



Re-Entry Simulation Event

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Brevard, NC – The Brevard College Department of Criminal Justice Studies and the Justice Ministry Team at St. Philips announced today that they are collaborating to host a Re-Entry Simulation Event for the public that will take place at the College’s Auxiliary Gym on Tuesday, April 9th from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

“We are thrilled to announce this unique partnership between the faith community and Brevard College to raise awareness about barriers our community members face when they return from jail or prison. Ninety-five percent of those in prison will return home at some point. Providing support services for our neighbors as they navigate reentry reduces re-offending, and builds stronger and safer communities,” Libby Fisher, Chair of the Justice Ministry Team says. “April is Second Chance Month, and our team is proud to recognize second chances beside the criminal justice students who will provide important leadership in our justice system in the future.”

What is a Reentry Simulation?

The Simulation will be presented by OurJourney, an organization based in Rocky Mount, NC that advocates for those returning to their communities from jails and prison. A Reentry Simulation is an exercise that models the process of reintegrating back into society after incarceration. It helps those who have never experienced incarceration better understand the challenges a returning citizen might face upon reentry, such as finding housing, employment, and accessing social services. Each participant assumes the identity of a recently released individual and has four “weeks”, each lasting 15 minutes, to interact with volunteers at booths representing reentry support organizations. Because every identity is different, every participant interacts with the simulation uniquely, which correlates to the wide variety of reentry experiences for those who rejoin our communities after their incarceration. It is a profoundly jarring yet enlightening experience.

Brian Scott, Executive Director of OurJourney, says “Being a participant in a simulation opens your eyes to the struggles and challenges of rebuilding your life after incarceration and demonstrates how vital it is that our communities work together to eliminate these barriers.”

Who Should Attend?

The purpose of a Reentry Simulation is to open people’s eyes to the oftentimes overwhelming challenges our returning citizens face as they try to rebuild their lives. As such, anyone who is interested in experiencing this will make a perfect participant. OurJourney also highly recommends that people in leadership positions, such as judges, parole officers, attorneys, business owners, city council members and county commissioners, educational leaders, youth mentors, pastors and community leaders attend.

There will be light refreshments provided beginning at 5:15 p.m., and the Simulation will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. The event is free, but registration is required by April 5th. Visit www.stphilipsbrevardnc.org/events to register.

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About the Justice Ministry Team at St. Philips

The Justice Ministry Team at St. Philip's is an ecumenical group of people from local congregations and the community who work to impact those who are justice-involved in Transylvania County.

About OurJourney

OurJourney is a non-profit organization based in Rocky Mount, NC that seeks to end the cycle of sorrow by helping the formerly incarcerated bridge the gap from prison to freedom, from their past life to their Best Life. We believe that reducing recidivism makes our communities stronger and safer, while saving millions in taxes.

About Brevard College

Brevard College is consistently recognized as one of the best liberal arts colleges. The College's focus on experiential learning, small class sizes, and location in the mountains of Western North Carolina near Asheville makes Brevard a top choice college for students around the world.