

THE FUTURE IS HERS

On prison and criminal justice, featuring Vivian Nixon

Vivian Nixon is executive director of College & Community Fellowship, an organization that helps women with criminal histories gain access to higher education. This video transcript is part of the *Future Is Hers* multimedia series, celebrating innovators, risk-takers, and change makers supported by the Ford Foundation, who have impacted the lives of women and girls around the globe.

Transcript begins.

[on-screen text: Vivian Nixon, Executive Director, College & Community Fellowship]

[A clapperboard clicks shut and a tall, light-skinned African American woman with short curly hair, wearing glasses and a black suit jacket and skirt with a white blouse, addresses the camera.]

VIVIAN NIXON: I had a lot of shame about going to prison, a deep-rooted shame. And I needed to do something where I felt I accomplished something positive that my family could be proud of, that my friends could be proud of, that I could be proud of. And I had a very strong desire to get a college education. Most of the services that were being provided to women leaving prison were grounded in low-wage jobs or substance abuse treatment—services that people absolutely need—but College & Community Fellowship was the only organization I was able to find that focused on access to higher education and all of the benefits that come with that.

[on-screen graphic: Ford Foundation logo]

End of transcript.