The Educational Justice Institute @ MIT (TEJI)

The Massachusetts Prison Education Consortium (MPEC)

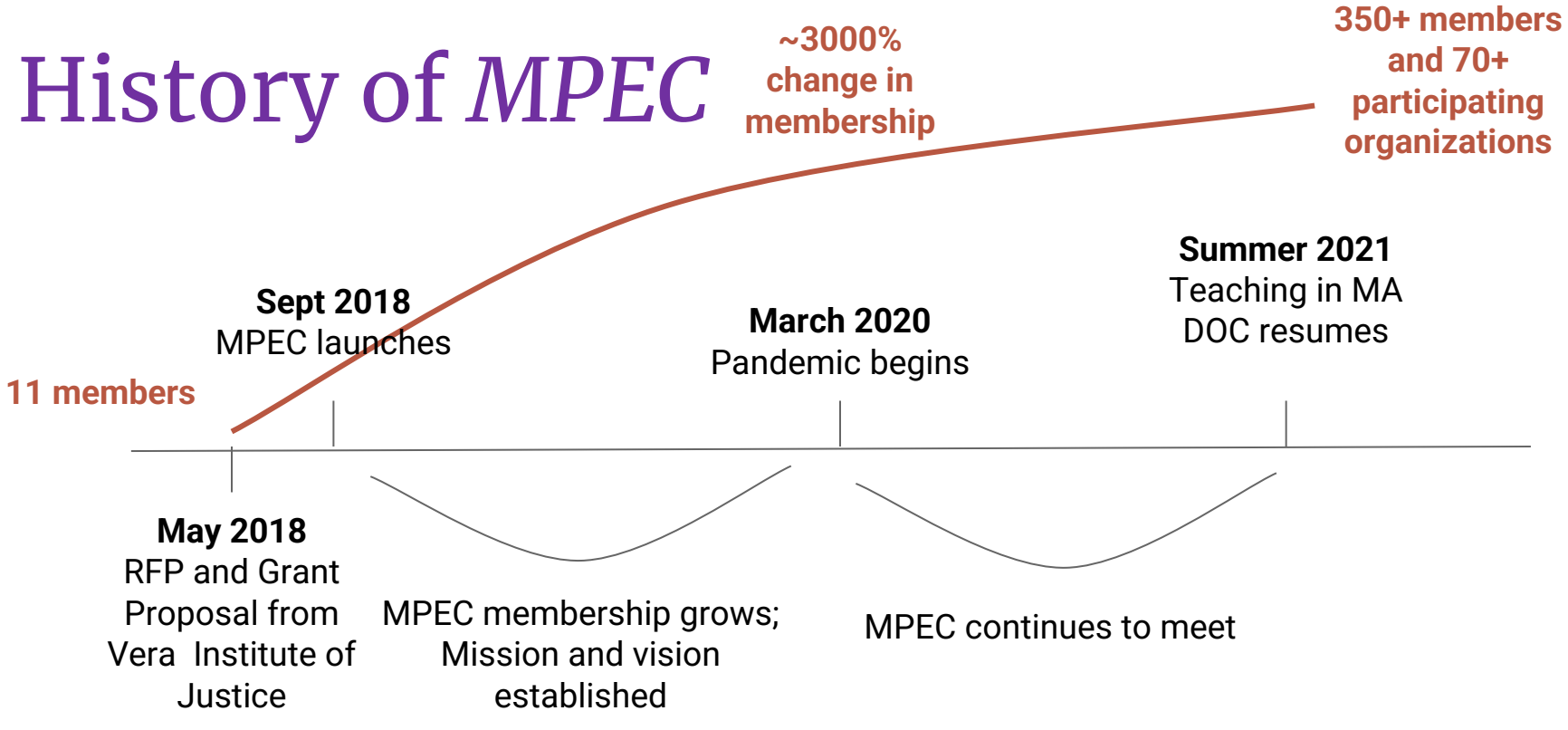
History of *TEJI*

- 2016 Started with internal MIT grant
- Jan. 2017 Hired correctional professional as co-director
- Sept. 2017 Inaugurated MPEC with Mellon/Vera Grant
- 2020 Expanded to Maine and NH

TEJI Programs

- Philosophical Life Skills
- Inside/Out Proximate Learning
- Computer and Technical Ed.
- Student Teaching Opportunities
- Trauma-informed Teaching
- Educational Partnerships
- Special Projects

