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## **Department of Correction Graduates its 225<sup>th</sup> Academy**

Dover, DE — 20 men and women graduated from the 225<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 the Delaware State Police Pipes and Drums Unit. It also included the presentation of the Outstanding Cadet award to Christopher Patton and Class speaker Noel Sierra. Officer Sierra stated “We learned how to be one team one family and I’m proud to say that after today we are no longer cadets, but officers and support staff.”

Commissioner Phelps spoke on the importance of integrity, courage, accountability, respect and diversity. “At some point throughout your career, you are going to be challenged, you are going to be tempted, and you are going to find yourselves in very difficult situations” said Commissioner Perry Phelps. “I implore you to always remember your duty to your peers, the offenders and the citizens of the great state of Delaware.”

The instructional team for CEIT Class 225 consisted of Primary Instructor Randall Meding, and Drill Instructors Vincent Lewis and Latanya Smith.

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

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