



# 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)

## Men at Oakhill Correctional Institution Honored for Educational Achievements

**Oregon, Wis.** - More than 50 men incarcerated at Oakhill Correctional Institution in Oregon donned caps and gowns for a graduation ceremony at the facility earlier this month.

The men earned degrees and certifications in a variety of areas in an August 2 ceremony that was the institution's first since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Each of the men were in one of four groups being honored for the following:

- GED/HSED completion
- Building Maintenance and Construction certification (through Madison College)
- Horticulture certification (through Madison College)
- Electrical Maintenance technical diploma (through Madison College)

"These students have mastered skills that will propel them into the workforce with important and relevant skills. Madison College is proud to have played a part in their futures," said Madison College President Dr. Jack Daniels.

We've gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of these men graduating today, as well as our staff at Oakhill Correctional and our partners at Madison College," Department of Corrections (DOC) Secretary Kevin Carr told those gathered for the ceremony. "I also want to recognize the family members and loved ones of our graduates. I hope you realize how much your support means and that, in some cases, your support may have been the difference between success or failure."

The Wisconsin DOC collaborates with Madison College, and other community and technical colleges across Wisconsin, to offer vocational and technical education opportunities to the people in its care. It's a mutually beneficial relationship between businesses across the state looking for skilled workers and the people in DOC care looking for career opportunities when they return to the community.

"Today's graduates knew it would be hard work. But they still took that opportunity, and what they have done with it is inspiring. Graduates, when you're faced with obstacles and struggles in the future, I hope you will look back on today and remember how far you've come and feel the strength to continue on this path you've taken," Carr said in his remarks to the graduates.

More than 60% of people in DOC care have five years or less left to serve on their sentence, and 6,000-9,000 people leave DOC care and return to their communities and homes every year. The DOC partners with colleges, employers and other state agencies to help give the people in its care skills they can use to be more successful when they return to the community.