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Department of Correction Graduates its 229th Academy

Dover, DE — 22 men and women graduated from the 229th 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 presentation of the Outstanding Cadet award presented to Skyler Bowden. Officer Bowden was also selected by his classmates as class speaker.

Addressing the cadets, Commissioner Phelps spoke on the importance their roles will play in reducing recidivism. “We are constantly faced with what’s referred to as the “revolving door” of the criminal justice system: 76% of the individuals who leave our custody will be rearrested within three years and 65% of those men and women will return to incarceration,” he said. “We can do better than that. I assure you if we work together, we can change those statistics. Don’t ever underestimate your power to change lives every day.”

The instructional team for CEIT Class 229 consisted of Primary Instructor Matthew Hopp, Instructor Brian Lewis, and Drill Instructors Latanya Smith and Vincent Lewis.

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

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