

The students approach the class with open minds and dedicated hearts. My favorite part of teaching in this program is how we can come together as a community to set classroom standards, hold ourselves accountable to meet those goals, and celebrate our growth!”

EXPERIENCE BY NADIA, GRADUATE STUDENT/ASSISTANT IN THE INSIDE-OUT PROGRAM

“What has my experience with the UNA Restorative Justice Lab at Limestone Correctional Facility been like? When I first started this program, I had no idea what to expect--mostly because my knowledge of Restorative Justice (RJ), and higher education in prison was limited. Since starting this program in August of 2022,

my perception of RJ, higher education in prison, and incarceration itself has been reshaped. My role as a graduate assistant in this program has awarded me a unique opportunity. Unlike the course instructors and outside students, I’ve had the privilege of being embedded in every course and majority of the study halls. Due to this, I have seen the overwhelmingly positive impacts of restorative practices and its inherent benefits. Throughout the duration of this program, I’ve witnessed changes in the inside students, outside students, and myself. I have seen inside students gain self-confidence, not only in themselves, but in their capabilities inside and outside of the classroom. I’ve observed students courageously engage in

vulnerability. I have noticed an increase in compassion for classmates and self. I believe the improvement observed has allowed for healing to take place within the lives of each individual in our program. Personally, this program has challenged misconceptions I had regarding people who have been incarcerated, and helped

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