

THE EDMONDS COLLEGE VETERAN REENTRY PROGRAM

Dennis Gibb- Veteran Outreach Specialist

Edmonds College

Lynnwood, WA

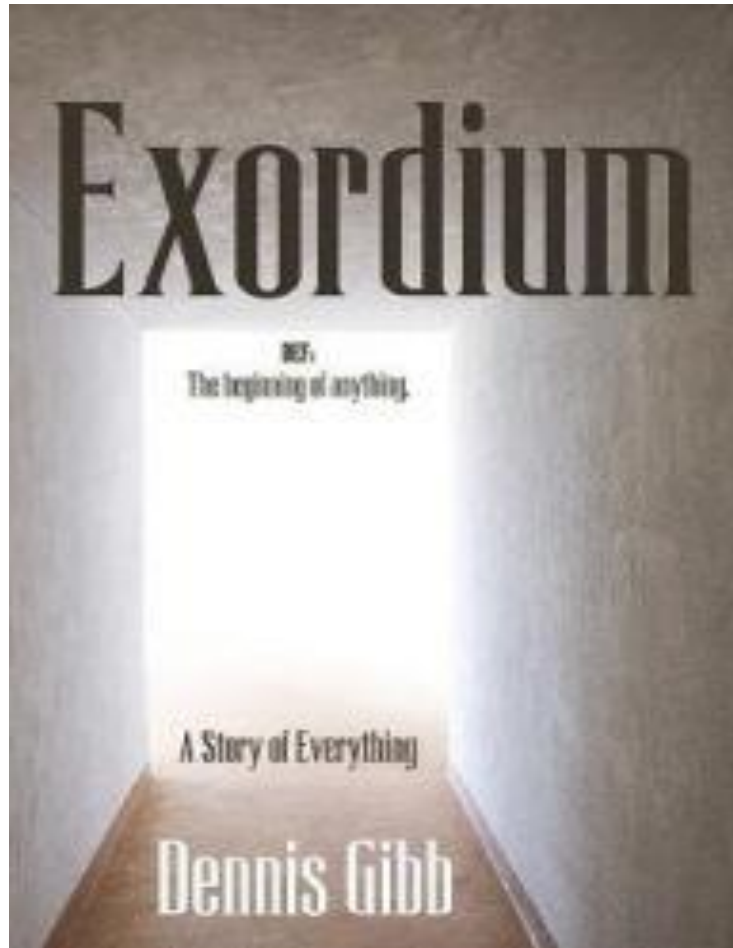
dennis.gibb@edmonds.edu

425 640-1125

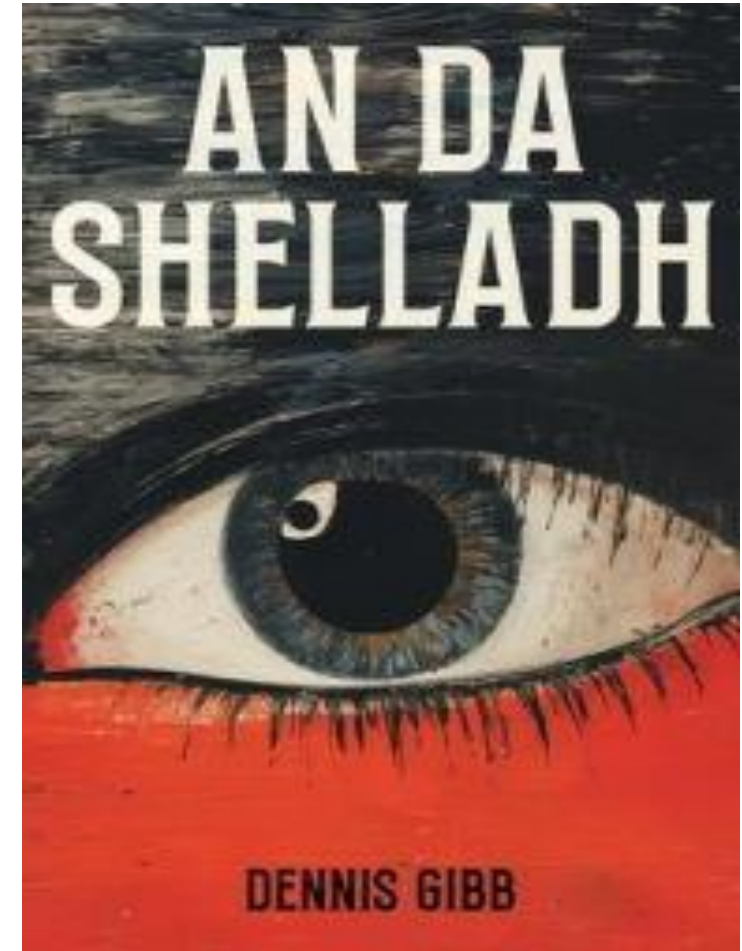
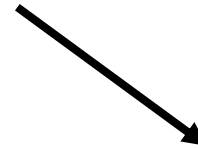
My Bona Fides



