



# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Governor Tony Evers / Secretary Kevin A. Carr

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOC Communications, 608-428-7056

[DOCMedia@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DOCMedia@wisconsin.gov)

### First Group of DOC Students Earn Diplomas through New Madison College Program

Leaders from Madison College and the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) honored graduates at the [Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility \(RYOCF\)](#) on Friday.

The honorees included the first group of students in DOC care to earn a Technical Diploma through Madison College's Second Chance Pell Grant program. The 12 students who participated in that program earned their Small Business Entrepreneurship diplomas while at RYOCF.

"These young men come from highly diverse backgrounds, but they all have one thing in common," said Dr. Jack Daniels III, president of Madison College. "They are looking for positive change in their lives and the college's Second Chance Pell Grant program is helping them achieve that."

While the dozen graduates represent the first group of people in DOC care to take part in Second Chance Pell through [Madison College](#), the college is expanding the program and will have a projected enrollment of 60 students across six DOC facilities in the fall.

Wisconsin DOC also partners with Milwaukee Area Technical College to offer Second Chance Pell grants to people in the agency's care.

"I'm proud of our agency's collaboration with the state's technical colleges to make these opportunities available to those in our care," said RYOCF Warden Je'Leslie Taylor. "I'm also proud of the students honored today. It takes partnerships and resources, but it came down to each of these young men setting goals for themselves."

The ceremony also honored a group of young men at RYOCF who earned their High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED).

"It feels really good. I didn't think I could do. The teachers will tell you I used to want to give up, and they always pushed me to better myself and to keep going," said Junior Moreno, one of the HSED honorees. Moreno said he earned the diploma for himself and for his son.

"Just so I could show him a better way. I don't want him to have to come up and do the same things that I did," he added.

Madison College was among a new group of schools included in the U.S. Department of Education's expansion of the [Second Chance Pell Experimental Sites Initiative in 2020](#). The initiative provides need-based Pell grants to people in state and federal prisons. The U.S. Department of Education announced last month that more colleges are being added to this initiative, bringing the total number of schools able to participate in the Second Chance Pell Experiment to 200 nationwide.