



STATE OF DELAWARE  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION  
**OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS**  
245 MCKEE ROAD  
DOVER, DELAWARE 19904  
Telephone: (302) 739-5601  
Fax: (302) 739-8220

November 21, 2018

Contact: Jamie Young | [jamie.young@state.de.us](mailto:jamie.young@state.de.us) | 302.857.5347

## Department of Correction Graduates its 228<sup>th</sup> Academy

Dover, DE — 35 men and women graduated from the 228<sup>th</sup> Correctional Employee Initial Training (CEIT) Academy of the Delaware Department of Correction today and have been assigned to facilities throughout the state.

The 11-week long training program focuses on a professional development curriculum critical to developing the skills of correctional staff in achieving the mission of public safety and reducing recidivism. The training program includes inmate supervision, weapons and chemical munitions, defensive tactics, emergency preparedness, report writing, behavioral health training, CPR/Basic First Aid, and inter-personal communication.

The ceremony featured a traditional badge pinning along with the Delaware State Police Pipes and Drums Unit. It also included the presentation of the Outstanding Cadet awarded to Officer Nicholas Mollica and Class speaker Michelle Bond. Officer Bond offered words of encouragement to her classmates. “I will echo the previous declaration that this day is the end of a season, but the beginning of our journey through our law enforcement careers.” said Officer Bond “Do not tarnish what you have accomplished by losing sight of who you are when you don your uniform. We will get tired, there will be frustrating days and sometimes it will seem easier to just bend and fold. Yet, we must react with the utmost professionalism, as that is what our mission entails.”

Commissioner Phelps spoke on the importance of the Department’s core values: integrity, courage, accountability, respect and diversity. “Do not allow others to distract, sway or manipulate you into doing things that are contrary to your oath and the Department’s mission, no matter how appealing the outcome may be.” said Commissioner Perry Phelps. “Once you pin that badge on and begin your career, remember this: your reputation is what defines you.”

The instructional team for CEIT Class 228 consisted of Primary Instructor Randall Meding, Instructor Craig Brumbaugh and Drill Instructors Antonie Ford and Latanya Smith. A photo of today’s graduates is attached.

The graduates begin their new careers with the Delaware Department of Correction next week.

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