEREAS, the Associated Students (A.S.) Board of Directors of Humboldt State University (HSU) is the single recognized voice for over 6,500 students; and,

WHEREAS, the Mission of the Associated Students of Humboldt State University serves to "assist in the protection of rights and interests of the individual student and the student body," and to "stimulate the educational, social, physical, and cultural well-being of the University community"; and,

WHEREAS, Project Rebound was founded in 1967 by Professor John Irwin at CSU San Francisco. The program is run by full-time staff and students, most of whom have had prior incarceration experiences, where it achieved a 90% graduation rate among former inmates; and,

WHEREAS, Since 2016, Project Rebound students system-wide have earned an overall grade point average of 3.0, have a zero percent recidivism rate, and 87% of graduates have secured full-time employment or admission to postgraduate programs; and,

WHEREAS, Only one-third of the 114 California schools have programs that offer support for formerly incarcerated students, including College of the Redwoods; and

WHEREAS, Project Rebound has been expanded as a pilot program to eleven CSU campuses; and

WHEREAS, Following Governor Gavin Newsom's 2019 budget signing, Project Rebound is slated to receive \$3.3 million in state funding annually; and,

WHEREAS, the guiding values of Project Rebound include, "Every person has inherent value and holds the power of possibility and transformation within them: Meaningful access to high-quality, face-to-

face higher education is fundamental to breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty, abuse, addiction, unemployment, and confinement.”; and,

WHEREAS, Project Rebound offers wrap-around services to students impacted by the criminal justice system and encourages formerly incarcerated individuals to pursue a CSU education, providing mentoring, financial support, and legal counsel; and

WHEREAS, Project Rebound empowers formerly incarcerated and system impacted students by providing college support, encouraging students to excel in higher education; and,

WHEREAS, The integration, education, and leadership of formerly incarcerated people are essential to the work of creating solutions to the social crisis of mass incarceration; and,

WHEREAS, Public resources are better invested in education and other opportunities for transformation than prisons and punishment; and,

WHEREAS, Individuals who have been incarcerated are often trapped in a pattern of recidivism; and research has shown that a university education is a very successful way to avoid recidivism and improve the lives of former inmates; and,

WHEREAS, Not counting the numbers of people on parole, Humboldt County has around 14,000 people on probation and Eureka College of the Redwoods has 50 students on probation; and,

WHEREAS, College of the Redwoods has established a campus of 300 students within Pelican Bay State Prison where 87% of students receive their Associates Degree for Transfer with a GPA of 3.0 or above; and,

WHEREAS, Humboldt State itself doesn't offer services for formerly incarcerated students and lacks resources that would bring a sense of community and support to our population of 5,554 undergraduate students and 459 post-baccalaureate students; and,

WHEREAS, Formerly incarcerated individuals are already pursuing degrees in Humboldt County, and outreach efforts have led to expressions of interest at Humboldt State University from additional students; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Associated Students Of Humboldt State supports Project Rebound and joins the other eleven CSU's supporting such as Sacramento, Bakersfield, Fresno, San Bernardino, Fullerton, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Marcos, Pomona, Stanislaus, and San Francisco; and be it further,

RESOLVED, That Humboldt State University addresses formerly incarcerated students lack of support, promotes and adds funding for resources so students know where to go for help other than the probation office; and be it further,

RESOLVED, That Humboldt State University recognizes Project Rebound as a valuable mechanism for reintegrating formerly incarcerated individuals into society; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to, but not limited to the CSU Chancellor, Executive Vice Chancellor, the Board of Trustees, the Academic Senate of the CSU, the Chairs of all CSU campus Senates, Chair of the CSU Philanthropic Foundation, and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Submitted by the A.S. Lobby Corps and 2020 CHES Attendees:

1. Paola Valdovinos, A.S. External Affairs Representatives
2. Lizbeth Cano Sanchez
3. Malluli Cuellar
4. Stuart Rubio
5. Ella Moore
6. David Lopez
7. Tyler Brown
8. Roman Sotomayor
9. Taylor Demyan
10. Tammy Phrakonkham

Presiding Officer:

Jeremiah Finley, Legislative Vice President