



**Mercy College Featured Award Winning Film:
"The University of Sing Sing"
April 7, 2014**

On March 31, 2014, "The University of Sing Sing" was shown at Mercy College and also aired on HBO for the first time. The documentary gives a rare glimpse into the world of college in prison. It is currently available on HBO On-Demand and HBO GO.



From l. to r.: Joann Skousen, Sean Pica, Brian Fischer & Superintendent Capra

Hudson Link is a not-for-profit organization that provides college education, life skills and re-entry support to incarcerated men and women to help them make a positive impact on their own lives, their families and communities. Hudson Link was created in 1998 after government funded college programs in prison ended. The organization serves as an intermediary between the correctional facilities, the colleges who participate, and private donors. The Hudson Link college program is offered at Sing Sing, Fishkill, Sullivan, Greene and Taconic (female) correctional facilities.

Following the screening at Mercy College, there was a panel discussion on the importance of education and its impact on reducing recidivism. The panel composed of retired DOCCS Commissioner Brian Fischer, Superintendent Michael Capra of Sing Sing C.F., Joann Skousen, Teacher at Mercy College and Sing Sing C.F., and

Sean Pica, Executive Director of Hudson Link. Mercy College is one of the colleges offering classes and degrees at Sing Sing C.F.

The documentary had its first screening in Texas in 2011 and has since won multiple awards at film festivals. Interviews with the financial supporters such as Harry Belafonte and philanthropist Doris Buffet are also featured in the documentary.

A trailer of the film can be watched here, <http://www.hbo.com/documentaries/the-university-of-sing-sing#>.

The News 12 Westchester story about the event and screening of the documentary can be found at this link. <http://westchester.news12.com/news/the-university-of-sing-sing-documentary-debuts-1.7569015>.