History of *MPEC*



Consortium Strategy

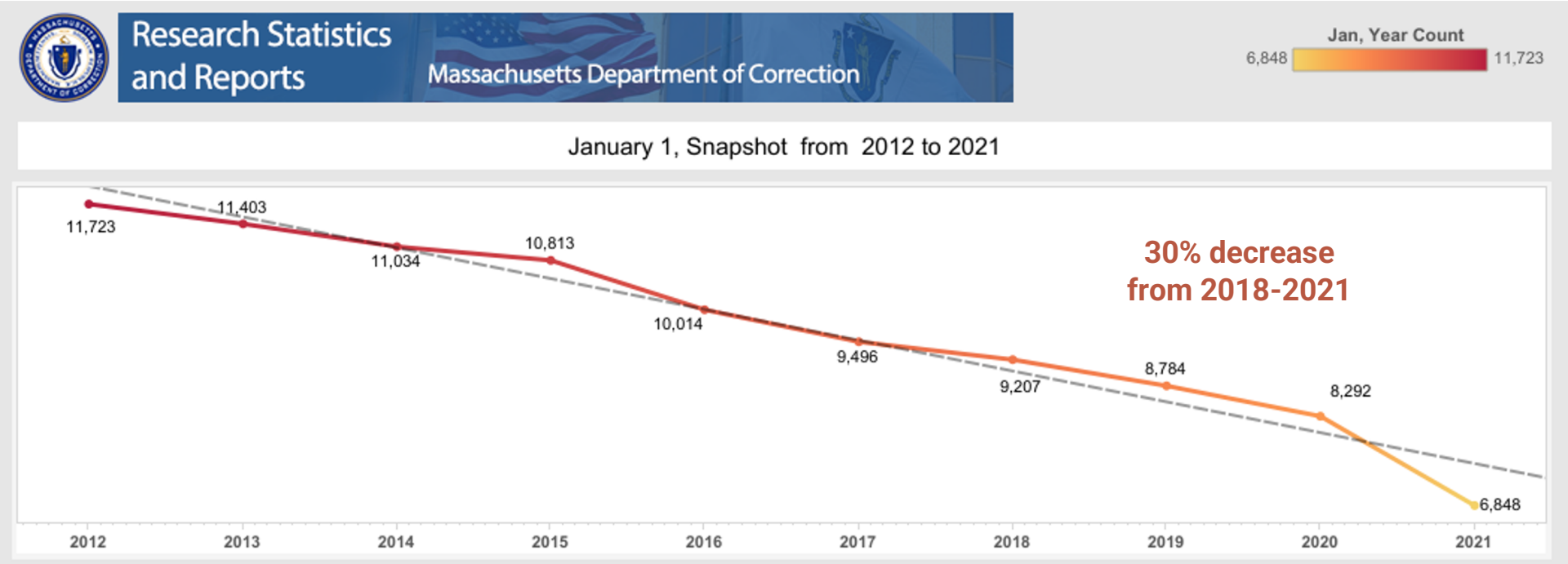
- Vertical Integration
- Horizontal Integration
- Shared Resources
- Power of Numbers
- Convening

Horizontal Integration

- Credit transferability
- Comprehensive inventory
- Bridge building between corrections and academia
- Course Placement
- Liberal Arts and Technical Path Integration
- Enlarged Scope

Vertical Integration

- Prison: Unique Intervention Opportunity
- Second Chance Pell – Greater Demand
- Classification
- Re-entry
- Siloing vs. Integration



Demographic Trends in Corrections

Early Academic Assessment and Readiness

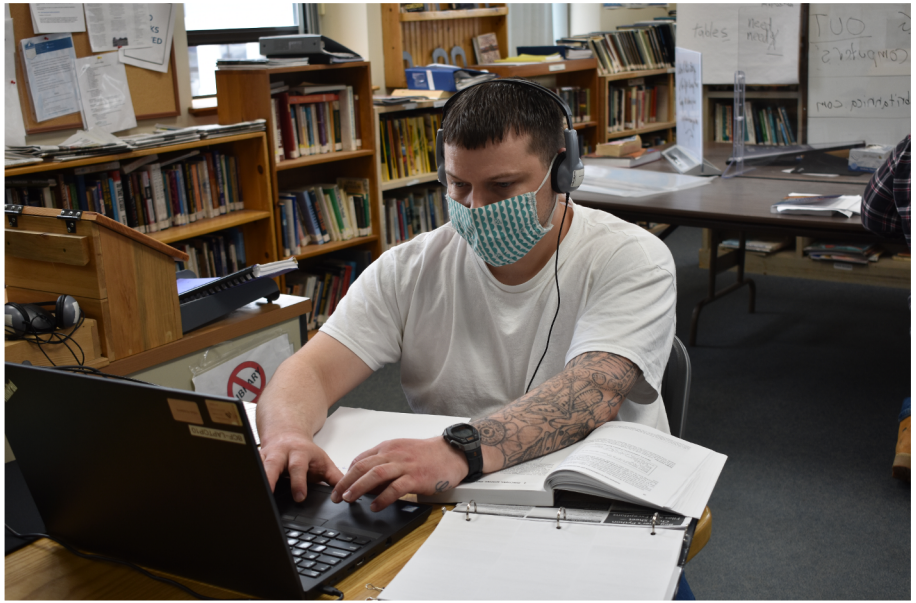
- Less than 5% of formerly incarcerated people have a college degree
- Expanded opportunity
- Significant gap - GED and PSE
- 21% with a high school credential have low literacy
- ⅓ No high school credential

Academic Assessment and Readiness: Cedar Junction Pilot

- DOC Classification Division and College Career Counselors
- Education will now play a significant role in the classification process
- Petey Greene/DOC/TEJI
- For men with a high school credential / GED

Never Let a Crisis Go to Waste:

The Remote Synchronous Classroom



Remote Synchronous Classroom: Opportunities

- No geographical limitations to class placement
- Classes offered across facilities, systems, and states
- More opportunities for incarcerated women
- Possibility of advanced classes
- More finely tuned pathways, majors
- Combined career and technical education and liberal arts education

The Remote Synchronous Classroom

Challenges

- Limitations of virtual setting
- Infrastructure constraints
- Confusion over types of remote learning

6.0001 Introduction to Computer Science Programming in Python

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Prereq: None

U (Fall, Spring; first half of term)

6 Units

Introduction to computer science and programming for students with little or no programming experience. Students develop skills to program and use computational techniques to solve problems. Topics include the notion of computation, Python, simple algorithms and data structures, testing and debugging, and algorithmic complexity. Combination of 6.0001 and 6.0002 or 16.0002[J] counts as REST subject. Final given in the seventh week of the term.

A. Bell, J. V. Guttag

Future of the Consortium: Coordinated System of Prison Education

- Create pathways based on academic counseling and assessment
- Partner with neighboring states
- Increase access through in-person and virtual learning
- Share resources among institutions of higher education, state agencies and community based organizations
- Offer career and technical education alongside liberal arts education