

STEAL THIS NEWSLETTER

The Word on the Street from the Office of Learning Advancement

Another Graduation!



Dr. David Bokovoy

“The education I received has changed my future in a way I could never have dreamed,” explained Becky, a 2024 graduate from Salt Lake Community College’s Prison Education Program, “I am keeping a promise I made to my children when I came to prison. I told them I cannot change what got me here, but I would change and fix all the unhealthy parts of myself and come home the mom they have always deserved.”

Becky was one of 31 recent SLCC graduates completing an associate’s degree while incarcerated in the state of Utah. Established in 2017, SLCC’s Prison Education Program (PEP) has grown into one of the country’s largest higher education initiatives for incarcerated students. The PEP currently averages between 200 and 300 active students each semester. Students work towards both AA and AS degrees. Trained and dedicated SLCC faculty enter the prison

to offer courses, share their expertise, and work directly with students. Like Becky, each PEP student has chosen to overcome whatever challenges they once faced, as well as the discouragement and trauma that result from living a life behind bars. College education provides hope for a better life.

Anthony, another recent PEP graduate, shared his story at SLCC’s 2024 commencement ceremony hosted inside the Utah State Correctional Facility. As a child, Anthony had been raised by a white supremacist motorcycle gang and an abusive father. In his speech delivered before educators, state legislators like Melissa Ballard, and correctional officers, Anthony shared how taking academic courses in topics such as Criminal Justice, U.S. History, and Anthropology changed the way he sees himself and others. “I try to love and accept everyone now,” Anthony explained, “college has truly changed me.”

Anthony’s and Becky’s success stories are not unique. An Emory University study has found that recidivism — the tendency for a convicted criminal to reoffend — dropped by 84% for those earning an associate’s degree. Higher education serves as an effective treatment and opportunity for those seeking direction and new opportunities beyond the choices that can lead to a life of incarceration.

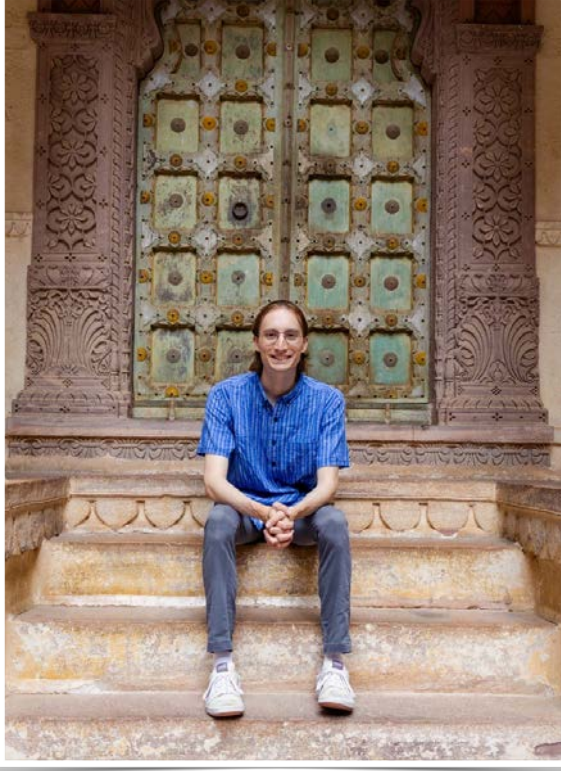
With the continued successes of SLCC students such as Anthony and Becky, SLCC’s PEP offers hope to those living behind bars—hope for a happier, better life. For many, college leads to a chance for freedom and knowledge that changes the way they see themselves and society. In this effort, SLCC’s Prison Education Program serves as a model of the college’s mission to provide inclusive and transformative education that strengthens communities through the success of our students.



Representative Melissa Ballard

—David Bokovoy

Staff Spotlight: Ethan Hoggan



Ethan Hoggan in Japan

Meet Ethan Hoggan, the new Specialist 3 under the direction of Lucy Smith, Director of the Engaged Learning Office. With a degree in International Studies and a focus on trade and commerce, Ethan is currently expanding his knowledge through a master's degree in International Education. A lifelong traveler, Ethan's passion for traveling and exploring the world began as a child. One of his very first trips was when his parents moved from Utah to California shortly after he was born.

Ethan loves what he does and finds his position a perfect fit for his lifestyle. He also enjoys being part of the SLCC community and connecting with its members.

The COVID-19 pandemic fundamentally changed everyone's life worldwide. While teaching English to elementary students in Japan through the JET program, Ethan experienced the stark contrast between his earlier travels and this new reality. The once bustling airports became lonely due to visa restrictions, strict policies, and a sterile environment. Teaching masked students proved incredibly difficult, despite his strong Japanese language skills, due to the pandemic's unprecedented challenges. The inability to fully connect, to see and understand facial expressions, created an extreme sense of isolation. This experience highlighted the critical importance of human connection in a way Ethan had not previously realized. He

lived in Japan from 2019 to November 2021.

