

Inside-Out

MGL SASU

Summer 2017

Closing Ceremony
August 2, 2017



**Southern CT State University – Manson Youth Institution
Inside-Out Summer 2017**

**Closing Ceremony
Wednesday, August 2, 2017, 1:00 pm**

*Please join us in sitting in a circle as is common practice
within Inside-Out's pedagogy.*

AGENDA

Welcome & Introduction

Johanna Elumn Madera, Co-Instructor, Inside-Out
Amy B. Smoyer, Co-Instructor, Inside-Out

Manson Youth Institution Student Remarks

Maleke

Southern Connecticut State University Student Remarks

Alice

Remarks from Manson Youth Institution Administration

Matthew Reinke, Principal, MYI, Unified School District #1

Remarks from Southern Connecticut State University Administration

Yan Searcy, Associate Dean, School of Health and Human Services

Presentation of Certificates

Johanna Elumn Madera, Co-Instructor, Inside-Out
Amy B. Smoyer, Co-Instructor, Inside-Out

Closing Reflection: *Lessons From the Geese*

Inside-Out Student Cohort Summer 2017

*Please join us to view and discuss student projects. These projects will be on display before
and after the ceremony and students will be available to discuss their projects with guests.*

We would like to recognize the involvement and assistance of the following people in making the Inside-Out Program a success. As with many projects, there are always more people involved than are immediately evident. Inside-Out could not have happened without:

Connecticut Department of Corrections

- Scott Semple, Commissioner
- John Alves, Warden, Manson Youth Institution
- Danielle Borges, Deputy Warden, Manson Youth Institution
- Eulalia Garcia, Deputy Warden, Manson Youth Institution
- Karl Lewis, Director, Programs and Treatment Division
- Maria Pirro, Superintendent, Unified School District #1
- Matthew Reinke, Principal, Manson Youth Institution, Unified School District #1
- Mrs. Cyr, Teacher, Manson Youth Institution, Unified School District #1
- Jeffrey Pacelli, Correctional Counselor, VIP Coordinator
- All the Correctional Officers, Teachers, and Prison Administrators and Staff who created space for this program and helped the students move safely in and out of the prison.

Southern Connecticut State University

- Joe Bertolino, President
- Ellen Durnin, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Robert Stamp, Vice President for Institutional Advancement
- James Barber, Director of Community Engagement
- Sandra Bulmer, Dean, School of Health and Human Services
- Yan Searcy, Associate Dean, School of Health and Human Services
- Elizabeth Keenan, Chair, Department of Social Work
- Gregory Adams, Chair, Department of Sociology

Financial support for the Inside-Out program at SCSU has been generously provided by:

- **The Southern Connecticut State University Foundation**
 - *Established in 1972, the SCSU Foundation's purpose is to solicit, receive, invest, and administer gifts and financial resources from private sources for the benefit of all programs at Southern. The foundation has responsibility for the election of board members who will support Southern's educational and public service programs and initiatives. For more information about the SCSU Foundation, please visit their website at: <https://www.southernct.edu/giving/scsu-foundation>*
- School of Health and Human Services, Southern Connecticut State University
- Curriculum Related Project Grant, Office of Faculty Development, SCSC.



For more information about the **Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program**, a national movement to create social change through transformative education, please visit their website at <http://www.insideoutcenter.org/>

Five Lessons from Geese

Adapted from the writing of Milton Olson

Geese survive and thrive in unique ways. Here is what we know:

- As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an "uplift" for the bird following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if the bird flew alone.
- Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the "lifting power" of the bird immediately in front.
- When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation and another flies at the point position.
- The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.
- When a goose gets sick or wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay until it is able to fly again or dies. Then they launch out on their own, with another formation, or catch up with the flock.

What are the lessons that we can learn from geese?

- We learn that people who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier than those who travel alone.
- We learn that it helps to stay in formation with those who are headed where we want to go.
- We learn that it is important to be willing to accept and share help with others.
- We learn that it pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership.
- We learn that we should stand by each other in difficult times and in moments of strength.



What has Inside-Out Meant to You?

Feedback from the Summer 2017 Inside-Out MYI-SCSU Students

What will you take with you from Inside-Out?

- Besides the large amount of knowledge I gained, I will take the entire experience with me. I will never forget how I earned my first 3 college credits.
- I will take with me a new understanding of the criminal justice system, and a better understanding of humanity itself.
- New knowledge about social work, a college experience, and a different outlook on life.
- The memories, the laughs, our discussions, our disagreements, all of the points and stances made from everyone's different perspectives.
- I've learned that interacting with others is much easier if you express how you feel. I guess you just got to tap into your emotions.
- For me, Inside-Out was a great experience. I was able to meet new people and learn in an environment that is not your typical classroom setting. Inside-Out allowed us to experience what it's like to be on the inside.
- I learned how to write research articles and how there are different kinds and ways of writing them.
- Everyone has a story to tell. Both inside and outside students have their own life experiences, which has shaped them and guided their perspective on life. While we are all so different, we are also the same, we are human.
- How to coordinate, read, and understand data analysis.
- All people are the same and everyone should be treated equally no matter what they did in the past.
- How to work together as a group. Even though I'm locked up, I can still do things to better my life.
- If you put your mind to it, anything can be possible.

