Time Stamp: 00:00-00:12

Speaking: Tiyi Morris, OPEEP Co-Director and Associate Professor of African American and African Studies

“The Ohio Prison Education Exchange Project, also known as OPEEP, is a program designed to increase access to higher education for justice-involved individuals.”

Time Stamp: 00:12-00:43

Speaking: Mary Thomas, OPEEP Co-Director and Professor of Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies

“Some of our classes are service-learning classes, not all of them but some of them are, including the class I taught at the Ohio Reformatory for Women recently. That class is a service-learning class where students are able to go in from campus and learn alongside incarcerated students. They all take the same class and they all receive credit for the class. It has the service-learning component since the campus students are able to go off-site and engage in topics that they can’t typically engage in while they’re in on-campus classrooms. It’s a totally different experience for those students.”

Time Stamp: 00:43-1:00

Speaking: Kennedy B, former OPEEP student

“So, it’s kind of two-fold, as an individual, it changed the course of my collegiate journey and also kind of altered my career pathway, and then I think as a collective, it changed the dynamic of the classroom, challenged our perspectives and world views in general.”

Time Stamp: 1:00-1:08

Speaking: Tiyi Morris

“So, the class is designed to really break down the walls that exist and to deconstruct the stereotypes that both groups of students have about each other.”

Time Stamp: 1:08-1:28

Speaking: Kayli B, former OPEEP student

If you have any inkling of an interest, definitely go for it. I know it can seem like really scary to sign up for a class in prison and it’s really hard to, like, explain at first to your friends and family, like, what you’re going to do, but it was the best experience I have ever had at Ohio State.