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## California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA) Certifies Female Offenders for Productive Life after Prison

*CALPIA Program Provides Construction Labor Training and Certification  
For Soon-To-Be Paroled Female Offenders*

FOLSOM - Today, offenders at the Folsom Women's Facility received graduation certificates.

The 15 Career Technical Education (CTE) graduates completed the necessary steps to receive CALPIA certification in Construction Labor. Upon parole, the graduates are eligible to become apprentice laborers with the Construction and General Laborers Local 185. Local 185 is one of several trade unions that provide instructors and curriculum for CALPIA's CTE program.

"These graduates are learning valuable skills that will give them a foundation for success as they transition back to their communities," said California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Secretary Jeff Beard.

With a recidivism rate of less than 15 percent, CALPIA's CTE programs are among the CDCR's most successful vocational training programs. Program graduates have a cumulative recidivism rate of less than 7.6 percent.

To increase the chance of employment, all CALPIA offender employees are required to obtain a high school diploma, or complete a GED within two-years of beginning the program.

"By choosing to participate in CALPIA's construction labor training the CTE graduates have built new programming space, learned construction skills, and significantly reduced their chances of returning to prison," said Chuck Pattillo, General Manager of CALPIA. Rather than costing taxpayers an average of \$42,000 per year for housing, the vast majority of CALPIA graduates will become law-abiding and taxpaying citizens."

CALPIA's CTE program trains offenders in various construction skills that include concrete, confined spaces, and gravity flow piping. CALPIA provides paroled graduates with a set of tools, a tool belt, and year's pay of union dues, so graduates are ready to begin working upon parole.

*CALPIA is a self-financed state entity that provides training and productive work assignments for approximately 7,000 offenders in 24 CDCR institutions in California. CALPIA receives all of its revenue from the sale of the products it manufactures. CALPIA funds the CTE program from proceeds derived from CALPIA enterprises. The recidivism rate among CALPIA CTE participants is 83 percent lower than the general prison population, a success attributed to the job skills and industry certifications obtained by participating in the program.*