



# **SB 1522 (2022) ONLINE EDUCATION PILOT**

**LARRY BENNETT, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DIVISION**

# SB 1522 (2022)

## DOC Pilot Online Education Program for Adults in Custody (AICs)

### ◆ **What** - Online access to:

- Adult Basic Skills Development (ORS 421.084)
- Professional and technical programs (ORS 421.081)
- Traditional Post-secondary education

### ◆ **Where**

- Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (women's facility)
- Snake River Correctional Institution

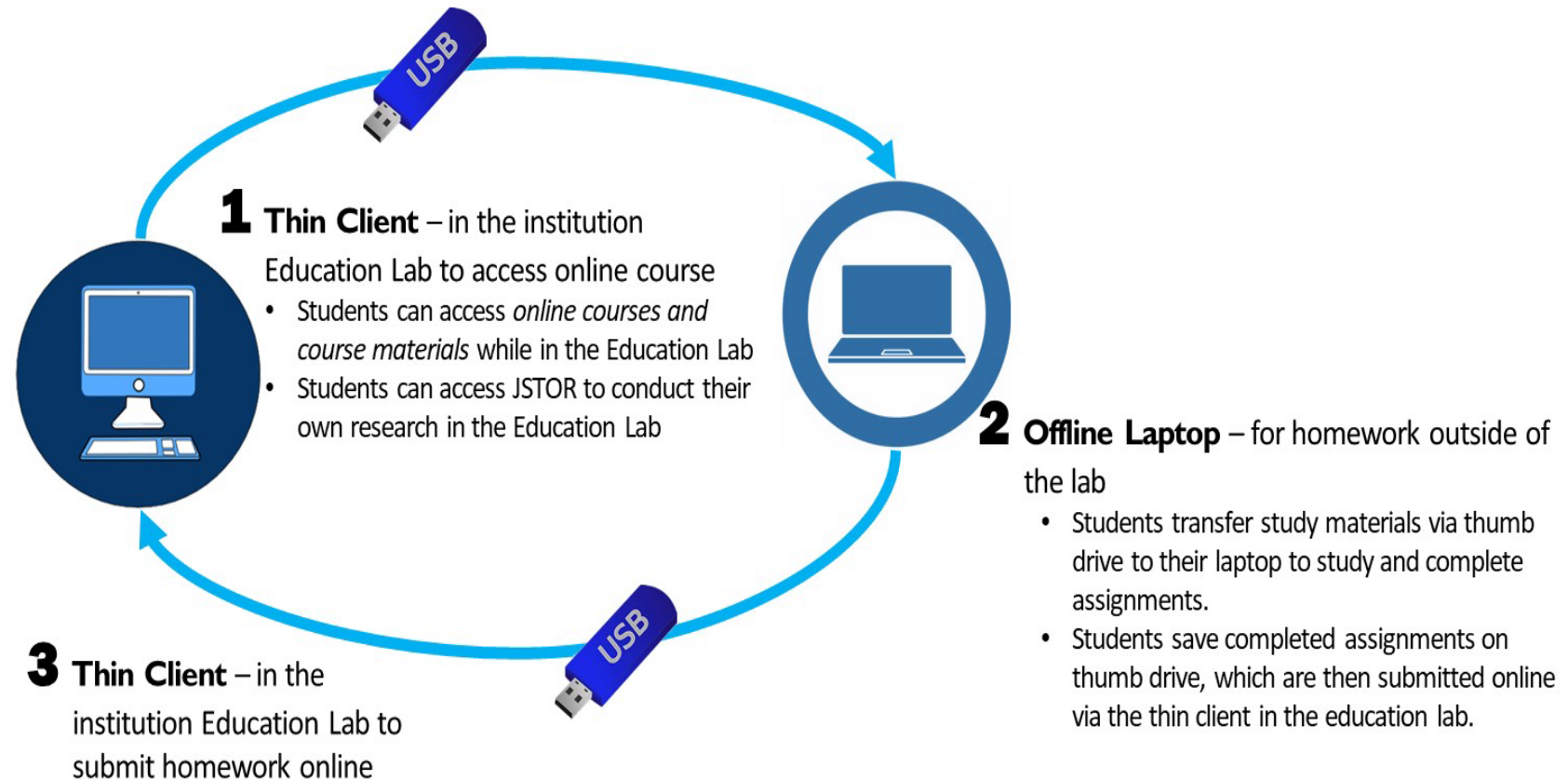
### ◆ **When**

- December 31, 2022 – written report to legislature on DOC's implementation plan
- September 1, 2023 – equipment, connectivity, and infrastructure in place to provide access to online education for fall term
- November 7, 2023 – progress update provided to Senate Education Committee

# SINCE 2023

## Completed

- ◆ LMS access
- ◆ JSTOR digital library
- ◆ Wi-Fi infrastructure
- ◆ Online FAFSA application



# IMPACTS ON COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

Institution	College Course Enrollment		
	2021-22	2023-24	Increase
CCCF	98	295	201%
SRCI	39	90	131%
All Institutions	262	799	205%

\*\*Current Fall 2024 college enrollment is **353** students

# PELL GRANT STATUS

- **Arduous federal requirements and approval process.**

- Oregon is ahead of most states and is asked for guidance.
- It takes approximately one year to complete the entire U.S. Department of Education application process.
- We thank our college partners for their dedication and perseverance.

- **Central Oregon Community College**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> in Oregon and 3<sup>rd</sup> in nation to complete U.S. Dept. of Education Pell Grant requirements
