



MEDIA RELEASE

**October XX, 2023
For immediate release**

Awards for Programs Helping Inmates “Graduate from Jail & Prison”

Sacramento, CA — Western American Correctional Health Services Association (WACHSA) announces three awards for programs that help inmates “graduate from jail or prison.” The winners provide correctional health, including mental health and substance use treatment programs on the West Coast

All award winners help inmates get released with college degrees, jobs, and positive futures. Notably, individuals with degrees or secure employment opportunities are less likely to return to jail or prison.

Recipients will be presented with their awards at WACHSA’s annual “Past, Present, and Future” conference on Thursday, October 26th at 5:30 pm, Holiday Inn Downtown Arena, 300 J Street, Sacramento.

The award winners are:

2023 CORRECTIONAL PARTNER AWARD: Future Fire Academy and founder Anthony Pedro

This year's recipient of the Correctional Partner Award is **Future Fire Academy** and Founder **Anthony Pedro**. Future Fire Academy, serving Amador, El Dorado, Placer, and Sacramento counties in Northern California, has evidenced heart and commitment to creating opportunities for all individuals wanting to enter the forestry and fire service, including youth, veterans, justice-involved and underserved communities.

Future Fire Academy provides job development services, including fire and EMS training, certification, and job placement, with mentorship from professional firefighters from federal, state, local government, and private agencies.

We congratulate Future Fire Academy for its success in developing a program that continually gives back, adding to our Emergency First Responder network and providing protection and safety to everyone in California and beyond. (Visit FutureFireAcademy.org.)

2023 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD:

Dr. Patrick Marshall, Inmate Rehabilitation Manager, Santa Clara County, Office of the Sheriff

Dr. Patrick Marshall developed and implemented rehabilitative, educational, and transitional programs and services for individuals in the Santa Clara County Jail System, the Rehabilitative Hybrid and College Collaborative Systems.

Both systems provide rehabilitation and stabilization to reintegrate justice-involved individuals returning to the community. (Visit countysheriff.sccgov.org.)

2023 INNOVATIVE PROGRAM AWARD

Development of the College Collaborative System, Santa Clara County Office of the Sheriff

The College Collaborative System gives incarcerated students transformative influence over their future, enabling them to pursue career dreams and acquire the education and degrees to transition into the community successfully. The College Collaborative System is also an Emmy Award-winning program **given** by Telemundo. [Emmy-Education/Schools-Spanish “Cárcel de Oportunidades,” Telemundo Area de la Bahía KSTS Sandra Pérez, Executive Producer; Yomara López, Reporter.] (Visit countysheriff.sccgov.org.)

Dr. Patrick Marshall and Lt. Gurpreet Gill partnered with the Rising Scholars Network, Mission College, San Jose City College, Evergreen College, Ohlone College, Gavilan College, and Foothill Colleges to create in and out-of-custody education toward college degrees.

“We no longer want to just release individuals from custody; we want them to graduate from incarceration.” – Santa Clara County Sheriff Robert Jonsen

“The college courses have taught me that I am not too old to pursue positive things in my life and that I am confident enough to help assist with a college-level course. The courses that are offered now will help alter people’s lives in a positive way and be a huge tool to Break the Cycle of Being Locked Up!” --Floyd Easley

About WACHSA.org

Founded in 2017, the Western American Correctional Health Services Association is the leader in the Western region for correctional health conferences for Medical, Behavioral Health, Substance Use, Custody liaisons, and re-entry service providers. The association offers networking opportunities for providers in jails and prisons to connect and collaborate. Members share the mission of advancing health equity in carceral settings by furthering correctional staff education staff.

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