In my spare time I write novels



This was mostly
written while I
was in prison



A Gibbism

Gibb's Laws of Computers:

- 1.) If you are talking to someone and need information from your computer it will slow down or crash.
- 2.) The degree of slowness is directly proportional to the critical nature of the information needed.
- 3.) The file you find is never the file you need.

THE HAVEN REENTRY PROGRAM

AN END TO END REENTRY PROGRAM
REACHING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES UP
TO 2 YEARS BEFORE THEY EXIT AND
EXTENDING 2 YEARS AFTER RELEASE, MOVING
THEY AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM PRISON TO A
LIVING WAGE, 21ST CENTURY CAREER.

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A growing state economy,
Lack enough trained workers,
An enlightened DOC,
A well developed system of community and technical colleges,
The elements of a successful reentry program already exist
within the colleges,
Legislators committed to reentry, veterans, and workforce
development,
Colleges have been adjunctive to reentry, we aim to make
them the central element.

THE HAVEN REENTRY PROGRAM

This program is based on academic studies and:

Working with over 300 justice impacted people,

Of whom over 100 have been veterans,

Having 45 veterans on my case load,

Enrolling 17 of them as new enrollees at the college,

Listening to other reentry organizations discuss their challenges and successes,

Listening to inmates, CCO's and recent releases.

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Quiz Time:

What makes the American carceral system different from all others?

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Answer:

WE NEVER STOP PUNISHING
OFFENDERS

There are over 45,000 collateral effects of being locked up, and they effect the families as well as the inmate. Council of State Governments Justice Center

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What Works?

The sweet spot is after they have served 1/3 to 2/3 of sentence,

Education that focuses on SELF EFFACICY as opposed to self sufficiency

Classes should be imported- not taught by DOC

Instruction should be project based- open end design

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Focus on Self Efficacy

Stress Careers not jobs

Starts the day the prison term starts

Create a pathway to the future

Clarify the pathway

Help them stay on the pathway

Provide accountability

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Veterans Face Some Special Challenges in Reentry

- Many justice impacted veterans have OTH discharges
 - Veterans tend not to ask for help
 - Older vets resist using benefits
 - Service related health issues which have neglected
 - VA access can be frustrating
 - **Different programs have different criteria**
 - Many MOS do not transfer well
 - Can be impatient and distrustful

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- Veterans are more likely than their non-veteran counterparts to be conceived of as transactional rather than relational - hierarchical and literal rather than creative - and better suited for working with things rather than people.
- Extensive research suggests that employers believe that, overall, veterans are less suited for jobs that involve social-emotional skills and interacting with people than their non-veteran counterparts.

