

# County Board Meeting

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## Agenda Items - Distributed December 18, 2025

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<b>XII. Approval of Minutes</b> A. November 20, 2025 – Regular Meeting	1-6
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RESUME OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
COUNTY BOARD, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
November 20, 2025

The County Board of Champaign County, Illinois met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 6:30 PM in the Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center, 102 East Main Street, Urbana, Illinois, County Executive Steve Summers presiding and Matthew Cross as Clerk of the meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call showed the following members present: Settles, Sexton, Sullard, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Crane, Esry, Farney, Fava, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Rogers, and Locke – 16; late: Cowart (arrived at 6:41, during the discussion of Resolution No. 2025-324) – 1; absent: Wilson, Cagle, Carter, and Fortado – 4. County Executive Summers declared a quorum present and the Board competent to conduct business.

**PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

County Executive Summers read a prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

**READ NOTICE OF MEETING**

The Clerk read the Notice of the Meeting, said Notice having been published in the *News Gazette* on November 6, November 13, and November 19, 2025.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA**

Board Member Sullard offered a motion to adopt the Agenda; Board Member Sexton seconded.

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to amend the agenda to move item XII. Communications to follow item XVII. C. Opioid Settlement Task Force; Board Member Lokshin seconded. The motion to amend the Agenda carried by voice vote.

The motion as amended carried by unanimous voice vote.

**APPOINTING DENNISE ARRES**

Board Member Rodriguez offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-330 appointing Dennise Arres as a County Board Member in District 6 to fill Carolyn Greer's unexpired term ending November 30, 2026; Board Chair Locke seconded. Board Chair Locke read the entire text of the resolution. Board Member Rodriguez noted that the

addition of Dennise Arres would add a second Latine board member. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

### **ADMINISTRATION OF OATH**

County Clerk and Recorder Aaron Ammons administered the Oath of Office to Board Member Arres and photographs were taken.

### **DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS**

#### **Standing Committees:**

- A. County Facilities Committee  
Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 6:30 PM  
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center
- B. Environment and Land Use Committee  
Thursday, December 4, 2025 at 6:30 PM  
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center
- C. Highway and Transportation Committee  
Friday, December 5, 2025 at 9:00 AM  
1605 E Main St, Urbana

#### **Committee of the Whole:**

- A. Justice and Social Services; Policy, Personnel, and Appointments; Finance  
Monday, December 9, 2025 at 6:30 PM  
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center

#### **County Board:**

- A. Regular Meeting  
Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 6:30 PM  
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center

### **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

Board Member Farney offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-323 honoring county employees for years of service; Board Member Lokshin seconded. Board Member Vanichtheeranont read the entire text of the resolution. Probation and Court Services Director Shannon Sider was invited to speak about the service of Paul McKinney; she noted that while Mr. McKinney was being recognized for five years of consecutive service, but he had eleven years prior service and, thus, 16 years of cumulative service in the county. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Sullard offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-324 honoring retiring county employees; Board Member Thorsland seconded. Board Member

Vanichtheeranont read the entire text of the resolution. Clerk Ammons was invited to speak and he praised the service of Barbara McClain. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Jason Benda, County Facilities employee, spoke in praise of colleague Melissa Messer's ten years of service to the county.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Board Member Cowart offered a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda; Board Member Rogers seconded. The motion consisting of 15 resolutions (Nos. 2025-239, 2025-309, 2025-310, 2025-311, 2025-312, 2025-313, 2025-314, 2025-315, 2025-316, 2025-317, 2025-318, 2025-319, 2025-320, 2025-321, and 2025-322) carried by unanimous roll-call vote:

Yeas: Settles, Sexton, Sullard, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Arres, Cowart, Crane, Esry, Farney, Fava, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Rogers, and Locke – 18

Nays: none

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the County Board on October 23, 2025; Board Member Sexton seconded. Board Member Sullard noted typographical errors on page 1. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote, pending the correction of the error.

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

County Executive Summers noted that the Summaries of Action Taken for County Facilities Committee of November 4, 2025, and Highway and Transportation Committee of November 6, 2025, were received and placed on file.

### **AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

County Executive Summers noted the Summary of Action Taken at the November 10, 2025, Committee of the Whole Meeting (Justice and Social Services; Finance; *and* Policy, Personnel, and Appointments) was received and place on file.

