

## **How does correctional education benefit the state?**

### ***Anticipates offenders being released into the community***

- Approximately 97 percent of all offenders are released back to their communities in Washington state after serving their sentences.
- About one-third of all offenders were unemployed before they were incarcerated. A criminal record hinders both their future employability and their earnings capabilities.
- Almost half of offenders housed in Washington correctional facilities do not have a high school diploma or a GED.

### ***Saves taxpayers money***

- For every dollar spent on correctional education, basic skills education returns \$5.65 and vocational skills training returns \$7.13.
- One million dollars spent on correctional education prevents approximately 600 crimes, while the same money invested in prison expansion prevents about 350 crimes.
- When offenders receive education while in prison they are significantly less likely to re-offend, thus saving local and federal tax dollars used to apprehend, convict, and re-incarcerate former inmates.

### ***Increases employment and earning rates for former offenders***

- Individuals who receive higher education while incarcerated have a 60 to 75 percent better chance of employment compared to those who do not participate in college programs.
- Individuals who receive higher education while incarcerated reported higher wages compared to those who did not participate in college programs.

***When offenders gain literacy and employment skills they save resources, strengthen family and community ties and contribute to the labor force and economy.***