

Justice-in-Education Initiative

JIE Scholars Program

The Justice-In-Education Scholars Program is part of the JIE Initiative—a joint initiative of the Society of Fellows and Heyman Center for the Humanities (SOF/Heyman) and the Center for Justice at Columbia University. Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the JIE Initiative aims to increase educational opportunities for those directly affected by incarceration. The JIE Scholars program makes it possible for highly motivated returning citizens, upon successful completion of the admissions process, to take credit-bearing courses at Columbia.

Justice-in-Education (JIE) Scholars, who are enrolled as special students in the School of Professional Studies at Columbia University, are required to complete two gateway courses: the skills-intensive credit-bearing course *Genres of Academic Writing* (open to all Columbia undergraduates) and the non-credit-bearing modules in *Transitioning to the College Classroom – Learning Strategies for Academic Success*, designed as an introduction to the specific educational environment of Columbia.

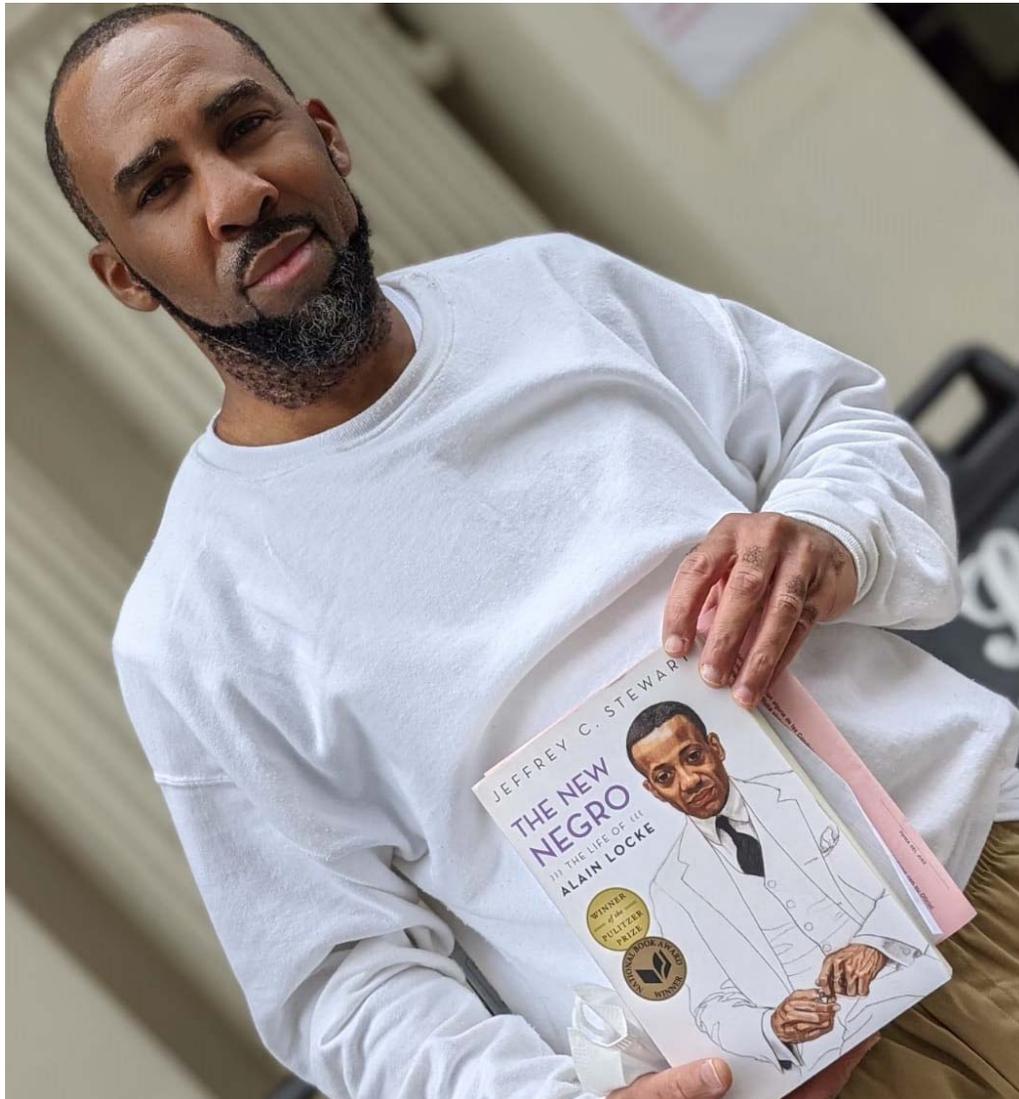
The JIE Scholars Program covers tuition and fees, local travel to class, books, and other costs associated with the JIE Scholars' ability to complete the gateway courses. Scholars who successfully complete both JIE gateway courses work with the Justice-in-Education adviser to develop their future education plans. Those earning a grade of B+ or above in *Genres of Academic* are eligible to continue to take Columbia courses free of charge. Credits earned at Columbia may be transferred to other colleges and universities, should JIE Scholars wish to pursue completion of their college degrees at other institutions.

JIE Scholars receive advising and tutoring support, as well as the opportunity to interact with peer mentors and to be mentored by Columbia Emeriti faculty. We provide re-entry support and advising, especially with regard to housing, health, parole, and other issues that might affect the ability to complete courses successfully. The JIE Scholars Program collaborates with the JIE-dedicated legal team at the Initiative for Just Society.

Prospective JIE Scholars must be nominated by a teacher, usually working with a prison education program, occasionally by the head of a re-entry organization, and in exceptional cases by JIE alumni.* If you are interested in becoming a JIE Scholar, ask one of your teachers to recommend you for the program. We will then invite you to meet the Advising Team, who will discuss the program with you in further detail. If the program seems appropriate for you at this time, we will invite you to submit an application, consisting of a student information form, a personal statement, a writing sample, and teacher recommendations. Once your application is complete, you will be interviewed by the course instructors and program directors. We are currently accepting applications for the 2022-2023 cohort.

To date, we have admitted over 120 returning citizens to the JIE Scholars Program, many of whom have come to us through our Prison Education Program (which has supported over 500 students since 2015).

*In rare instances, we have accepted applicants to the JIE Scholars Program by self-nomination, provided that self-nominating applicants can procure recommendations and transcripts.



For more information contact Justice-in-Education Scholars Academic Adviser Dr. Neni Panourgía (np255@columbia.edu), Re-entry Coordinator Ivan Calaff (ic2412@columbia.edu), or Associate Director Sof/Heyman Center Lindsey Schram (ls2553@columbia.edu).