Board Member Hanauer-Friedman offered a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-14 approving the FY2026 Annual Tax Levy; Board Member Esry seconded. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote:

Yeas: Settles, Sexton, Sullard, Thorsland, Wiggs, Arres, Cowart, Crane, Esry, Farney, Fava, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Rogers, and Locke – 18

Nays: none.

Board Member Hanauer-Friedman offered a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-15 approving the Annual Budget and Appropriation; Board Member Farney seconded.

Board Member Farney offered an amendment to the County IT personnel and budget, to add “one additional IT Manager, one additional Systems Administrator, and three additional Jr. Systems Administrators,” to amend the Administrative Services organizational chart to add one additional Administrative Assistant position, and to amend the FY26 IT budget with “a \$477,000 increase to the IT revenue line of charges for services, General Fund 1080, Department 28, Line 400701” and “a \$477,000 increase to the IT full-time personnel line, General Fund 1080, Department 28, Line 500103;” Board Member Hanauer-Friedman seconded. Board Member Farney stated the amendment is due to the County taking over the Regional Planning Commission’s (RPC) IT services from an outside contractor. County Executive Summers stated that the agreement will be beneficial to both RPC and the County. The amendment carried by voice vote.

The motion, as amended, carried by roll-call vote:

Yeas: Settles, Sexton, Sullard, Thorsland, Wiggs, Arres, Cowart, Crane, Esry, Farney, Fava, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Rodriguez, Rogers, and Locke – 17

Nays: Peugh – 1

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Board Member Sullard offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-325 authorizing Payments of Claims; Board Member Vanichtheeranont seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Arres offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-326 purchases not following purchasing policy; Board Member Esry seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Project Manager Kathy Larson provided a brief update on ARPA-funded projects and noted the memorandum in the Agenda Packet. She added that the Safety, Lighting, Energy Efficiency Program (SLEEP) is now up to 51 clients.

County Executive Summers stated that the Grant Coordinator's update can be found in the Agenda Packet.

Board Member Rodriguez offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-327 approving agreements between the County of Champaign and Fire Protection Districts for first responder equipment; Board Member Wiggs seconded. Board Chair Locke expressed her appreciation in being able to provide rural fire protection districts with life-saving equipment. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Esry offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-238 approving an exception to the Champaign County Purchasing Policy Ordinance No. 2022-9; Board Member Thorsland seconded. Board Chair Locke noted that the exception was required because the County was making such a large purchase of life-saving equipment for the fire protection districts. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Farney offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-239 approving Budget Amendment BUA 2025/11/192 appropriating Opioid Settlement Funds to support various fire protection districts with the purchase of first responder equipment; Board Member Sexton seconded. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote:

Yeas: Settles, Sexton, Sullard, Thorsland, Wiggs, Arres, Cowart, Crane, Esry,  
Farney, Fava, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Rogers,  
and Locke – 18

Nays: none.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Board Member Lokshin noted a document distributed to members on the support, care, and treatment of individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

Board Member Peugh spoke about the Day of Trans Remembrance.

Board Member Farney recognized local athletic accomplishments: the St. Joseph-Ogden High School girls cross country team finished sixth in the state, the St. Joseph-Ogden High School boys cross country team finished seventh in the state, and St. Joseph-Ogden High School sophomore Grace Bresner received All-State honors, finishing 17<sup>th</sup> overall. He also noted that the County still has free gunlocks available.

Board Chair Locke spoke about a new emergency winter men's shelter at the Armory building at the corner of North Second Street and Park Avenue in Champaign, noting that it is not a walk-in shelter, and unhoused individuals will need to be approved by either Cunningham Township or the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District. The shelter will be holding an open house November 20, 2025.

Board member Rodriguez added that RPC also has housing resources.

Board Member Thorsland spoke about the federal suspension of citizenship naturalization ceremonies in New York state, and he urged the public to safely and peacefully document any Immigration and Customs Enforcement activities in the community.