  - Successfully piloted the **online FAFSA application process** at DRCI, which can now be expanded to other DOC institutions
- **Portland State University** – 2<sup>nd</sup> in Oregon to complete the program requirements
- **Portland Community College** – Ready to complete last application step
- **Chemeketa, Treasure Valley, and Eastern Oregon University** – in 2<sup>nd</sup> step of application process (accreditation)

# WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED

- Frequent communication between all parties is essential.
- Onsite staffing to oversee and assist AICs in computer labs as well as to manage the programs and provide the colleges with a central point of contact is paramount to success.
- Coordination and prioritization of AIC Net enhancements. Enhancement Request Governance Committee (ERGC) formed to prioritize highest needs.
- Whitelisting online courses is difficult and labor-intensive
- Installing Wi-Fi inside prisons is more difficult than anticipated.



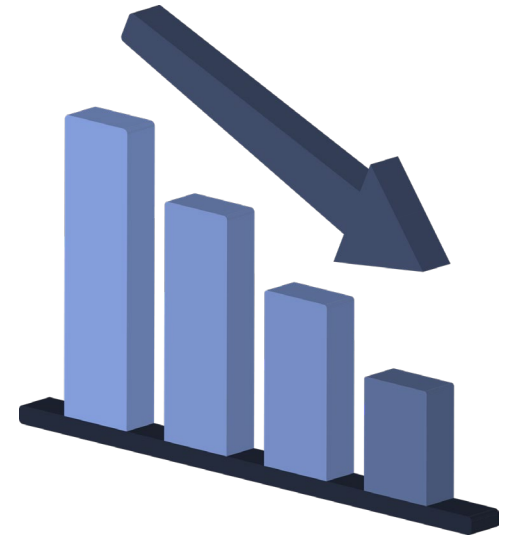
# IMPACT OF EDUCATION ON RECIDIVISM

According to a recently updated study by the RAND Corporation:

- AICs participating in correctional education are **28%** less likely to recidivate than those who do not.
- AICs participating in postsecondary education in prison are **48%** less likely to recidivate than those who do not.

Oregon Example: Chemeketa Community College

- Operated a prison college program since 2007.
- 2018, 42 students graduated with a cumulative GPA of 3.8.
- 256 graduates, **6%** recidivism rate.



# UNIVERSITY PARTNER



**Nahlee Suvanvej**

Director, Higher Education in Prison (HEP)

Portland State University