

**SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE**

**February 8, 2021**

**TESTIMONY**

**Submitted by  
Dr. Dawn Lindsay, President**

**SB 397: Correctional Services - Diminution Credits - Education  
Position: Favorable with Amendment**

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As president of Anne Arundel Community College, **I am asking that the Committee to support an amendment that would give priority to public community colleges to provide the instruction for vocational and technical training leading to a certificate and/or degree.**

Our mission at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) is to respond to the needs of our diverse community by offering high quality, affordable, accessible and innovative lifelong learning opportunities. Key to student success is equity and realizing we need to meet students where they are and provide pathways to prosperous careers.

Community colleges are accessible in most communities, even remote areas where private universities and colleges are often not prevalent. Community colleges offer career-focused degree and certificate programs that lead to direct employment after incarceration. Community colleges are directly connected with employers and community-based organizations through the American Job Center and have direct access to supportive services that benefit returning citizens, such as assistance with transportation and housing.

At Anne Arundel Community College, through the Second Chance Pell program, AACC offered credit, certificate programs in Business Management and Entrepreneurship at the Jessup Correctional Institute, a maximum security prison for men in Jessup, MD, from 2016 – 2019. Thirty-seven incarcerated students completed one or both certificate programs. One student was also able to complete his Associate of Arts degree in Business Management by transferring credits from a previous institution.

Since 1998, AACC has offered adult basic skills, life skills and GED preparation courses to male and female inmates at the Ordinance Road Detention Center, a pre-trial, short-term sentence detention facility in Glen Burnie, Maryland. Over 1,000 incarcerated students have earned their GED through participating in the Success through Education Program.

We support this legislation to award a diminution credit to reduce the term of confinement to an inmate, and I urge the committee to support an amendment to give priority to public community colleges, who are already working in this space with successful results.