

The County of Centre

PROCLAMATION

NUMBER 14 OF 2023

WHEREAS, the Restorative Justice Initiative (RJI) at the Pennsylvania State University started in 2015 to create awareness of issues impacting incarcerated communities and serve as a source of support and outreach for The Pennsylvania State University and Centre County communities; and

WHEREAS, members of the RJI are dedicated to empowering individuals that are incarcerated or recently released through education and meaningful engagement in civic life; and

WHEREAS, Penn State faculty, staff, and students from the RJI work collaboratively with community partners in Centre County and state and local correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, the RJI interdisciplinary team strives to support strategic development of post-incarceration programming and works collaboratively to develop comprehensive, student-centered curriculum for carceral education programs; and

WHEREAS, Penn State faculty, staff, and students in the RJI support state and local reentry programs using complementary curriculum that addresses rehabilitative needs; and

WHEREAS, the RJI will host a Justice Education Week that features awareness on issues related to education and reentry support, barriers to reentry, and restorative justice practices; and

WHEREAS, Justice Education Week will include live teachings, speakers, and training directed towards education and restorative justice; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Centre County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim the week of **April 14-21, 2023** as **Justice Education Week** in Centre County to educate residents and the Penn State community about critical issues around incarceration, share ideas and best practices related to education and reentry, and promote the work of the Restorative Justice Initiative, its partners, and community stakeholders.

ADOPTED this 18th day of April 2023.



CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mark Higgins

Mark Higgins, Chair

Amber Concepcion

Amber Concepcion, Vice-Chair

Steven G. Dershem

Steven G. Dershem

ATTEST:

John Franek, Jr.

John Franek Jr., Administrator