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## **Educational Initiative Aims to Break Incarceration Cycle** *Student Support Program Launches Fall 2024*

PALM DESERT, CA (June 17, 2024) – College of the Desert (COD) is creating an educational initiative for young adults who have been through juvenile detention systems through a \$1.5 million grant awarded by the California Community Colleges' Rising Scholars Network.

The program will establish on-site classes for young adults who are incarcerated and more outreach and resources for students who have been incarcerated in the past.

The grant will cover a five-year period, with the award totaling \$1,545,454 and will establish an inaugural program on campus in fall 2024.

"By investing in these students, we are empowering a society where everyone has access to learning opportunities for personal and professional growth," Amanda Phillips, Dean of Counseling said. "The Rising Scholars program will inspire those who have experienced the criminal justice system by providing them with the tools they need to succeed."

The Rising Scholars Network, which grew out of Corrections to College California, aims to increase public awareness of the benefits of career and education options for students who are and were formerly incarcerated.

"We're pleased to announce that nearly 25 percent of youth enrolled or detained at Indio Juvenile Hall are eligible for college, while 80 percent of Indio's Pathways to Success program participants are eligible to attend this year," said Christopher H. Wright, Chief Probation Officer of the Riverside County Probation Department.

The Rising Scholars program is another step in the right direction toward breaking cycles of recidivism, multigenerational poverty and disadvantaged communities. This new dual enrollment program established by Rising Scholars Network will launch in the fall of 2024.

For more information on the Rising Scholars program, please visit <https://risingscholarsnetwork.org/>.

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