**ADJOURNMENT**

County Executive Summers adjourned the meeting at 7:12 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron Ammons". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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Aaron Ammons, Champaign County Clerk  
and ex-Officio Clerk of the Champaign County Board  
Champaign County, Illinois



# Street College JDC & Re-Entry Services

## Executive Summary

Street College is proud to partner with Champaign County to deliver consistent, culturally relevant programming for youth in the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) as well as provide re-entry services to youth released into Champaign County. In 2025, our team provided weekly instruction, mentorship, and re-entry support, combining academic, creative, and social-emotional learning to help youth navigate one of the most challenging periods of their lives. In 2026 we are prepared to increase our re-entry engagement and have secured \$54,193 in additional funding to supplement the \$100,000 in County Board funding in order to execute the program at this level of impact for the full year.

This summary highlights the key outcomes, impact metrics, and financial stewardship that demonstrate the program's effectiveness and the continued need for investment.

## Youth Served

- **53** JDC scholars received weekly programming in Hip-Hop music, media, and engineering. We anticipate engaging with **50-70** scholars at the JDC in 2026.
- **5** re-entry scholars voluntarily re-engaged with programming after release, demonstrating trust and lasting impact. We anticipate engaging with **8-15** scholars after their release in 2026.

## Services

- **256+** manhours per month of structured programming in the JDC facility, including STEAM/STEM activities, creative expression, and leadership development.
- **32+** hours per month of re-entry engagement
- **48+** hours per month of planning, course development and partner engagement
- **2** days per month of mental health professional engagement

## Financial Stewardship

- In 2025, the County Board approved **\$66,666** to support six months of Street College's Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) and re-entry programming. Based on this demonstrated investment and program delivery, the County is considering a **\$100,000** allocation to support a full year of services in 2026.



- Street College successfully operated the JDC and re-entry program within the **\$66,666** allocation during the six-month 2025 period. The total projected cost to provide these services for the full 2026 calendar year is **\$154,193**.
- To ensure fiscal responsibility and reduce reliance on local tax dollars, Street College has secured **\$54,153** in complementary funding from the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS). Combined with the proposed \$100,000 County allocation, this funding fully supports the 2026 program budget and allows Street College to continue delivering consistent, effective services to justice-involved youth and returning community members.

### **Program Outcomes**

- Scholars report that Street College sessions are often the only programming they “look forward to” while detained.
- Individualized support enables youth to pursue personal goals, such as journalism, music production, and engineering, building confidence and skills for life after release.
- JDC staff report decreased tensions, increased collaboration, and increased Juvenile motivation
- Youth who engage with Street College post-release reconnect with school or work, consistently attend community-based sessions, and report reduced hopelessness and isolation.
- One scholar presented at the Illinois Probation Court Services Association Conference, advocating for creative, hands-on programming in detention facilities.

### **Why Continued Funding is Critical**

- Street College programming at the JDC and Re-Entry services will cease without this funding.
- Continued investment ensures that more youth will access these high-impact services, increasing safety, educational engagement, and long-term success in the community.
- Street College’s team is deeply rooted in the local community, enabling authentic mentorship and sustained relationships.
- Programming combines creative and practical skill-building, preparing youth for education, work, and leadership opportunities post-release.
- The program provides personalized, persistent re-entry support, bridging the gap between detention and community reintegration.

# Detailed Report

## 1. Budget

### 2025 (July 1 - Dec. 31)

#### Personnel

##### **Onsite JDC Programming**

Faculty (2) (384 hours)	\$11,520
Senior Faculty (2) (384 hours)	\$12,288
Program Director (480 hours)	\$16,320
Admin (128 hours)	\$7,680
Payroll Indirect Cost (11.775%)	\$5,629.39

<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$53,437</b>
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#### Other Costs

Equipment & Supplies	\$10,027
Insurance	\$1,200
Accounting	\$2,000

Total Other Costs	<b>\$13,227</b>
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<b>TOTAL JDC &amp; RE-ENTRY</b>	<b>\$66,664</b>
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#### **2025 FUNDING**

Champaign County Board	\$66,664.39
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### 2.2 FY 2026 JDC Grant (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31)

#### Personnel

##### **Onsite JDC Programming**

Faculty (2) (384 hours)	\$11,520
Senior Faculty (2) (384 hours)	\$12,288
Program Director (480 hours)	\$16,320
Admin (192 hours)	\$11,520
Payroll Indirect Cost	\$ 6,082

<b>\$57,730</b>
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#### **Re-entry Engagement**

Faculty (480 hours)	\$14,400
Senior Faculty (480 hours)	\$15,360
Payroll Indirect Cost	\$ 3,504
	-----
	<b>\$33,264</b>

