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**Statement from IDJJ Acting Director Candice Jones on today's announcement of a Correctional Education Guidance Package by the U.S. Department of Education and Department of Justice:**

“This is an important step by the federal government to give youth involved in the justice system meaningful help with reintegrating into society. These young people matter, and if we provide them with educational and job opportunities they will do better when they return to their communities. We tell youth every day to get out of the justice system and stay out, but we all must work to provide these young people with the skills and support services that help keep them out of the justice system. Since state assistance is often based on federal guidelines, I hope more states will follow this lead and begin removing barriers to post-secondary education, to help more justice-involved youth achieve positive outcomes with educational and workforce goals. I am also optimistic that this package is the beginning of an increased federal focus on these youth.”

The following provides a link to the letter from Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education, and Eric H. Holder, Jr., Attorney General of the United States:

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/correctional-education/index.html>

The following provides a link to the federal guidance package:

[Correctional Education Guidance Package](#)