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Female Offenders at Albion Correctional Facility Get A Chance To Better Their Lives Through Education

a \$200,000 start up grant from Sunshine Lady Foundation allows Medaille College and Nazareth College faculty to share the gift of education for an initial 2 year

BUFFALO, N.Y. – Faculty from Medaille College and Nazareth College are partnering to help educate Albion-Correctional Facility offenders through a \$200,000 grant from the Sunshine Lady Foundation (www.sunshinelady.org). Medaille is the lead institution in receiving the grant, but it will not commit any funds toward the program.

Founded by philanthropist Doris Buffett, the Sunshine Lady Foundation believes that access to higher education can help offenders become productive citizens. The organization plays a significant role in providing needed resources, as the incarcerated frequently seek higher education opportunities.

The Sunshine Lady Foundation will underwrite classes for offenders that will be taught by Medaille College (www.medaille.edu) and Nazareth College (www.naz.edu) faculty, beginning this summer and extending through the spring 2015 semester. Five members of the Medaille faculty and one Nazareth professor will collaborate to offer a liberal studies associate degree program in the initial session, offering courses in English, psychology, history and biology.

“Gaining an education is one of the best ways for anyone to turn their life around,” said Medaille College President Richard T. Jurasek, Ph.D. “Medaille believes that anyone can benefit from pursuing higher education opportunities. For offenders, access to continuing education offers them another chance to get their lives back on track. That is something that Medaille wholeheartedly supports, and we thank the Sunshine Lady Foundation for this grant that will produce positive results in the region for those who seek a second chance in life.”

Every academic study of prison higher education has shown that the participation is highly beneficial not only to offenders but also to state budgets, significantly reducing recidivism and prison costs.

“On behalf of our entire agency, I extend my deepest gratitude to Doris Buffett and the Sunshine Lady Foundation for their financial support of our partnership between Albion Correctional Facility and the dedicated staff at Medaille College and Nazareth College,” said Department of Corrections and Community Supervision Acting Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci. “The Foundation’s grants to several correctional facilities have brought meaningful education to offenders that will enhance reentry outcomes for years to come.”

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With campuses in Buffalo, Amherst and Rochester, Medaille College (www.medaille.edu) is a dynamic private college committed to serving the higher education needs of Western New York. Medaille is known for its flexible delivery systems, offering master's, bachelor's and associate degrees through day, evening, weekend and online programs.

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