#### **Planning & Course Development**

Faculty (2) (576 hours)	\$27,280
Senior Faculty (2) (576 hours)	\$ 18,432
Payroll Indirect Cost	\$ 5,383
	-----
	<b>\$ 51,095</b>

<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$142,089</b>
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#### **Other Costs**

Equipment & Supplies	\$ 5,000
Other Indirect Costs (5%)	\$ 7,104
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Total Other Costs	<b>\$12,104</b>

<b>TOTAL JDC &amp; RE-ENTRY SRVCS</b>	<b>\$154,193</b>
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#### **2026 FUNDING**

Champaign County Board	\$100,000
Illinois Department of Human Services	\$ 54,193

*Full 2025 profit and Loss in Appendix 7.1.*

## **2. Performance Overview**

### **Youth Served:**

- 53 JDC scholars served in 2025.
- 5 re-entry scholars served (youth who voluntarily continued support after release)
  - Youth reconnected for mentoring, musicology, engineering, or community media projects.
  - In partnership with Champaign County Probation and Court Services, the team coordinates schedules and signs up interested scholars for post-release programming.

## **Services:**

- 256+ manhours per month of programming
- Classes focus on:
  - Social-emotional skill building
  - Literacy and creative expression
  - STEAM/STEM-aligned activities
    - Hip-Hop music
    - Media/Podcasting
    - Engineering.
  - College and career exposure
  - Identity, agency, and leadership development

## **Engagement and Impact:**

- Youth participation in journaling, music, and creative projects
- Multiple youth reporting that Street College sessions were the only programming they “looked forward to” during detainment
- Parent and Probation Officer statements that released juveniles exhibited more hope, drive and followthrough.
- Re-Entry youth have reconnected with school or work, began participating in community based sessions and reported reductions in hopelessness, isolation, and system fatigue

## **3. 2026 Program Goals**

In 2026, Street College anticipates achieving the following:

- Serve 50-70 JDC scholars and 8-15 Re-Entry scholars.
- Launch a supportive alumni program to maintain post-release engagement.
- Increase engagement with a Social Worker and/or Re-Entry Specialist to support scholars and families.
- Maintain strict fiscal stewardship and transparent reporting.
- Deepen Community Integration.
- Regular check-ins with Re-Entry scholars to support school re-engagement, workforce readiness, and mental health.

## **4. Success Stories & Testimonials**

#### **4.1 Letter of Support & Ongoing Mentorship**

Earlier this year, one JDC scholar became a consistent leader in our music and media sessions. He showed growth in communication, teamwork, and artistic skill, often helping shape the direction of our podcast-style activities in the unit. When his court date approached, Street College letter of support documenting his progress and outlining a concrete Re-Entry plan: weekly mentorship, enrollment in our Street Musicology and engineering courses, and connection to positive peer groups in the community. The process signaled to both the scholar and the court that he has a team committed to his success beyond his time in detention.

*See Letter of Support in Appendix 7.2.*

#### **4.2 From Disengaged to Aspiring Journalist:**

A Juvenile has had two separate stays in the JDC facility, first in the summer and again in the fall. During his first stay, he showed little interest in Street College programming; music and engineering were not subjects he felt connected to, and he initially declined to participate. During his second stay, one of our instructors sat with him one-on-one and discovered that he had a strong passion for visual art.

We placed an iPad in his hands and he immediately began drawing. That single point of entry, digital illustration, gave him a way to participate that felt authentic. He started creating cover art and visual concepts for the music his classmates were producing. From there, he became more willing to experiment with new activities: using his voice on the mic, collaborating on projects, and conducting interviews with peers where he asked about their lives and future goals.

This experience has helped the scholar see new possibilities for himself. He has begun to talk about pursuing journalism as a show host or radio personality, either as a hobby or as a career path, once he returns home. His story illustrates how Street College's flexible, youth-centered approach can turn initial resistance into genuine engagement and future-oriented thinking.

#### **4.3 Scholar Outreach:**

A 15 year old scholar was transferred to Harrisburg after working with Street College for 9 weeks, which limited our direct communication. To ensure he knew he was not forgotten, Street College identified his relatives, realizing his grandmother went to high school and was friends with our CEO. We reached out to his grandmother and asked her to pass along a message:

***“We see genius in him, we believe in him, and we are waiting to continue working with him when he returns home.”***

His grandmother shared that he had been showing signs of depression and hopelessness. After receiving our message, she reported a noticeable shift, the scholar expressed renewed determination, energy, and interest in reconnecting with programming upon release.

