

College Behind Bars

Top Tier Coverage:

- **The New York Times-**
 - [How Much Watching Time Do you Have This Weekend?](#)
 - [How Jule Hall, Graduate of the Bard Prison Initiative, Spends His Sundays](#)
 - [Watching: A Powerful Documentary](#)
 - [Coming to TV This Fall: Everything](#)
- **The Washington Post Review**
 - [PBS's 'College Behind Bars' offers a lasting lesson: Learning is its own kind of freedom](#)
 - [Prisoners free their minds in Georgetown University class behind bars](#)
 - [Op-Ed- Some of my proudest accomplishments happened in Prison. How should I talk about them?](#)
- **The Wall Street Journal** - [Three Prison Inmates Beat Harvard in a Debate. Here's What Happened Next.](#)
- **The Seattle Times** - [College behind bars: Education's transformative power for America's incarcerated men and women](#)
- **Rolling Stone-** [Incarcerated People Can Do More than Beat Harvard in a Debate](#)
- **NPR Fresh Air** - [Incarcerated Men And Women Find Rehabilitation And Hope In 'College Behind Bars'](#)
- **Forbes** -
 - [How College In Prison Turns Around Lives And Saves Taxpayers Money](#)
 - [How A Liberal Arts education Helps Felons become 'Civic Beings'](#)
- **New York Magazine**
 - **Vulture-** [In College Behind Bars, Prisoners Step into the Classroom](#)
 - **The Cut-** [How an Award-Winning Documentary Filmmaker Gets it Done](#)
- **Gothamist-** [The Triumphs And Struggles Of Prison Education Get The Spotlight in New Documentary Series](#)
- **Deadline-** [Coping with COVID-19 Crisis](#)
- **NBC BLK News** - [PBS chronicles 12 inmates who value education in 'College Behind Bars'](#)
- **TIME magazine** - ['This is a Story of Hope.'](#)
- **USA today-**
 - ['Undoing a mistake': Ken burns film looks inside the push to bring college education back to prison](#)
 - [Former incarcerated student: Society owes men and women in prison chance to return whole](#)
- **Variety Magazine-** ["NYFF Docs"](#)
- **Sports Illustrated-** [Malcolm Jenkins Opens up on Being Called Out By Peers](#)
- **Hollywood Reporter-** ['College Behind Bars': TV review](#)
- **The Hill-** [What Happened after a team of prisoner beat Harvard in a debate](#)
- **Salon-** ["College Behind Bars" is a nuanced look at education in the prison industrial complex](#)
- **MotherJones-** [What Happens When Incarcerated People Get a World-Class Education](#)
- **The Crime Report-** [Some of America's 'Most Terrific' Students are Behind Bars](#)
- **The Appeal-** [College Programs in Prison Show the Value of Educating Every American](#)
- **Washington Examiner-** [Prisoner can read Shakespeare, too](#)
- **Patriots** - [Devin and Jason McCourty Named Finalist for 2020 Muhammad Ali Sports Humanitarian Award](#)
- **The Undefeated-** [Eagles' Malcolm Jenkins supports 'College Behind Bars,' a prison documentary](#)

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- **POV-** [NYFF Review: 'College Behind Bars' : An extraordinary portrait of students in prison system](#)
- **Axios** - [PBS documentary explores the power of education for prisoners](#)
- **BrutMedia-** [Interview with Giovanni Hernandez](#)
- **St. Louis Magazine** - <https://www.stlmag.com/culture/film/lynn-novick-bard-prison-initiative/>
- **FF2 Media-** ['Varda' tribute leads women director at 2019 NY Film Festival](#)
- **WHYY-** [New PBS documentary makes the case that people in prison deserve college access](#)
- **WGBH-** [College Behind Bars: Shattering Stereotypes](#)
- **The Grio-** [Dyjuan Tatro of 'College Behind Bars' talks education reform for prison](#)
- **The Bardian-** ["An insider's Perspective"](#), Rodney Spivey Jones Op Ed
- **Yale Daily News** - [Lynn and Jule, October 3, 201](#)
- **Georgetown News-** [Power of Education and Narrative Focus of Ken Burns Georgetown Visit](#)
- **Creative Loafing-**
<https://creativeloafing.com/content-465635-college-behind-bars-packs-a-rehabilitative>
- <https://www.wxii.org/pressroom/2019/11/college-behind-bars>
- <https://www.27east.com/arts/sneak-peek-college-behind-bars-to-screen-at-bay-street-1507795/>

Key Excerpts

The New York Times- "If you like well- constructed documentaries that capture the human condition in beautiful and surprising ways, watch this."

