

## **RU-N, School of Criminal Justice Person-First and Humanizing Language Statement**

The Rutgers University School of Criminal Justice (SCJ) encourages students, faculty, and staff to use person-first and humanizing language in their verbal and written communications. Being mindful of the ways in which we describe people impacted by our criminal legal systems is an important step in restoring their dignity and humanity. This evolution of language is an important piece of broader systemic shifts that are needed to make our justice systems more equitable. We encourage replacing labels that refer to people as “offender,” “inmate,” “parolee” or related terms with more neutral descriptors such as “person convicted of a crime,” “incarcerated person,” and “person under parole supervision.” Additional details about why this is important can be found [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

Adopted April 3, 2023