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C-GCC to launch education program - Daily Mail, The (Catskill, NY) - March 10, 2026 - page 03
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HUDSON - Columbia-Greene Community College will begin offering a new post-secondary education program at Hudson Correctional Facility, providing eligible incarcerated individuals the opportunity to pursue an associate degree.

The program, announced Monday, is part of a new Prison Education Program site established through a partnership between the college and the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision.

Courses will be offered primarily through in-person instruction, with some hybrid and remote learning options available when appropriate.

"At Columbia-Greene, we have a proven track record of working effectively with correctional facilities to offer high-quality educational opportunities for students who are incarcerated," said Victoria L. Walsh, Ed.D., president of Columbia-Greene Community College. "Our program allows students to achieve their academic goals and receive support for re-entry. I am grateful to SUNY OHEP and DOCCS for their partnership in increasing access to education for students."

Officials say the program will provide academic support throughout the enrollment process and during coursework. Students will receive assistance with admissions, financial aid applications including FAFSA and TAP, and academic advising to help guide course selection, career pathways and overall academic progress.

Participants will also have access to career coaching focused on preparing them for employment after release. Services will include resume and cover letter development, professional communication training, digital etiquette, job search strategies and interview preparation.

Daniel F. Martuscello III, commissioner of the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, said the initiative will help support successful reentry into communities.

"Education has the power to change lives," Martuscello said. "By bringing college-level programming to Hudson Correctional Facility, we're opening doors to opportunity, accountability and personal growth. This benefits not only the individuals in the program, but the communities they will return to."

SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. said the program aligns with the State University of New York's mission to expand access to higher education.

"The launch of this new program at Hudson Correctional Facility reflects SUNY's mission to provide high-quality higher education to all New Yorkers," King said. "By strengthening continuity for justice-impacted students, we are not only expanding opportunity, but also investing in safer communities, workforce development and a more equitable future."

After release, students who complete coursework in the program will be able to continue their studies at Columbia-Greene Community College's main campus or explore transfer opportunities to other higher education institutions.

More information about Columbia-Greene Community College is available at columbiagreene.edu.

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