This story illustrates the power of sustained, culturally grounded relationships, something uniquely possible because our staff were raised locally and have long-standing ties to the community.

*“He is one of the most unique scholars I’ve had the pleasure of teaching. This scholar is another brilliant scholar and creative who has never been told that he was a genius until he came in contact with Street College. The more time he spent with Street College, he turned into a leader. When we would do podcasting, the scholar would guide the conversation to be honest and truthful. The scholar became more of a collaborator by helping others become better writers in their music and by holding others around him accountable.”*

*- Street College Senior Faculty*

#### **4.4 A Re-Entry Scholar Becoming an Engineer and Advocate**

A Juvenile re-entered the community after his release from JDC in March 2025 and has since become one of our most consistent Re-Entry scholars. He has not missed a week of Street College programming since returning home. In our Street College Engineering sessions, he has:

- Built and reverse-engineered RC cars,
- Assisted younger students with their own builds, and
- Explored opportunities for internship and employment connected to his growing technical skills.

He also represented Street College at the 2025 Illinois Probation Court Services Association Fall Conference, presenting in front of 20+ probation officers from across the state of Illinois. He spoke about his experience in detention and the impact of having access to programs like Street College, advocating that there should be more creative, hands-on opportunities in facilities throughout the state. His journey from JDC scholar to emerging engineer and public advocate reflects the long-term potential of our Re-Entry model, where youth are not only participants, but eventually leaders and role models for others.

## 4.5 Personal Improvement:

When we first met one of the Scholars at JDC he went by the artist name “Glock” as in the gun. After many hands-on writing sessions and recording songs, we started to see a change on how he wanted to present himself. After a while he no longer wanted to be called “Glock” because the music he was making didn’t fit that title. He became more conscious about not promoting violence and shifted his writing to be more honest about his current life situation.

## 5. 2025 Challenges & Solutions

- **Challenge:** Some youth transferred between facilities, complicating engagement.
  - **Solution:** Maintained communication through family and staff to sustain mentorship and readiness for Re-Entry programming.
- **Challenge:** Limited Re-Entry participation initially.
  - **Solution:** Personalized outreach and leveraging staff community ties encouraged voluntary return and engagement.
- **Challenge:** Budget timing/pacing for equipment and indirect costs.
  - **Solution:** Deferred non-essential purchases to align with program rollout and ensure compliance.
- **Challenge:** Shifting student populations and changing staffing patterns in the facility made it difficult to maintain momentum. There were weeks when fewer scholars were available, or movement restrictions limited participation.
  - **Solution:** Designing shorter, modular activities that could work with 1–3 students or a whole group. Bringing in more flexible media projects (short interviews, quick writing prompts, beat-making exercises) that fit unpredictable class lengths. Using these moments to deepen one-on-one mentoring and check-ins with scholars who were present.

These adjustments have and will continue to help sustain engagement despite external factors and demonstrate our ability to adapt while keeping youth at the center.

## 6. Our Unique Value & Community Need

### 6.1 Why Street College is Effective

Street College’s approach to youth programming is rooted in deep local knowledge, lived experience, and strong community relationships. This combination allows us to provide

highly personalized support to scholars in the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) and those re-entering the community.

## **6.2 Local Ties and Lived Experience of Staff**

The majority of our team grew up locally and maintain close connections with families, schools, and community organizations. This lived experience allows staff to relate authentically to scholars, anticipate challenges, and provide guidance grounded in real-world understanding. Scholars are more likely to engage when they connect with staff who understand their environment, culture, and aspirations.

## **6.3 Relationship with Families**

We prioritize ongoing communication with families, ensuring that parents and guardians are part of the support network. Staff regularly coordinate with families to reinforce learning, social-emotional development, and goal-setting, creating continuity between the program and home life. For example, in the case of Success Story 4.4, staff reached out to his grandmother to encourage his engagement during detention, which sparked renewed determination and hope.

