

**Occasional Series on Reentry Research**  
**Prisoner Reentry Institute at John Jay College of Criminal Justice**

**The Use of Criminal Records in College Admissions Reconsidered**

**Panelist Biographies**

**May 6, 2011**

**Marsha Weissman** is the founder and Executive Director of the Center for Community Alternatives. She holds a Ph.D. in Social Science and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship, Syracuse University. Under her leadership, the Center for Community Alternatives (CCA) has developed model alternative-to-incarceration programs for young people in the juvenile justice system. Dr. Weissman is a frequent presenter at state and national conferences. She has testified before the U.S. Senate, presented at a Congressional briefing on Incarcerated People and the Census, testified before the U.N. Committee to End Racial Discrimination and addressed the matter of racial disparities in the U.S. juvenile justice system.

Dr. Weissman is the author of several publications related to mass incarceration. She is currently completing a book "Prelude to Prison: Youth Perspectives on the School-to-Prison Pipeline." Dr. Weissman serves on several boards including the Sentencing Project, the New York State Defenders Association and the National Hire Network. She was also a member of the New York State Task Force on Transforming Juvenile Justice.

**Linda Hollmen** is the Director of Education for the New York State Department of Correctional Services. Ms. Hollmen has worked for the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision for more than 33 years. She was a Bilingual Teacher, Education Supervisor, Assistant Director and is currently the Director of Education. Ms. Hollmen taught for the prison education programs for Dutchess Community College and Marist College prior to 1994. She was a facilitator for the Compadre Helper Peer Counseling program. She was also an active member of the Correctional Education Association and is a former Region I Teacher of the Year. In 2002, Ms. Hollmen collaborated with Mr. John Nuttall and Ms. Michele Staley on an article entitled "The Effect of Earning a GED on Recidivism Rates" that was published in the September 2003 issue of the Journal of Correctional Education.

**John Molina** is the Director of the Immersing Motivated Participants Academic and Career Training (I.M.P.A.C.T) program at the Exodus Transitional Community. Located in New York City, Exodus is a reentry organization that assists formerly incarcerated men and women as they reenter their communities. At Exodus, Mr. Molina is developing a curriculum that helps participants meet career goals through academia and internships. Mr. Molina's own experience of incarceration and perseverance is an inspiration to his clients. After earning a certificate in Paralegal Studies from York College, Mr. Molina worked for 15-years in corporate bankruptcy. He recently graduated summa cum laude with a BS in Health Services Administration with presidential and departmental honors from Lehman College. He has received the Hispanic Foundation Scholarship for 3 consecutive years and is now attending NYU's Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.