

## A Resolution to Establish a Scholarship for Formerly Incarcerated Students Sponsors: Maria Linares

Co-Sponsors: Meghan Waymire, Saba Ansari

**WHEREAS**, The Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that operates as an auxiliary organization of California State University, Fullerton; and

**WHEREAS,** ASI is governed by the ASI Board of Directors, which sets policy for the organization, approves all funding allocations to programs and services, and advocates on behalf of student interests on committees and boards; and

**WHEREAS**, ASI provides campus community members with important social, cultural, and recreational opportunities, as well as, a wide range of programs and services; and

**WHEREAS,** Project Rebound was founded in 1967, with the vision of successfully re-integrating formerly incarcerated individuals into society via higher education, by John Keith Irwin, PhD<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, Project Rebound received financial support in July 2016 through a three-year pilot program from the Opportunity Institute which is set to expire in June 2019<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, ASI Board of Directors passed a resolution, Supporting CSUF Project Rebound, in Spring 2018 outlining efforts to reintegrate and further the education of formerly incarcerated individuals<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Education stated that Congress, in 1994, via a federal crime bill, made incarcerated individuals ineligible to receive Pell Grants, July 2015 former President Barack Obama introduced the Second Chance Pell Program that allows incarcerated individuals to apply for student federal financial aid prior to being released so that they may take advantage of educational opportunities upon release to pursue higher education with the goal of helping them get jobs, support their families, and transform their lives<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS,** individuals who are convicted of a drug offense while receiving federal financial aid and who choose to reapply for financial aid must complete a worksheet to determine how and whether their conviction affects their federal financial aid eligibility and ultimately are at risk of being barred from receiving federal financial aid<sup>5</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, over 400,000 Californians are living under supervision by probation or parole and 96% of them live in a zip code that is within a 15 mile radius of a college campus<sup>6</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, higher education helps current and formerly incarcerated potential students reintegrate into society and reduce recidivism rates<sup>7</sup>; and

<sup>2</sup> http://www.fullerton.edu/rebound/about\_us/index.php

<sup>3</sup> https://asi.fullerton.edu/wp-content/uploads/A-Resolution-Supporting-Project-Rebound.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> http://www.fullerton.edu/rebound/about\_us/

<sup>4</sup> https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2015/11/02/fact-sheet-president-obama-announce s-new-actions-promote-rehabilitation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> http://www.fullerton.edu/rebound/ resources/pdfs/Root%20and%20Rebound%20Higher%20Ed%20Toolki t 2018.pdf

<sup>6</sup> http://www.fullerton.edu/rebound/\_resources/pdfs/Root%20and%20Rebound%20Higher%20Ed%20Toolki t\_2018.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> http://news.fullerton.edu/2016sp/projectrebound.aspx

WHEREAS, As of Fall 2018, 25 students were enrolled in Project Rebound which is a 39% increase from the previous semester<sup>8</sup>; therefore let it be

**RESOLVED,** ASI shall establish five additional scholarships per Fall and Spring semester in the amount of \$1,000, with a total budget impact of \$10,000, for CSU Fullerton Project Rebound or formerly incarcerated students to support their academic success and wellbeing; and let it further be

**RESOLVED,** ASI shall continue to advocate, alongside Project Rebound, for sustainable funding for the program from CSU Fullerton, the CSU Office of the Chancellor, and the California Legislature; and let it be finally

**RESOLVED,** that this Resolution be distributed to the California State Student Association, the Office of Project Rebound, and the following CSU Fullerton departments, divisions, and/or entities for their support and consideration: Office of the President, the President's Advisory Board, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, Office of the Vice President of Administration and Finance, Office of the Vice President for University Advancement, Office of the Dean of Students, the Academic Senate, the Planning Resource and Budget Committee, and the Daily Titan Newspaper.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Associated Students Inc. California State University, Fullerton on the twenty sixth day of March in the year two thousand and nineteen.

Tristan Torres

Chair, Board of Directors

Oredazalan

Maria Libares

Vice Chair/Secretary, Board of Directors

Associated Students Inc., California State University, Fullerton President/CEO, does hereby [ $\swarrow$ ] approve / [ ] refuse to approve this resolution.

Ana Aldazahal

ASI President/CEO

Date

<sup>8</sup> http://www.fullerton.edu/rebound/