- Margaret Lyons, March 26th, 2020

The Rolling Stone- " A testament to the power of education, and why it remains such a dangerous and underrated weapon against a racially and economically unjust status quo in this nation.

- Jamil Smith, November 26th, 2019

Ms. Magazine- 'College Behind Bars' isn't just an important, educational call to arms. The doc is also a moving portrait of individuals determined to defy the odds and build a better future for themselves."

- Laura Berger, November 22, 2019

USA TODAY- This isn't the picture most Americans have of prison... But these scenes from a PBS documentary airing later this month show viewers a different kind of prison life – the rigorous pursuit of higher education."

- Max Cohen, November 21, 2019

Hollywood Reporter- If you lack the time to read those studies or just prefer human stories to statistics, Lynn Novick's four-part PBS documentary series College Behind Bars is persuasive and compelling as an argument for prison education reform (and general across-the-board prison reform), but more than that, it's so humane and emotional that it will probably have you brushing away tears as you're pondering bigger questions.

- Daniel Fienberg, Nov. 25th, 2019

College Behind Bars

Forbes - What better reminder of the liberating power of higher education than to hear incarcerated men and women describe their experience? For their crimes the students of the Bard Prison Initiative have lost their liberty and been removed from civil society; but through a liberal arts education, they have developed new relationships with history and philosophy, figures living and dead, and the agency required to form conclusions of their own.

- Emily Chamlee- Wright, Dec. 18th, 2019

Salon- “Novick uses the inmates’ narratives as a way to gently enter into big-picture topics like recidivism, mass incarceration, and rehabilitation, parsing through the public politics of prison and revealing the deeply human stories within.”

- Ashlie Stevens, [Salon](#), November 25, 2019

Star Tribune: “Her ability to get the most of interviews is put to good use as she prompts prisoners to open up about their quest for higher education.”

- Neal Justin, November 25, 2019

Podcast/ Discussion Recordings

- **NPR Fresh Air**- [Lynn Novick, Sebastian Yoon, Dyjuan Tatro](#)
- **Making Sense**, Sam Harris- [Lynn Novick and Jule Hall](#)
- **Factually! With Adam Conover** - [Max Kenner and Sebastian Yoon](#)
- **Decarceration Nation**- [Lynn Novick, Sarah Botstein, Salih Israel](#)
- **Pod Save the People with Deray Mckesson**- [DA Rachel Rollins and College Behind Bars](#)
- **The Appeal**:
 - [Rodney Spivey & Max Kenner](#)
 - [Lynn Novick & Sarah Botstein](#)
 - [Dyjuan Tatro & Wes Caines](#)
- **This a Collect Call from Sing-Sing**- [Conversation with Lynn and Giovanni](#)
- **Criminal (In)justice**- [Wesley Caines and Lynn Novick](#)
- **In Deep with Angie Coiro**- [Lynn and Sarah](#)
- **WNYC** -Brian Lehrer- <https://www.wnyc.org/story/higher-education-and-incarceration/>Lynn and Jule Hall
- **The Documentary Life**- [Lynn Novick and Sarah Botstein](#)
- **The Roundtable- WAMC**- [Dyjuan, Giovanni, Lynn and Sarah](#)
- **Today Show** - [Interview with Ken, Lynn, and Dyjuan Tatro](#)
- **ESPN**- [Malcolm Jenkins “ My Cleats, My Cause”](#)
- **USA Today**- [Sebastian & Sarah Botstein Interview](#)

