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HUDSON -- Incarcerated individuals at a Columbia County correctional facility can now earn associate degrees through a partnership with Columbia-Greene Community **College**.

The **college**'s new partnership with Hudson Correctional Facility, a medium-security **prison** for men, was announced on Monday. Hudson will be Columbia-Greene Community **College**'s **third prison education site**, following Greene and Green Haven correctional facilities, according to a release from Relentless Aware, a public relations firm in Albany.

"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," **college** President Victoria L. Walsh said in a statement. "Our program allows students to achieve their academic goals and receive support for re-entry. I am grateful to the SUNY Office of Higher **Education** in **Prison** and the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision for their partnership in increasing access to **education** for students."

In addition to instruction, the **college** will provide students with all support throughout their academic journeys, including admissions and financial aid counseling, according to the release. Each student will have an adviser who will assist with academic planning, course selection, career pathways and overall progress.

"**Education** has the power to change lives," DOCCS Commissioner Daniel F. Martuscello III said in a statement. "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."

Students will also receive career coaching, which will help them find jobs after release. Coaches will support students with resumes and cover letters, professional communication, digital etiquette, the job search process and interviewing skills, according to the release. After graduating, students can register for coursework at Columbia-Greene's main campus or work with counseling and transfer services to explore other educational opportunities.

SUNY's Office of Higher **Education** in **Prison** works with partners across the state to expand reentry services for the incarcerated. As of December, it had programs in 24 of the state's 42 prisons.

"The launch of this new program at Hudson Correctional Facility reflects SUNY's mission to provide high-quality higher **education** to all New Yorkers, and I applaud Columbia-Greene Community **College** on this effort," SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. said in a statement. "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 for all New Yorkers."

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