## **6.4 Re-Entry Success Factors**

Our programs emphasize structured post-release support, mentorship, and goal-oriented activities. Scholars who engage with Street College upon release benefit from:

- Personalized mentorship tailored to their strengths and challenges
- Access to STEAM and creative arts programming to develop skills and confidence
- Guidance in navigating education, employment, and social reintegration

This continuity and personalized approach significantly improves the likelihood that youth will remain engaged in positive activities and avoid recidivism.

## **6.5 Integrated Creative and Practical Support**

Our programs don't just tell scholars to "make better choices", we give them concrete spaces to build a new story:

- Creative outlets (music, media, and engineering projects) where they can build confidence and skills.
- Structured routines (classes, projects, showcases) that help rebuild habits and a sense of responsibility.



Networked support (staff, peers, families, and partners) that continues beyond the term of detention.

## **6.6 Bridge Between System and Community**

We are trusted in both spaces, inside JDC and in local neighborhoods, Street College often functions as a bridge:

- We can advocate for youth before the courts and probation departments, drawing on firsthand knowledge of their work and growth.
- We can welcome them into familiar community spaces where they continue to see some of the same faces they knew in detention.

We can track progress over time, not just through one program cycle, but across school years and life transitions.

## **6.7 Specialized Support**

### **Charles “Jarrel” Young, LSW – Licensed Social Worker**

Charles “Jarrel” Young brings professional expertise and a passion for youth development directly to the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC). Visiting 1–2 times per month, he provides group sessions on self-expression, emotional regulation, and mental health, as well as individual support for scholars experiencing trauma, anxiety, depression, or challenges in forming healthy relationships.

Using a trauma-informed, culturally responsive approach, Charles helps scholars build resilience, self-esteem, and coping strategies that support both their time in the JDC and successful Re-Entry into the community. His work complements Street College’s academic and creative programming, ensuring that youth receive holistic support, addressing emotional, mental, and educational needs simultaneously.

*Full bio available in Appendix 7.3.*

## 7. Appendix

### 7.1 Profit and Loss:

Profit and Loss  
STEAM Genius NFP  
January-December, 2025

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	JDC GRANT 2025	TOTAL
Income		
GRANTS		
Juvenile Reentry Services (JDC)	66,666.00	66,666.00
<b>Total for GRANTS</b>	<b>66,666.00</b>	<b>\$66,666.00</b>
<b>Total for Income</b>	<b>66,666.00</b>	<b>\$66,666.00</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>66,666.00</b>	<b>\$66,666.00</b>
Expenses		
Administrative Costs		
Accounting Fees	3,000.00	3,000.00
<b>Total for Administrative Costs</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>
Operations		
Supplies	4,252.05	4,252.05
<b>Total for Operations</b>	<b>4,252.05</b>	<b>\$4,252.05</b>
Payroll Expenses		
Payroll Taxes	4,153.23	4,153.23
Salaries and Wages	4,237.50	\$4,237.50
Administrator	5,399.20	5,399.20
Jr. Instructor	5,987.50	5,987.50
Program Director	16,797.37	16,797.37
Sr. Instructor	18,851.24	18,851.24
<b>Total for Salaries and Wages</b>	<b>51,272.81</b>	<b>\$51,272.81</b>
<b>Total for Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>55,426.04</b>	<b>\$55,426.04</b>
Project Equipment	3,987.91	3,987.91
<b>Total for Expenses</b>	<b>66,666.00</b>	<b>\$66,666.00</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-\$0.00</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>		
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-\$0.00</b>

## 7.2 Letter of Support Written on Behalf of a JDC Scholar



300 S Broadway Ave, Ste. 110-B  
Urbana, IL 61801  
217-288-2111 Ext. 2  
info@streetcollege.org  
https://streetcollege.org

December 3, 2025

Dear Honorable Judge,

My name is Jay Walker, and I am a Senior Instructor with Street College, a youth STEM program that partners with the Champaign County Juvenile Detention Center. I first met [REDACTED] during his earlier stay at the facility in the spring of this year, and I have continued working with him during his current stay this fall. My role is to teach and mentor students through our musicology and media courses.

In my time working with [REDACTED] (whom we often call "[REDACTED]" in class), I have come to know him as a thoughtful, creative young person with strong potential to be a positive influence on those around him. When he is engaged in our programming, he is respectful, responsive to feedback, and willing to challenge himself. I have seen him step into leadership roles with his peers, especially during our media sessions, where collaboration and communication are required.

