

Darden Prisoner Entrepreneurship Project

Summary to Date. At this point, four key steps have been completed: A) the learning objectives for the “Capstone” curriculum have been determined, B) specific existing Darden case studies have been identified; C) *de novo* case topics have been targeted; D) Two research assistant casewriters have been hired, with a potential third as a backup.

Estimated costs. The total costs for the project are estimated to be \$\$\$.

Estimated completion. The full curriculum of 20 cases should be completed by March, 2014.

Use for potential remaining balance. After completion of the planned 20 cases, if there is a remaining balance, we will use it to develop additional cases. Although the proposed curriculum of 20 cases are meant to complement each other, one of the benefits of cases is that they can be purchased and used individually (or *a la carte*) to meet an instructor’s specific learning needs. Additional case topics may be of interest for some learning needs.

Successes. The Jefferson Trust grant funds are used to support an expansion in the range of materials available for educational uses. The Darden Prisoner Entrepreneurship Project, of which this grant is a component, expands this fall to a financial literacy pilot educational program at the Fluvanna Correctional Center. If all goes as planned, this Capstone curriculum will be piloted in the classroom within the year.

Problems. None at this point.

Number of people working on the project. At present, there are 3 primary volunteers working on the day-to-day operations of the project (Gregory Fairchild – Darden ’92; Tierney Fairchild Darden ’94, Curry ’94; Lauren Purnell – Darden PhD student), and at least a dozen others in the Darden community (faculty and staff).

Number of students working on the project. In the initial pilot year of this program, 4 Darden Second Year students participated as instructors on the project (2011-2012). In 2012-2013, 10 Darden Second Year students volunteered as instructors. We recently held a call for volunteers, and 23 Darden Second Year students have volunteered to support the project through teaching, curriculum development, and expansion of the program.

Impact on people. To this point, we have graduated 46 men and women ex-offenders from the entrepreneurship project. Earlier this month, 60 new applicants have applied for our fall offerings.

Impact on the University and the local community. There are multiple benefits to the University of Virginia, and local environs. A full list of them is not possible in the space sufficient. A few include: First, the immersive learning that our MBA students experience through their volunteer teaching; Second, the job- and career-related training the ex-offenders in our program receive will assist them in making productive transitions in their return to communities in Virginia; Third, the University of Virginia has been noted in local, national and international media as an institution engaged in this important public policy issue (Business Week, Financial Times, Local TV news).

Plans to continue the project. The stated use of the Jefferson Trust grant funds are to expand the body of teaching materials for use in ex-offender education programs across the nation. We plan to continue the expansion of materials and to encourage their use by Reentry programs broadly.

Other comments. These funds will assist the project in meeting an important organizational goal: the acquisition of earned income. Our intent is to use these funds as a seed-investment to support to support continued development of programs and materials here in Charlottesville.