IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TSU Political Science Professor Co-Authors Article on Prison Privatization

Political Science Associate Professor and Interim Director for the Barbara Jordan Institute (BJI), Byron E. Price, Ph.D. has co-author another work for the February 2010 issue of International Journal of Public Administration along with Richard Schwester, Ph.D. titled “Economic Development Subsidies and the funding of Private Prisons.”

The article investigates the link between private prisons and social control, particularly in regards to the unemployed black male which they compare to Marx’s “surplus population.” The article seeks to exam the factors that predict economic development subsidies to private prisons which include: economic, social control, geographic, and political factors. The article also highlights the logistic regression results that indicate the per capita gross state product, political ideology, black male disenfranchisement, and mandatory sentencing laws predict economic development subsidies to private prison corporations.

Price and Schwester reiterate that the subsidized private prisons which are in 17 states and are largely claimed to be job creators and economic stimuli. However, whether or not they actually fulfill their intended (stated) purpose is largely up to politics rather than economics. Price states, “… through this work; I hope to continue the study of policy and effects of prison privatization in every facet of society.”

Price joined the faculty of the Barbara Jordan – Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs from Rutgers University and serves as the Interim Director for the Barbara Jordan Institute for Policy Research. His areas of research include prison privatization, political economy of prison privatization, and the constitutional implications of public and private arrangements.

For more information about the work within the Barbara Jordan – Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs, please visit us at www.tsu.edu/academics/public/or contact LaRense Snowden at 713 313-6844.

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