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Snow College Graduates 24 Inmates At Central Utah Correctional Facility

Gunnison — Today, 24 individuals at the Central Utah Correctional Facility (CUCF) received Associate Degrees and Certificates from Snow College during a graduation ceremony at the Gunnison facility. This marks the first graduating class for Snow College since its participation in the Utah Department of Corrections' (UDC) Prison Education program began.

The all-male class of 2026 was awarded diplomas for programs including an Associate of Science degree, and certificates in Construction Technology, Carpentry Fundamentals, and Culinary Arts. The accomplishments of the graduates are a significant step forward as they strive to successfully reintegrate into society upon their release.

Despite a busy criminal justice system and a recent emphasis on lengthy sentences, the majority of individuals in Utah's correctional facilities will eventually be eligible for parole and release. UDC's Prison Education program is a comprehensive effort aimed at rehabilitation and reducing recidivism through basic education, college-level degrees, and vocational training.

Quote from Parley Dutson, Graduate:

"The thought process was that I need something to show for this. I've been in prison for almost two decades now, and anything I can take with me when I get out to show that I didn't just waste my time here. Education has always been a massive thing that's helped me keep my head above water since being incarcerated. I've always looked for things like this and there's always been something available over the years. Things like this actually keep us from becoming worse people in prison. I believe I'm a much better person now than I was 20 years ago when I

committed my crime. And if it wasn't for this program and educational programs and UPREP in the past and just various things that the prison has provided for us over the years, those are the reasons I am here right now without a regrettable history here."

Quote from Mohamed Kabor, Graduate:

"This is the class of '26, the CUCF inaugural class. We did it! Take pride in being the first class, take pride in standing present, gentlemen, this is a major moment. Take pride in accomplishing something very few have accomplished, whether in prison or elsewhere."

Quote from Utah State Senator Derrin Owens R-District 27:

"This to me is what Corrections looks like. If we don't have the programming then we should just call it warehousing, not corrections."

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