Ethan's expertise is in international education, with its emphasis on building bridges between people and cultures across ideological and linguistic divides. Ethan chose international education over international business or international relations, because he thinks that international education focuses on those spaces where communication happens. He started out as an Accounting major and realized it wasn't for him.

Ethan was drawn to SLCC by the energy and shared commitment to the transformative power of education. He also values Salt Lake Community College's dedication to connecting people and building a sense of shared humanity. Supporting students in realizing their goals through projects or travel is incredibly rewarding. Because of this, a core goal for Ethan is to increase accessibility to the Engaged Learning Office's Study Away Programs. Ethan expressed that one of the biggest deterrents for students when applying to study abroad is the cost and he is committed to finding resources that can help students cover their travels and enjoy a great educational and cultural experience.

—Kemone Feleti

Open SLCC Grant Recipients

In Spring 2024, Open SLCC launched its first round of grants. The grant program is designed to provide SLCC faculty and practitioners with additional support and guidance in the adoption, development, and maintenance of high-quality open educational resources (OER). The spring 2024 awardees include the following:



Korin Holden

Korin Holden, Assistant Professor, Faculty Advisor, ASCE

Course: CEEN 1100 Introduction to Civil and Environmental Engineering Design

Category: Authoring/Textbook



Claire Adams

Claire Adams, Associate Professor, Humanities

Course: INTL 2040, The Immigrant Experience through Literature and Film.

Category: Authoring/Textbook



Kristin Cartwright

Kristin Cartwright, Associate Professor Mathematics

Melissa Quinn, Associate Professor Mathematics (not pictured)

Course: MATH 2900: Developmental Math

Category: Revision/Ancillary



Robert Woodward

Camille Paxman, Assistant Professor, Mathematics (not pictured)

Robert Woodward, Associate Professor, Mathematics

Ruth Trygstad, Associate Professor, Mathematics (not pictured)

Course: MATH 1050, College Algebra

Category: Revision/Ancillary

Faculty Spotlight: Carolina Bloem

Carolina Bloem, an associate professor of Latin American Studies and director for the Center of Latin American Studies (CLAS), has worked at the college since the fall of 2016.



Dr. Carolina Bloem

She was born and raised in Venezuela. She had a background in the sciences and majored in pharmacy in Venezuela until her father passed away, at which point she decided to pivot and pursue the humanities.

Carolina came to the U.S. when she turned 18 to attend college in California. She then went to Ensign College (LDS business college) and later got her bachelor's, master's, and PhD at the University of Utah. She eventually discovered that SLCC was looking for someone with her expertise, so she took the opportunity to use her knowledge. Now, she teaches Spanish language and Latin American Studies courses.

In August of 2023, Carolina was given the green light to form the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) at SLCC. The center's focus is to promote the study and research of Latin America to the U.S. and the world. They have affiliated faculty in biology, languages, international studies, and humanities. In the summer of

2024, a cohort of faculty and staff presented research, held inter-institutional meetings, and prepared pedagogical material for CLAS students. Carolina will continue to serve as the director of CLAS and plans to present new events for the college.

The CLAS and the Engaged Learning Office are also partnering together to support a Study Abroad program in Colombia in Spring 2025. Colombia offers unique educational opportunities that foster intercultural competence among our students. This program also supports the academic development of the Center for Latin American Studies. Colombia is home to vibrant cultures and offers immersive experiences focused on Latin American history, politics, economics, and literary and artistic movements that allow students to experience different facets of Latin America while staying in one country.



Dr. Carolina Bloem

—Lucy Smith

Mark Your Calendars—Upcoming Events and Deadlines

August 26. ePortfolio Pop Up. 10:30–4:30. The [ePortfolio Office](#) will be in the Student Event Center running micro-sessions to help the SLCC community understand the purpose of ePortfolio, get started with a SharePoint ePortfolio, and learn how to update the Welcome page so professors can get to know their students. Contact Emily Thompson for more information.

September 3, October 1, and November 5. Community-Engaged Learning (CEL) Designation proposal rolling deadlines. Engage your students in real-world issues experientially! Funding is available for faculty who apply for a CEL designation. Students in CEL classes also gain access to funding, scholarships, and honors recognition. Information is found on the [CEL faculty website](#).

September 13 and 14. Community Engaged Scholarship Retreat. Salt Lake Community College, University of Utah, Utah Valley University, and Weber State University are pleased to collaborate on a unique faculty development opportunity. Join us at the UVU Wasatch Campus to explore how to disseminate community engagement scholarship through publication and/or conference presentations. You will also hear from a panel of editors from some of the top journals in the field of community-engaged learning/service-learning and community engagement. Contact Lucy Smith for more information.

