

Liberal Arts in Prison Program

College of Arts and Sciences

University of Vermont

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The University of Vermont

Correctional Context

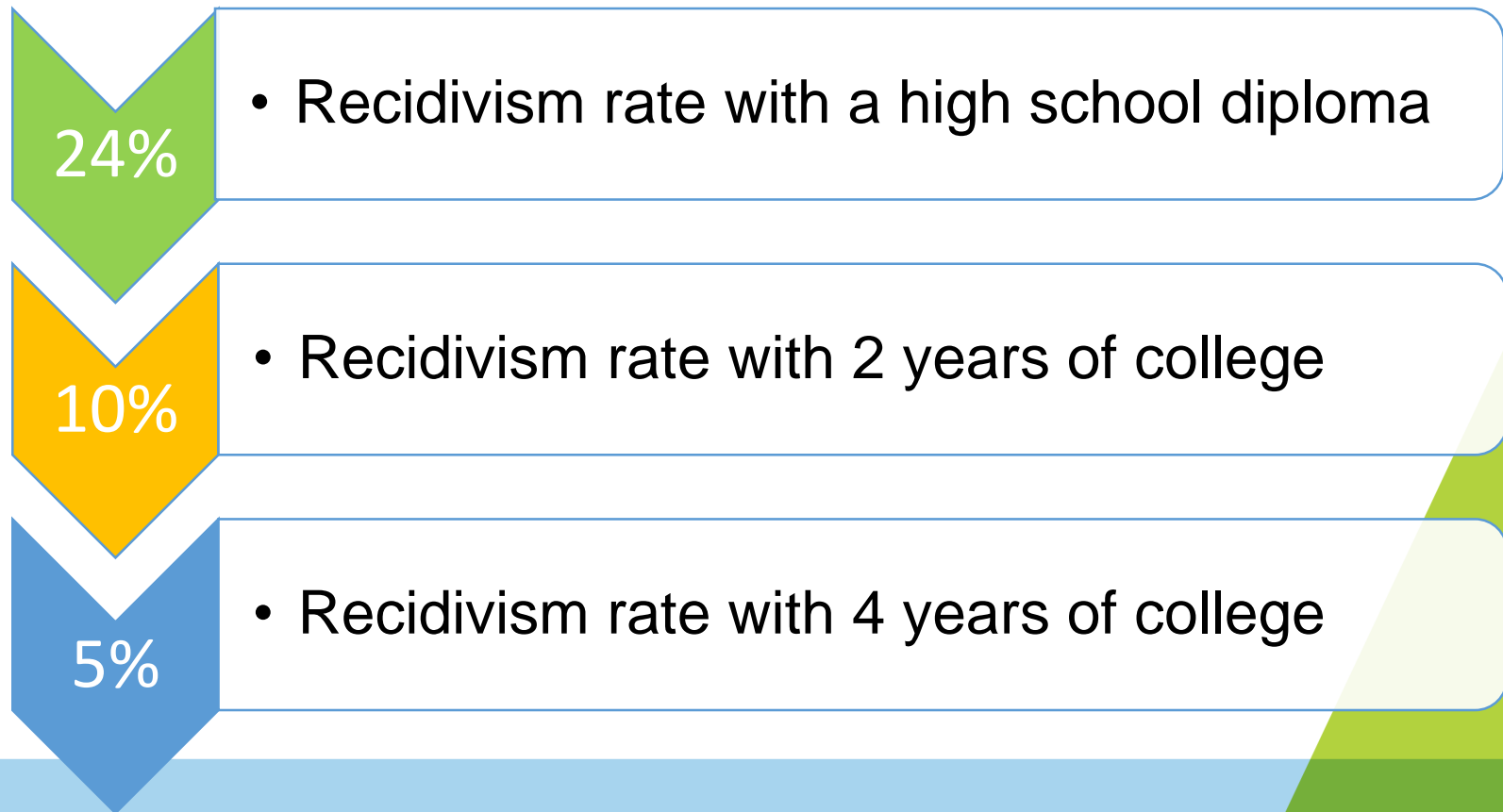
United States	5% of the world's population
	25% of the world's prison population
	350,000 penal population (1970)
	2,200,000 penal population (2014)
Vermont Department of Corrections annual budget	~\$155,000,000
Vermont spending per person in prison	~\$60,000
Vermont spending per K-12 student	~\$14,000
National Recidivism Rate	~60% (Corrections failure rate)
Vermont Recidivism Rate	~45% (Corrections failure rate)

Can we do better?

