



About A Chance to Thrive



Helping people understand and empathize with the experiences of returning citizens.

Annually, over 3,600 people come home to the District after serving time in prison or jail. Many will have been away for years or decades, and they return to a city radically different from when they were first incarcerated.

Yet when they come home, they are often met with distrust, discrimination, and fear.

A Chance to Thrive is a collective effort that aims to help DC residents understand how their social censure - through judgment, side glances, distrust, and exclusion - hurts our clients' ability to succeed post-incarceration. With so many obstacles already facing returning citizens, offering someone a helping hand instead of fear is the best way to make this city a safe and better place.



Event

Upward: An Employer Symposium on Second Chance Hiring in the DMV Area

*Honest
conversations
for actionable
change.*



Through this three-hour forum, we aim to change the way employers in the DC/Maryland/Virginia area consider returning citizens for positions of employment and create inclusive workplaces that foster equitable opportunities and economic mobility.

Through robust conversations, this event will create a sense of community, humanizing formerly incarcerated people and demonstrating them as desirable job candidates. Companies and DEI professionals will learn strategies from other second chance employers for creating inclusive workplace cultures and implementing second chance hiring initiatives and best practices.





Agenda

April 13, 2023
Deloitte, Rosslyn VA

11am **Networking, Breakfast, & Sponsor Acknowledgement**

11:30 Opening Remarks: Melissa Reinberg, Negotiation Works
A Word from David Schultz: *Why I Deserved a Second Chance*

Keynote: Christopher Watler, Executive Vice President, Center for Employment Opportunities: *Disrupting Discriminatory Hiring in the Age of Mass Incarceration*

12pm **Panel: Hiring returning citizens: Myths, Facts, and Real Talk about Challenges**, Moderated by Council for Court Excellence

Second Chance Studios runs a digital media fellowship that trains and employs formerly incarcerated individuals. Along with employing people for their own productions, Second Chance Studios has partnered with and placed their fellows in jobs with MTV, wework, The Reinvention Lab, and more.

Justice Through Code is a free full stack web development intensive that provides opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals to begin to grow and develop into the technology leaders of tomorrow.

MOD Pizza is a national pizza chain that is publicly committed to employing returning citizens. MOD will discuss the implementation of its second chance hiring model and how other businesses can follow its example.

Second Chance Inc. is a Green Economy job trainer and employer in Baltimore, MD that engages in home deconstruction, upcycling, and sales, diverting tons of salvageable materials from the waste stream every year and employing over 250 returning citizens down the East Coast.

1pm **Breakout Sessions**, Moderated by Georgetown PIVOT

- “Solutions Jamboard”: An open virtual space where people can share anonymous comments on an idea board to the topic of “Best Practices for Creating Inclusive Workplaces: Race & Criminal Records.”
 - Leaders in Conversation: An in-person discussion between hiring professionals about incorporating second chance hiring into their workplace culture
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