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- **MetroFocus-** [Jule Hall & Lynn Novick](#)
- **KCRW's "Scheer Intelligence":** [Podcast with Lynn & Jule - January 24, 2020](#)
- **NYWIFT's Women Crush Wednesdays Podcast** - [Interview with Lynn and Sarah posted - December 18, 2019.](#)
- **Center for Court Innovation-** ["College Incarcerated" podcast December 20, 2019](#)

Tweets/Social media Responses

#CollegeBehindBarsPBS is perhaps one of the best documentaries that I've seen about criminal justice in the past 5 years. I thought it was incredibly well done in all ways. It premieres on Monday 9/8. 2 parts. 4 hours." - **Deray Mckesson**

"Watching College Behind Bars with my final year students to inspire them to do more in their quest for education. The film has left them very attentive and in tears. Great documentary @LynnNovick @KenBurns @sbotstein" - [Mr. Akwei](#), Ghana Africa

I teach people sentenced to death in #prison as teens. No one loves #books more than people in prison. You'll know what I mean within the 1st five minutes of Ken Burn's inspiring, engaging documentary #Collegebehindbars.- [Jill Piggot](#), New Brunswick, Canada

#CollegeBehindBars is one of the most beautiful displays I have ever seen of the transformative power of education. Truly inspired by and the men and women that dedicate themselves so fully to its programs. - **Amanda Klien**, Columbus OH

[#Collegebehindbars](#) on [#Netflix](#) is so beautiful to watch. Painful but also filled with so much hope and pride. 5 stars! - [Aus'Keneilwe](#), Johannesburg, South Africa

"I'm glad this story was acquired for the mainstream. I'm definitely gonna rewatch this inspiring group of men/women who serve as exemplary subjects for furthering your education despite your status or obstacles. Continue to be a beacon my guy @dyjuantatro" - [Clyde D. Gunter, ESPN](#), New York, NY

Rodney J Jones' afterword on part four of "College behind Bars" on Netflix is so relevant for this time that America is going through. - [Itwo](#), South Africa

"College Behind Bars" is beautifully executed. It is engaging, masterfully shot, and hopeful. Also they have us get to know the people they follow before we learn of their crimes. They are not their mistakes. Watch this immediately. - [Kate Gaffney](#), Los Angeles, CA

This series demonstrates not only growth, perseverance, and compassion, but also the transformative power of education. We must honor all of our students and meet them where they are/end. - [Dr. Academic Batgirl](#), Canada

Had the privilege to finally watch #CollegeBeyondBars and just wow. We must continue to show the intelligence that is trapped behind walls. Imagine a world where adequate education is possible for all before people get tangled up in the cj system. - [Jordan Perry, Podcast Host](#)

College Behind Bars

I have been working on my Crime syllabus for a solid month now & articles if you want them, but mainly I would recommend the PBS doc College Behind Bars. It provides an indepth look at the CJ system, educational opportunities for prisoners & recidivism.- Maria Scaptura,

"The corona virus left me off for two weeks...When I was desperate to do something productive, I saw College behind bars on Netflix." - [MK, Kora](#)

Teacher/ Student / Community Responses:

From Maura MacKinnon, Host & Teacher at South Mecklenburg High School)

"This, to me, is true education. Opening our eyes, and having these sometimes difficult conversations - it's the only way change can happen."

From Student, Cuesta College, CA

"As we get to know this individual, we begin to empathize and value the human being underneath the action. We are able to separate the person from the crime. This is exactly the type of story that the director wants to tell."

From Student, South Mecklenburg High School, NC

"...so much perspective. There were honestly so many moments that stood out to me while watching; this is truly the most influential and eye-opening documentary I have watched and I applaud you all for taking the steps to create it."

From Student, Cuesta College, CA

"As a society, we have bought into a myth that prisoners are inherently evil. We have inadvertently become complicit by allowing a for-profit trade in human lives to occur on a massive scale...however, the documentary series College Behind Bars is working to break this cycle."

From Nechama Robinson, Unconflicted Blog

"College Behind Bars offers an elegant glimpse at the inherent potential of quality education...if personality is a toolbox for surviving and thriving in our human condition, then Education Reform that recognizes the humanity of every child is the non-negotiable condition for building a fundamentally safe world"

Awards/ Festivals:

College Behind Bars