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Establish and Clarify the Pathway

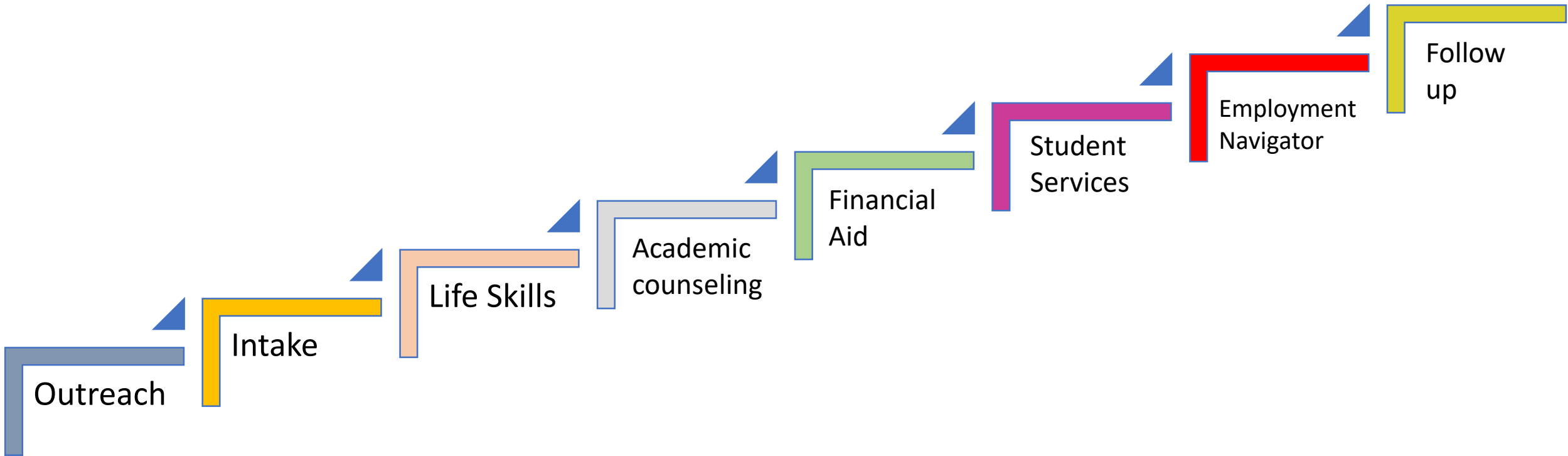
- If you don't know where you are going any road will get you there
- Many of jobs done before falling will not be available on release
- More and more jobs require greater amounts of education
- 40% of all jobs in most states are off limits to felons
- Education has become the measure most employers use to make their decisions
- Washington's community and technical colleges can provide education in both traditional model as well as the trades.
- First step is to show the person where they can go.

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Help them stay on Pathway

- Provide precollege or community education to improve skills
- Provide counseling and tutoring
- Provide clubs and ambassadors to help navigate the system
- Maintain contacts with community partners
- Golden Rule
- Expect relapse and falling off the path
- Move them from success to success-create culture of achievement

How do we do it?



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- No program will be successful unless it addresses social needs
- We need to surround these people with social supports and acceptance
- No individual organization can fulfill all the needs so partnerships are critical
- There is a need to address gaps in service and the ability to respond on short notice



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- Part of the legislation allows us to fund housing and other items of basic life
- We need to connect with community partners for many needs
 - Housing SSVF, VASH,
 - Generate income
 - Disability claims
 - BFET, DSHS, WIOA

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For colleges, this is a win/win proposition

| College Provides | College Receives |
|---|--|
| Registration and administration | Increased enrollment |
| Staff Support | Data on student outcomes |
| Instructional (teachers, classrooms) | Engaged Employees |
| Access to Funding (FASFA, WASFA, VA, Workforce Funding) | Increased Web traffic |
| Career Transition | Increased public awareness |
| Academic Counselling | Support for accreditation |
| | Increased veteran enrollments |
| Student access to college wraparound services | Fulfillment of Goals and Vision |
| | Increased favorable community presence |

Thanks for Listening

- Questions?

Dennis Gibb

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