

JSRI

JESUIT SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS

ESTABLISHED 2007

JSRI Supporters,

Yesterday, I got to spend the day at Rayburn Correctional Center reflecting on the first semester of Loyola's prison education program with our students and correctional staff. I shared the prayer of the [Ignatian Examen](#) as a resource to frame our conversation in terms of consolations and desolations. The resounding message was one of gratitude. After our meeting, a student wrote,

"I want to express my gratitude to Loyola University and especially all the staff involved in the process of starting this prison education program. I can truly say that it is changing my life and I'm watching it change the lives of others. It gives us something that is in short supply in prison, HOPE...for the future...for our lives. I just want to say thank you. You guys are a blessing."

While students express their gratitude to Loyola, the truth is that we are grateful for them. This semester we invited 13 correctional employees and 20 incarcerated students to join the Loyola community. Students struggled with challenging topics as they learned about the Development of Social Thought with Dr. Marcus Kondkar. Just like on campus, exams were a source of anxiety, but students supported each other by organizing a study hall and recruiting a tutor. Students in the program are not only passing the class, they are excelling. We are extremely grateful for their dedication to Loyola and to their futures!

Yesterday, we also invited the next cohort of 20 incarcerated students to join the Loyola program. We are excited to learn more about the gifts that they bring to our community.

As a final note of gratitude, I would like to acknowledge JSRI's supporters. In my last message I invited you to sponsor a student by donating \$2,857 to cover the full cost of a student in the program for one year. So far, two generous donors have opened their hearts to make prison education at Loyola possible.

Long-time supporters of JSRI, Marcela Villareal de Panetta and Bernard Panetta, have generously agreed to match donations for the first five sponsored students.

Please reach out if you would like to know more about sponsoring a student in the prison education program. Thank you for [donating](#) to support our students who continue to give so much of themselves.

Take care and have a Happy Thanksgiving with those that you love!

Best Wishes,

Dr. Annie Phoenix

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

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