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HCU17 and RCC Celebrate Graduates

Haynesville Correctional Unit #17 (HCU17) and Rappahannock Community College (RCC) proudly recognized seven inmates who earned certifications in OSHA-10, Solar Panel Installation, and Career Readiness Skills. The ceremony was held in the dining hall at HCU17.

Dr. Eric Barna, RCC Vice President of Instruction, Assistant Warden Thrower, and Dr. Scales, HCU17's Principal, offered words of encouragement to the graduates. In attendance were leaders and officers from HCU17, Haynesville Correctional Center, and several instructors.

The collaborative program included three weekends of training. The first weekend focused on OSHA-10 training and certification covering topics such as industry health hazards, hand and power tool hazards, fall protection, and more. In addition, career readiness skills were introduced. The next weekend provided more career readiness learning opportunities, including writing resumes, and the final weekend featured solar panel installation and the completion of career skills.

The idea for the program began when RCC received a grant that would allow workforce training to be brought to inmates who were within five years of being released. RCC was already approved to bring college classes to Haynesville and has been educating inmates since 2008. Inmates who participate in educational programs while incarcerated are 43% less likely to return to prison within three years, according to research by the RAND Corporation and the Vera Institute of Justice.

The next cohort of students at HCU17 begins training on May 20.