When he initially started in our program, he was reserved and reluctant to participate. During his current stay at the Juvenile Detention Center, our team at Street College feels we have made real progress with him. [REDACTED] has been instrumental in helping us create constructive content inside the facility. He has served as a host during our media days, taking responsibility for leading interviews for our podcast-style show. In this role, he asks questions, listens carefully to others, and helps set a positive tone for the group.

He also participates as an artist during our studio sessions. We regularly challenge him to write lyrics that are responsible and future-focused, and we prompt him to incorporate specific vocabulary words and themes into his verses. He has accepted these challenges, revised his work when asked, and shown that he can express himself creatively while staying within these guidelines. From my perspective, these are clear signs that he is capable of growth and is willing to do the work it takes to change.



300 S Broadway Ave, Ste. 110-B  
Urbana, IL 61801  
217-288-2111 Ext. 2  
info@streetcollege.org  
https://streetcollege.org

If the Court allows [REDACTED] to return to the community, Street College is prepared to support him with a clear and structured plan:

- We will invite him to reconnect with Street College immediately for mentorship and to attend our Street Musicology and Engineering courses 1–2 times per week.
- We will intentionally place him in groups with like-minded, goal-oriented peers who are working on school, employment, and positive creative projects.
- We will partner with [REDACTED] to develop a goal-based plan and track his progress through regular weekly check-ins.
- We will help connect him with local resources with the hope of supporting him in finding employment.
- We will work to build a collaborative relationship with his probation officer and his guardian so that we are all aligned in our expectations and support.
- We will attend future court dates when possible to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to his success.

I understand that [REDACTED] is before the Court for serious reasons, and I am not writing to minimize that. My intention is solely to share what I have personally observed about his character and his efforts to grow. Based on my experience working with him during both the spring and fall, I believe that with structure, consistent mentorship, and access to positive opportunities, he has the ability to move in a healthier direction.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my perspective on [REDACTED] and the support that Street College is prepared to provide him moving forward. Please feel free to contact me if the Court has any questions or needs additional information.

Sincerely,

Jay Walker

Senior Instructor, Street College  
217-419-1005  
jay@streetcollege.org

## **7.3 Staff bios:**

### **Lori Gold Patterson - CEO**

Lori Gold Patterson, a Mechanical Engineering graduate from the University of Illinois, co-founded and led a 30-person engineering consulting firm that she sold in 2021. Lori had the honor of founding and operating several entrepreneurial ventures with Street College's visionary, the late Dr. Will Patterson, and is committed to seeing the impact of his work continue for future generations. She is passionate about organizational culture building, economic development partnerships, start-up advising, and community building. Lori has been honored locally and statewide for her entrepreneurial leadership. Currently, she serves as Street College's CEO.

### **Shannon McFarland, MS - Program Director**

Shannon McFarland is a publicist and community investor based in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois. With a diverse background in media and communications, Shannon advocates for publicity in industries such as STEM, sports, youth development, and Black culture in central Illinois. Shannon aims to help youth, emerging entrepreneurs, and government-funded agencies learn how to share their unique value using traditional and online news platforms. As an investor, her portfolio carries a brand presence in Forbes, Business Insider, AfroTech, and more. Shannon is a Mass Media Arts graduate of Clark Atlanta University and received her master's in Recreation & Sport Management from Florida International University in Miami, FL.

### **Maria Cynthia Anderson, PHD, MFA - Research Scholar**

MC Anderson received her PhD in Education Policy Studies from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, with a specialization in Philosophy of Education in Art and Aesthetics. She has a passion for championing access to quality education for non-traditional students. As a postdoctoral scholar with the University of Illinois Extension, MC conducted applied research on Higher Education in Prison programs and dual credit access for underserved students. Currently, she serves as the Research Scholar at Street College documenting and publishing outcomes of the Street College research and teaching methods.

## **Alyssa Geovanna Rodríguez - Operations Manager**

Alyssa Geovanna Rodríguez is a Mexican American professional from Waukegan, IL, and a first-generation college graduate with a degree in Design Management focused on the fashion industry. She gained early experience supporting rebranding initiatives for Chicago Fashion Week and Austin Bergstrom Airport and later built a career spanning merchandising and law. Her background includes leading teams, managing projects of varying scale, and serving as an executive assistant at a law firm, where she strengthened her skills in process improvement, document management, and complex calendar coordination.

