Introduction:

The purposes of higher education include instruction, public service and research. Corrections can and does benefit from academic endeavors in each of these areas.

Policy Statement:

The field of corrections, in cooperation with higher education, should contribute to the improvement of the professional practice of corrections. Academic programs concerned with criminal justice, including juvenile justice and corrections should:

A. Provide competency-based education to prepare qualified candidates for correctional service, and assist in the delineation of dimensions of work responsibilities that may emerge as a result of changing social, economic, political and technological trends;

B. Promote understanding, both for correctional practitioners and for the public at large, of the complex social, ethical, political and economic factors that influence all areas of corrections;

C. Challenge assumptions about crime and corrections, and stimulate change when change is needed;

D. Partner with criminal justice, juvenile justice and corrections organizations to promote and support ethical standards in research, planning and evaluation in all areas;

E. Engage in public service related to corrections, including informational programs, volunteer programs and opportunities for training, such as internships and practicums to enhance the relationship between the academic community and corrections;

F. Encourage colleges and universities to provide opportunities for research and the publication of research findings;

G. Support, through program and faculty development, the evolution of corrections as a distinct professional discipline;

H. Implement programs in corrections at the associate degree level and higher that can serve as a minimum requirement for full professional status as a correctional employee; and

I. Partner with correctional agencies to promote and facilitate learning initiatives for employees, to include but not limited to the offering of professional development opportunities, and articulating college credit for experience and training obtained while working in the corrections field.
This Public Correctional Policy was unanimously ratified by the American Correctional Association Delegate Assembly at the Winter Conference in Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 17, 1990. It was last reviewed and affirmed at the 145th Congress of Correction in Indianapolis, IN on August 19, 2015.