



*Having an organization like CCF has empowered me to be the woman I always knew I could become. I am constantly encouraged, supported, and reminded that I can do it. Support is necessary in all areas of life, especially in the pursuit of education. CCF has become a second family to me here in New York City and I feel blessed to be a part of such a powerful group of women.* **Rene Couret, CCF participant**

**Where do you go when you've been released from prison, you have little formal higher education, yet you want to become an active participant in civic life and more than anything, you know that you never, ever want to go back to prison?**

*The concept behind re-entry is to assist an incarcerated individual in making a positive adjustment to community life upon release...those who sought higher education while in prison and have a thirst for knowledge should be encouraged and supported to continue their quest. The **College and Community Fellowship** program is to be commended for its effort to bridge the gap between prison and college. By helping the formerly incarcerated, the program helps us all.*  
**Commissioner Brian Fischer, NY State Department of Correctional Services**

people from returning to prison. While the national recidivism rate hovers around 67%, for people who earned an associate's and bachelor's degree, the rate is 15.0% and 13.7% respectively.

**Nearly 70% of CCF Fellows complete a Bachelor's degree within four years vs. 51% of all students at the same colleges completing within six**

CCF began in 2000 with the goal of guiding women through the successful completion of higher education programs in the New York metropolitan area. During our ten years of existence we have helped our CCF fellows obtain approximately 160 degrees, ranging from associate to doctorate, most within the City University of New York system.

College and Community Fellowship (CCF) was founded a decade ago to fill this need – to give formerly incarcerated women the tools, primarily through higher education, to become vibrant members of their communities. One of CCF's greatest strengths is that not only does it make a tremendous difference in individual lives; it makes sense socially and economically.

**Annually, CCF spends about \$4,220 per student. The cost for someone to return to prison is about \$30,000 per year.**

While CCF's primary mission is to get women to and through college or university, early in our existence we realized that women who entered our program had high aspirations: in addition to rebuilding their own lives, they wanted to participate fully in civic life and give back to their communities.

**Fewer than 2% of CCF participants return to prison.**

Higher education programming has proven to be one of the most effective ways of preventing

CCF offers specific programs to foster artistic expression, community leadership and activism, and economic health. Along with the tuition assistance, CCF provides mentoring and academic counseling for women pursuing degrees.

**CELEBRATING 10 YEARS NOVEMBER 16, 2010 GALA**

Learn more – Contact [CCF@dildaymeyer.com](mailto:CCF@dildaymeyer.com), 212-537-6843

**College & Community Fellowship**  
 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1626, New York, NY 10115  
 Tel: 646 380 7777 Fax: 646 745 2539  
[www.collegeandcommunity.org](http://www.collegeandcommunity.org)