How, if at all, has Inside-Out changed you?

- Inside-Out has made it easier for me to open up about things.
- It has made me more aware of the faults within our criminal justice system, especially when it comes to race. I have opened my eyes to my own privilege.
- Inside-Out changed me because it gave me the drive to be a college student & actually want to obtain a college degree.
- The entire experience. It has reassured me that I am in the right field and that this is something I want to pursue.
- The class changed me in a magnificent way. I never thought I would be able to go to college, but being in the Inside-Out program made me realize that I can and will go to college.
- Inside-Out has changed me in a way where I may see current issues today differently. Seeing somethings and listening to the Inside students isn't just something anyone can do.
- It has changed my perception about penal institutions. In the sense that it is not what they show you on TV. But at the same time, it's not a place anyone wants to be.
- Inside-Out changed me because I now realize what all that people take for granted on a daily basis.
- I think that Inside-Out has helped to continue to change me for the better because it has kept me in the schooling routine and to want to keep doing it.
- It definitely changed my way of thinking. I feel like I have to work harder than I was before.

What has Inside-Out Meant to You?

Feedback from the Summer 2017 Inside-Out MYI-SCSU Students

- Inside-Out has definitely changed me and my perspective on the criminal justice system, as well as on my life. There are so many things that I take advantage of. This program allowed me to open my eyes and challenged me to practice open-mindedness and compassion on a daily basis, no matter what context.
- It made me want to go to college even more, now I feel I can really do the work.
- This Inside-Out program changed me in many different ways, as a man and as a person.

What would you tell a friend about Inside-Out?

- I would recommend Inside-Out to a friend - it's a great experience and will benefit them.
- It was an eye-opening experience and I am thankful that I was able to participate. You should take an Inside-Out class, too!
- That it was a fun experience.
- It opened my eyes to issues that I've never really sat down and thought about before. If I was to tell a friend I would tell them how good of an opportunity this program is.
- This class was one of the best experiences in my life. Also best classes I ever took.
- It was a great experience! I recommend anyone who has the opportunity to take the class! Eye opener!
- I would tell a friend that Inside-Out is a great experience and very eye opening. I would recommend this class to anyone.
- I would tell a friend that it was fun and helped keep me connected with the outside while being on the inside.
- It was a great experience and to try it if possible.
- I would tell a friend that Inside-Out is an amazing opportunity that allows you to take a step back and value human life.
- It's a great college program and you will get a lot out of it.
- It is a great experience and you will come out as a better person.
- The experience is the best part, especially if you indulge yourself in it and be open-minded. You will look at the world from a different set of eyes, it is worth it!

What has Inside-Out meant to you?

- Inside-Out has meant that not everyone perceives us as criminals.
- I will miss this class so much. It has meant the world to me that I was able to experience this. Learning from different perspectives has made me more aware of myself and the people around me, which is invaluable.
- Inside-Out meant a lot to me. If I started this and could finish it, I could finish whatever in life.
- It has meant a lot to me. I really can't wait to go home and get back in school.
- This class means a lot to me. I am a step closer to success and many doors have opened up to me.
- I will definitely never forget this opportunity and privilege. Unforgettable experience, class, people.
- It has meant opportunity, knowledge, and an inside glimpse of the corrections system. The only other way to have gained this experience would have been to be incarcerated.

What has Inside-Out Meant to You?

Feedback from the Summer 2017 Inside-Out MYI-SCSU Students

- I looked forward to coming to class every Friday. I enjoyed hearing everyone's thoughts and opinions on different topics. It was great to meet new people. Inside-Out meant a lot to me and I wish it didn't have to come to an end.
- It has meant a lot because it is something very positive and beneficial during a difficult negative time for me.
- This class has meant a lot to me. Every week, I was so excited to come into the prison and see my peers. Inside-Out has been an extremely significant experience in my life, education, and future.
- An experience of life on the inside.
- A good time with good people all learning together and getting the job done.
- First college experience and a wonderful experience.

Other Comments

- It was what I looked forward to every week during summer. I would like to come back for volunteer work or an internship. I enjoyed every minute of it.
- Inside-Out should add an additional day to its curriculum! One day a week was not enough!
- You should do this program more often. It can help a lot of people who are not sure about college, like how I was. Now, I really want to go now I see I can really do the work.
- Thank you for the opportunity. I am very grateful and really appreciate everything that you done to better my learning.
- I think the Inside-Out program needs to be in every prison in the US because it can help a lot of people out that's not too sure about going to college and just face their fears.
- Thank you Professor Amy, Johanna, and the Principal!
- Thank you Amy and Johanna for being great teachers and always being kind and patient with us.
- Thank you!



This photo was taken in August 2017 after the Closing Ceremony of SCSU's First Inside-Out class.

The photo includes only "Outside" SCSU campus students because prison policy did not allow us to take a group photo inside the facility. Also, one "Outside" student is missing from this picture because he had to leave early on that particular date.

The photo was taken by a correctional officer. We are standing outside the Manson Youth Institution's main entrance. Students are holding the group projects that they worked on throughout the semester.



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Southern Connecticut State University provides exemplary graduate and undergraduate education in the liberal arts and professional disciplines. As an intentionally diverse and comprehensive university, Southern is committed to academic excellence, access, social justice, and service for the public good.



For more information about the
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