



Every class offered by APAEP builds knowledge. Each class opens a door, a window. Education makes a path for people to take hold of their life and build it. We are a program working where few work, trying to foster change as grown through learning and creating and finding our shared humanity. Your donations will help open those doors.

Kyes Stevens, Director
Alabama Prison Arts & Education Project



Kyes Stevens, right, director and founder of The Alabama Prison Arts + Education Project, works with Clinetta Davidson during an art class at the Montgomery Women's Facility, Alabama on Wednesday, June 8, 2011. By Ann Hermes/© 2014 The Christian Science Monitor

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THE ALABAMA PRISON ARTS + EDUCATION PROJECT

is a program at Auburn University dedicated to bringing educational opportunities to prisoners in Alabama. The program believes it is important for the adult prison population to gain a quality education, and also to build a relationship with learning that will continue to grow for the rest of their lives. APAEP provides access to sustained and quality educational experiences in the arts, humanities, hard sciences, and human sciences. APAEP believes that education provides a fertile field for transformation and growth and that these learning experiences contribute to the positive development of the person.

The beginning of the Alabama Prison Arts + Education Project cannot be pinpointed to one certain day or week. It was and continues to be an evolutionary and dynamic program fueled by a dedicated group of artists, writers and scholars who believe that knowledge and creative development can change someone's life.

APAEP grew from one poet teaching in one prison in 2002, to a pool of close to 100 writers, artists, scholars and visiting writers teaching in 10 correctional facilities in Alabama. APAEP began offering courses in poetry and creative writing, but now courses cover a wide variety of subjects including southern literature, photography, African-American literature, Alabama history, drawing, engineering, math and general science.

Our classes are based on introductory college level courses and generally run for 14 weeks and generally have 15-20 students. There are no educational requirements set by APAEP - only the desire to learn. APAEP understands that for the 65 percent of individuals incarcerated in Alabama who do not have a high school diploma, education can be intimidating. The program creates a safe environment where students can overcome personal doubt and begin to achieve educational goals critical to their future success.

APAEP believes that quality and sustained educational experiences can offer transformational opportunities to individuals in prison. Studies have shown the more education someone has while incarcerated, the less likely they are to come back to prison once released. APAEP offers meaningful educational programming that individuals would not otherwise have access to.



ALABAMA PRISON ARTS + EDUCATION PROJECT

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