

December 10th, 2024

My education story is different from the vast majority you read and publish. I came to prison with a "average" education. Around 2013, after losing a private industry/Job, (company pulled out of prison), I was hired as a clerk/porter for the re-entry dept. at El dorado, Corr. Fac., Kansas. While at that position, the staff noticed I was more than able to assess situations, problem solve, and produce positive outcomes.

My living unit co-habator also noticed I was proficient at Math, which he was not, so they brought me in to help in that capacity. My first students were remedial (?), in that I had to start with addition, subtraction and basic times tables. A few had never been in a school building, let alone a classroom. It was an eye-opener for me!

This became a "calling" for me. Not because it gave me a purpose, which it did, but because for the first time in about 20 years I found that I could be "happy" in prison. Because I was helping others less fortunate than myself.

A brief pause. I must say at this point, that the staff I worked for in the Re-entry Dept., and Ed. Dept., made a significant change in my life. First and foremost, I was once again a person, and in some cases, a colleague. They were very supportive in my abilities and positive changes. They "re-taught" me to be a "normal person" again, and to look at the future as a bright opportunity.

Because of this, I also volunteered to work and be trained, in the then, new pilot hospice program. Doing this was difficult. I was setting visuals with many I knew well. This was also, very much, when I realized life is truly about supporting others when they need it. Not about me or what I believed the world owed me.

Now to come back to today. I am currently sitting in a computer lab, with a proctor, watching several students take their G.E.D. exams. Watching them change their lives forever! Most have test ~~an~~ anxieties, so as a peer/tutor, I am allowed to sit silent, so they can feel more comfortable and relax.

I am out of the way, removed, but in sight if they look. There is a large window to the room. I never make eye contact,

C.C. - if possible, let me know if you use my story. Also, we have Adevo tablets, but no re-entry app. or news letters. So a hand copy, if possible, would be greatly appreciated.

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or look up. Mostly do tasks such as this or study.

Which brings me to my education. Since the Pell Grants have been brought back to be available once again for prisoners, I have started a certificate program in business. I have completed five credits and start a new class in January 2025. I was on the Dean's honor roll in 2024. I was surprised, as it has been many years since being in classes as a student. I don't remember it being this much work. However, the challenge has made me feel alive again. The process fills time and enables me to have new perspectives on my future.

My message to all in prison who read this essay about my journey: "You can do anything and be what ever you want! In any prison, the opportunity is there. Find out what is available, and always ask questions and seek more. Happiness is a state of mind, not a place. You know your doing the right thing, especially on the inside, if you have haters and naysayers." Education has made me a accepting person again!

Love & Prayers

Lonnie

Brief Bio:

RONALD James PEIRANO # 0060776
Currently @ Hutchinson Corr. Fac. East Unit
400 Halstead Street, Hutchinson, Ks. 67504

- 1986 - Graduated Highschool
- 1988 - Graduated Vo-Tech
- 1998 - Graduated Blackstone Law school
- 1999 - (?) Graduated Utilities Maintenance
Butler County Community College
- ~~2016~~ - Two Years Training in Hospice

I was sentenced in 1994 to:

- 1) Two Capital Murder - Hard 40's
- 2) One attempted 2nd degree Murder 7 to 10
- Spent first 28 years in Eldorado Corr.
Facility - Max / Super Max
- Last 18 years @ E.D.C.F., worked in
re entry dept. and for Butler Co.
Comm. College as tutor for Cr.E.D.
- Created Tutor Position @ Hutchinson
Corr. Fac., and have been doing
that work from 2022 to current.

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