

Please join #AltAc's meet and greet with its next rock star: Dr. David Pitts

Elevating Respect & Partnership with the World of Practice

Expertise is born from experience and experiences come from so many people – scholars, advocates, individuals impacted by systems, and practitioners. Working in AltAc spaces often means understanding, respecting, and partnering with the experience of people beyond academia. Join Dr. David Pitts as he pulls back the curtain on policy and technical assistance work, shares how we can move into these high-impact spaces, and reminds us all about the importance of elevating varied expertise.

Key Words: Think tank, soft money, practitioner relationships, correctional research, policy, technical assistance

Biography

David Pitts is a senior research fellow in the Justice Policy Center and director of the Prison Research and Innovation Initiative, a multiyear project that leverages research to promote transparency, innovation, and well-being in US prisons. Pitts uses evidence-based strategies to promote prison reform that benefits both incarcerated people and correctional staff, and toward that end, he has partnered with an array of advocacy organizations, nonprofit service providers, and departments of corrections. His work has addressed a variety of topics in this area, including restrictive housing, prison education, visitation, and correctional staff well-being.

In addition to his criminal legal system research, Pitts has written extensively on issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in public policy. He has consulted for government organizations at all levels, from small cities to federal agencies, and has taught a variety of courses to graduate students in public policy and criminal justice programs. He is currently an adjunct professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York, and he spent a decade in academia as a tenure-track and tenured professor prior to his work in applied criminal legal research.

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Pitts earned a bachelor's degree from Birmingham-Southern College; master's degrees from Indiana University and the University of California, Irvine; and a PhD from the University of Georgia.

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