Approaches to Criminal Justice: A Global Perspective

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Project Information

Global Independent Study: This study was conducted as a global independent study. Along with the help of a colleague and professor, contacts were made with individuals and organizations working overseas within the criminal justice field. Through the study, a colleague and I learned about programs international organizations and governments are using to support individuals impacted by the criminal justice system (during and after incarceration), as well as what one organization does preventively.

Competencies Developed

Critical Thinking: Through synthesizing what I learned across four countries and applying to US criminal justice and education systems.

Social & Economic Justice: By examining how criminal justice can be executed in a more humane way.

Social Policy: By understanding how policies shaped practice (Norway).

Community Partners

Phoenix Zululand supports individuals who are currently incarcerated through a series of restorative justice-oriented workshops, as well as supporting reentry.

Salvation Army provided comprehensive probation/parole services following or in lieu of incarceration.

Gangway utilizes a street social work approach to reach youth who may be at risk of interacting with the criminal justice system, as well as those who already have.

Halden Prison is the newest prison in Norway and was designed to support recent progressive legislative changes to prison operation.

Outcomes

Through this project, I gained a deeper understanding of how criminal justice can be used as an opportunity to restore people’s humanity.

Outcomes

Career Connections

This experience has helped shaped my views on justice. As I intend to work in a school, I will draw on my lessons learned to advocate for school policies that are just and restorative.

Advice

1. Take advantage of this opportunity! This was one of the greatest experiences of my life!
2. Don’t be afraid to make your own connections and develop your own program.
3. Find a supportive faculty member who can guide you through the process.

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Lessons Learned

In reflecting upon my experience, I have applied what I learned to the US educational system. I gleaned 4 major takeaways:

1. Narrative is a powerful and therapeutic tool.
2. “Justice” systems reflect who is marginalized by society or a community.
3. Preventative measures are critical.
4. Justice systems as opportunities for restoring humanity.