## **Jay Walker - Senior Faculty**

Jay Walker is a Senior Instructor at Street College and a community-rooted educator and recording artist from Urbana-Champaign. A former student of Dr. William “Doc” Patterson, he now blends Hip-Hop and hands-on STEM to lead programs in music, media, engineering, and civics—building creative confidence and real pathways to college, careers, and entrepreneurship for local youth.

## **Carlton Greg Bruett - Faculty**

Carlton Bruett, hailing from Champaign, Illinois, is a well-rounded individual with a passion for music and design. He learned to play the drums and piano at a young age, under the guidance of church mentors. Despite not growing up surrounded by rap music, it had a profound impact on him. He began experimenting with freestyling and recording on cassette players. As he progressed through school, he became increasingly involved in the hip hop scene, participating in battles, recording songs, and producing. It was during this time that he developed a passion for the digital arts and taught himself the necessary skills to form the foundation of what is now known as TheGr8Thinkaz. Carlton is an Eagle Scout from Champaign-Urbana Troop 402.

## **Donovan Patterson - Senior Faculty**

Donovan Patterson was born and raised in Urbana IL and is one of our Senior Instructors at Street College. Before he became the professional he is today, Donovan found his love for music as a highly accomplished musician/drummer. Through his love of music he then became a producer, sound engineer, and recording artist. He has worked at major studios within Chicago, Los Angeles, and has owned his own studio with his brother here in Champaign-Urbana. Donovan is skilled in Audio engineering, music production, artist development, team management, programing, and organizational management. He studied audio design at Columbia College Chicago and finished his undergraduate at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana with his Bachelors of Science (BS) in

Psychology. He has had multiple years of experience in youth development, team management, program development, and business operations. Donovan is an Eagle Scout from Champaign-Urbana Troop 402.

### **Christopher Lenear - Faculty**

Born and raised in Urbana, Illinois, Christopher Lenear has long balanced creativity, technology, and storytelling. A 1995 Urbana native, he grew up inspired by anime and manga, history, video games, Lord of the Rings, Star Wars, and comics, interests that continue to influence his work, while also developing a strong love of sports including football, basketball, baseball, and more recently, yoga. He earned his bachelor's degree in History from the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign in 2018, where he discovered digital creativity by teaching himself music production in FL Studio and video editing with Adobe Premiere. His dedication to education led him to work with the AVID program at Champaign School District from 2017 to 2019, followed by a year with Urbana School District. During the COVID 19 pandemic, Christopher expanded his skill set by earning a NASM personal trainer certification and working at gyms across the Chicago and Champaign areas for three years, reinforcing his belief in growth, adaptability, and following one's passions. Now a Senior Engineering Instructor at Street College, Christopher draws from his background in history, education, fitness, and digital arts to empower students, guided by his philosophy that a STEM degree is not required to explore and succeed in STEM fields, curiosity and creativity are key, and he is also an Eagle Scout from Champaign Urbana Troop 402.

### **Charles "Jarrel" Young, LSW – Licensed Social Worker**

I'm Charles "Jarrel" Young a Licensed Social Worker (LSW), and I'm passionate about helping adolescents, young adults, and adults especially males turn their pain into purpose. If you're facing challenges like trauma, anxiety, depression, or difficulties in forming healthy relationships, I'm here to support you. My ideal clients are those who are ready to heal, grow, and rebuild their sense of self. Whether you're struggling with emotional pain, feeling stuck in negative patterns, or simply searching for greater meaning in life, I provide a safe, supportive space to explore your feelings and develop the coping strategies needed to move forward.

I specialize in trauma-informed care, which means I understand the deep impact that trauma can have on your emotional and mental well-being. I offer a compassionate approach that meets you where you are and helps you navigate the healing process. Through individualized therapy, psychoeducation, and ongoing support, my goal is to help you rebuild your self-esteem, gain emotional clarity, and develop the skills to create healthy, meaningful connections with others.

Life can feel overwhelming when you're carrying the weight of past trauma, but you don't have to go through it alone. Together, we'll explore your journey, build resilience, and work toward emotional healing. I'm committed to empowering you to break free from the cycle of trauma and inspire others in your community who are facing similar struggles. My work is about helping you find hope, purpose, and the strength to live a fulfilling life.