

**Occasional Series on Reentry Research  
Prisoner Reentry Institute  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice**

**Higher Education, Incarceration and Reentry  
February 10, 2006**

**Wendy Erisman** joined the Institute for Higher Education Policy as Senior Research Analyst in January 2005. Prior to her appointment with the Institute, Dr. Erisman was a member of the faculty at Duke University in Durham, NC, and St. Edward's University in Austin, TX. She received her PhD in cultural anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin, where her research focused on organizational cultures.

**David Miller** recently retired from his position as Superintendent of Eastern New York Correctional Facility after 39 years of service with the State. He was a career Corrections professional starting as a teacher working with young people at the Highland State Training School in 1966, and finishing up as a Supervising superintendent for the Hudson Valley Region in 2005. During his career, Mr. Miller was very active in the American Correctional Association Accreditation Process, was a trained hostage negotiator, and coordinated New York State Department of Correctional Services' Executive Team Training program. He also taught on both an undergraduate and graduate level for SUNY New Paltz and SUNY Ulster and served as a consultant for the Excelsior College Criminal Justice Assessment Project. Mr. Miller graduated from Colgate University with a BA in History and from SUNY New Paltz as a licensed New York State Public School Principal and Superintendent of Schools.

**Benay Rubenstein** has been a leading prison educator for over 20 years. From the early 1980s until 1995 she designed and coordinated college programs in both New York State and federal correctional institutions for Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York, one of the first institutions in the nation to offer bachelor's degrees inside prison. In 1995, when Federal (Pell) and New York State (TAP) financial aid grants were eliminated for inmate use, Ms. Rubenstein produced an award winning film, *The Last Graduation*, documenting the history of higher education in New York State prisons. From 1997-2001, she directed the College Bound program at Bedford Hills Correctional facility, New York's only maximum security prison for women. Since 2001, Ms Rubenstein has developed and directed The College Initiative, a model re-entry program for men and women who want to begin or continue higher education upon release from prison.

**Daniel Karpowitz** is the Director of Academics and Policy at the Bard Prison Initiative, where he has worked since 2001. He studied law at the University of Chicago, and his legal work has included stints at the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. He has taught in the Department of Rhetoric at Berkeley and has been a visiting member of the Bard College faculty in Political Studies since 2003. He has held fellowships with Fulbright and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and is a Soros Justice Fellow ('04). He lives with his family in Hudson, New York, where he is active as a commissioner in the city government.

**Christopher Vasquez** is a sophomore at John Jay College where he is majoring in Legal Studies. He was born and raised in New York City. Chris plays rugby in his free time and serves as Assistant Vice President of the Village Lines Rugby Club. He served time in New York State adult and juvenile correctional facilities from the ages of 15 to 22. While he was incarcerated, he facilitated anger reduction training and independent living programs, and served as an in-class tutor and library aide. He received his GED and began college courses through Empire State College at Brookwood Secure Center.