Impact of Higher Education on Recidivism

National Recidivism Rate: 60%

Vermont Recidivism Rate: 45%



Cost Effectiveness of College in Prison

- ✓ \$1 spent = \$5 cost savings
- ✓ Direct cost of incarceration is greater than educational costs
- ✓ Break even point: Reincarceration rate reduction between 1.9% - 2.6%
- ✓ Any correctional education=13% reduction
- ✓ Higher wages upon release
- ✓ Increased odds of getting job by 13%
- ✓ Reduced correctional spending



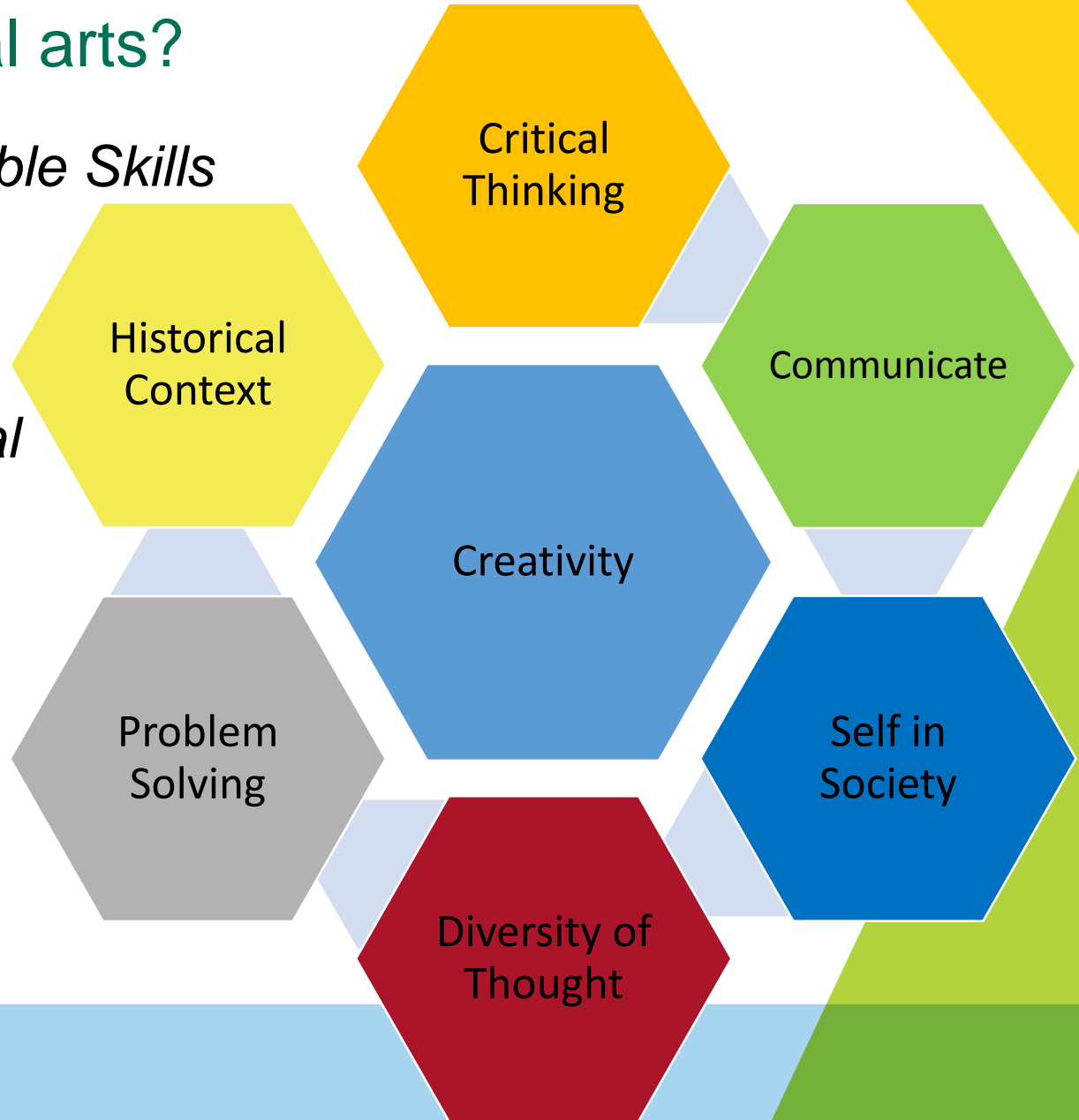
What is the Liberal Arts in Prison Program?

- Land-grant mission ~ service to the state
- Credit-bearing courses in Vermont correctional facilities
- Enhanced UVM student educational experience



Why the liberal arts?

- *Broadly Applicable Skills*
- *Timeless*
- *Transformational*



Liberal Arts in Prison Program - Accomplishments

- 4 credit-bearing courses:

Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility

Classical Literature/Mythology

Written Expression

Probability with Statistics

Northwest Regional Correctional Facility

Introduction to Sociology

- 29 LAPP students completed
- 5 UVM student teaching assistants/tutors

In the Words of LAPP Students

“This experience allowed me to engage in something that had purpose beyond these walls. I was able to engage and learn. I was able to feel like a real human being again and that meant everything.”



“This program changed my life!”

“It made me realize I *can* be a college student, even though I’ve made mistakes. It gave me hope!”

Challenges

- Funding
- Cohort/immersive experience
- Student Technology
- Expansion and scale
- Bridge from LAPP to college on the outside

Looking Forward

- Funding for a pilot program at Chittenden
- An educational campus within DOC
- Technological capacity to scale
- State-level investment

Questions and Discussion



- For more information, contact Kathy.Fox@uvm.edu