



## JSRI Supporters,

JSRI joins Loyola University New Orleans Interim President Father Justin Daffron, SJ, in advocating for an increase in Pell Grants to support students from low-income backgrounds, including a growing number of incarcerated college students across the nation.

*Today marks the 50th anniversary of Pell Grants, a landmark program that has helped millions pay for college over the past five decades—approximately 7 million annually, including about 40% of students at Loyola. The program has been a tremendous catalyst for change and opportunity for so many, but there is still work to be done to put a college degree within reach for more people. - Fr. Daffron, SJ (June 23rd, 2022)*

Last week, JSRI Advisory Board Chair Dr. Marcus Kondkar traveled to Rayburn Correctional Center in Angie, LA, to accept applications for admission to Loyola University New Orleans. **Over 200 incarcerated people and 15 correctional staff members applied to join the first cohorts of the Loyola Prison Education Program, which will begin in the Fall 2022 semester.**

Prison education advocates have long cited the need for access to Pell Grants.

On the Senate Floor in 1994, Senator Claiborne Pell famously said, **“Diplomas are crime stoppers. It costs much less to educate a person in prison than it does to keep one behind bars.”** Pell was speaking in response to the crime bill then under consideration which ultimately cut people in prison from the Pell program. In 2023, incarcerated students will once again be eligible for Pell Grants. However, the amount of the Pell Grant is not keeping pace with the rising costs of college which remains unaffordable for many low-income students. Nearly 70 percent of Pell Grant dollars go to students with a family income below \$30,000 and nearly 90 percent to students with a family income below \$50,000.

*Let's remain hopeful that together we can work towards a future where every qualified student is free of any financial barriers to a Loyola education. - Fr. Justin Daffron, SJ*

Given the importance of Pell Grants towards our goal of welcoming students from all socioeconomic backgrounds, both incarcerated and free, I invite you to advocate for an increase in grant aid and eligibility by contacting your Congresspersons via [#DOUBLEPELL](#).

In addition to advocating to [#DOUBLEPELL](#), please consider making a [donation](#) to JSRI to increase educational opportunities for people in prison.

Thank you for your support for our students!

**Best Wishes,**

**Dr. Annie Phoenix**

**Executive Director  
Jesuit Social Research Institute  
Loyola University New Orleans**

This email was sent to . To ensure that you continue receiving our emails, please add us to your address book or safe list.

[manage](#) your preferences

To unsubscribe from all Loyola e-newsletters please click [here](#)

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

powered by 

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.