September 16–November 15 Community-Engaged Learning Faculty Development course. Community-Engaged Learning (CEL) is a high-impact practice that enhances student engagement and retention while also addressing relevant social issues related to the discipline. Completing this course will result in the creation of content for a new CEL designation. Register via employee training. Code: O102.

September 25. 11:30–1:30. Signature Assignment and Reflection Workshop. Come have lunch and workshop your general education signature assignment/reflection assignment prompts with ePortfolio, Faculty Development, and faculty who have designed exemplary signature assignments. This workshop may be especially valuable to faculty who are coming to General Education for 5-year review in 2024–2025 or 2025–2026 as it can help you prepare the Signature Assignment faculty are required to post in Curriculog. Contact Emily Thompson for more information.

October 8–10. Open Education Conference. Open SLCC will support faculty, adjunct faculty and practitioners with AD permission to attend this virtual conference. Space is limited. Register today in MySLCC * Employee Training * Faculty Development * Open Education Conference Code: FC 55. Contact Andrea Scott for more information.

November 18. 10:30 - 4:30. ePortfolio Pop Up. Plan ahead and schedule to bring your class to the Student Event Center. ePortfolio will be running micro-sessions to help students meet the end-of-semester ePortfolio requirements in their general education courses. If you aren't at Redwood Campus or need a different time, schedule an in-class workshop, and we will come to you. Contact Emily Thompson for more information.

December 4 and 5. UP3RC. SLCC's Undergraduate Projects, Presentations, Performances, and Research Celebration will be taking place on several campuses. Mark your calendars to watch our students showcase their knowledge and skills. Contact David Hubert for more information.

December 2024. Open Education Grants. Are you interested in applying for an Open SLCC Grant? The 2nd Open SLCC grant cycle is scheduled to launch in December 2024. Contact Andrea Scott for more information.

Catalog Deadline for Curriculum is 2/24/25.

Fun AlphaSmart Project at the Prison

I want to share a quick story about teaching in the prison. After two semesters of trying to do a writing-intensive version of U.S. National Government and Politics in which students had no laptops and no access to the internet, I decided to think outside of the box (and back in time) to give my students a better writing experience. My students and I were tired of exchanging handwritten drafts.



Dr. David Hubert

Remembering my study abroad trips 24+ years ago, when I purchased new AlphaSmart 3000 battery powered word processors for student writing in the field, I cruised eBay and bought enough used AlphaSmarts to make a classroom set of word processors that I could get the Department of Corrections to approve for my students. With translucent bodies and no wifi or bluetooth, these now ancient machines posed no security risks and allowed my students to have a real education in the writing process. Plus, a class set of these devices cost me considerably less than the price of the Mac laptop on which I'm now writing.

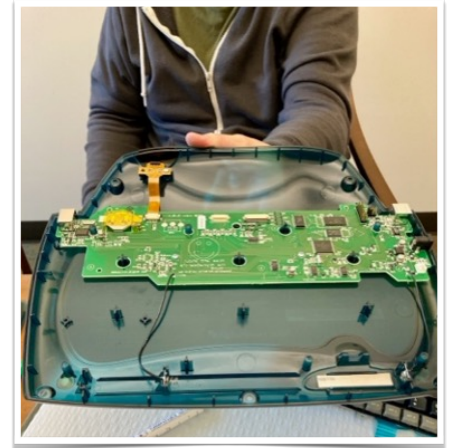
Students wrote drafts on the AlphaSmarts and at the end of each class transferred them by USB into my laptop, which I took out of the prison each night. I printed out the drafts in my office and made comments and suggestions by hand. The students could open their files on the AlphaSmarts and continue working on their drafts using the printouts I brought back in with me. A bit of a clunky process, but it worked! By the end of the term, groups of my students had produced collections of

book reviews, political profiles, and reflections. I printed multiple copies for each student (so they could share with their families) and on the last night of the semester we had a publication celebration and discussion.

This project has been a stopgap measure until we eventually get laptops for our male students. This fall we are starting with laptops for all the students on the women's side of the prison, and will hopefully expand after that.

Thanks to David Bokovoy and Chris Bradbury for supporting me. Thanks to Brian Fauver in Corrections, who let me try this workaround. Thanks to Amanda Rubino, who helped me convince our purchasing department to buy used machines off of eBay. Special thanks to my son, Aidan, and his

partner Emma Laurie, who helped me refurbish the AlphaSmarts, all of which needed work. We cut out hard-wired battery packs that no longer accepted a charge and replaced them with new batteries. We cannibalized some of our machines so we could make others live by swapping keyboards, screens, and motherboards. All in all, it's been a fun and rewarding project. I wasn't able to take pictures of the students using them, but here are some photos of the refurbishing process.



Aidan Hubert diagnoses a problem



A word processor reborn!

—David Hubert