

For Immediate Release:  
November 14, 2018

Contact: Michele Kane  
(916) 462-0731

## **Offenders Achieve Apprenticeships for the First Time in California Prisons**

FOLSOM – As part of the Governor’s efforts to improve California’s criminal justice system and strengthen the process by which the formerly incarcerated reenter society, the California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA), in partnership with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) and the United States Department of Labor (USDOL), has established a formally registered apprenticeship system within CDCR institutions.

“Expanding apprenticeships to skilled workers inside our correctional facilities provides hope and opportunities to offenders when they leave prison,” said CDCR Secretary Ralph Diaz. “We want the men and women who return to their communities to be successful, which in turn reduces recidivism and increases public safety.”

Earlier this year, CALPIA became a Registered Apprenticeship Partner with DIR’s Division of Apprenticeship Standards and the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) Office of Apprenticeship.

At Folsom State Prison, State leaders and labor representatives recognized 53 offenders as journey-level apprentices. The men work in CALPIA’s Metal Fabrication and Healthcare Facilities Maintenance enterprises.

“This apprenticeship system represents an impressive partnership among industry, labor, education, and government,” said CALPIA’s Chief of Workforce Development Branch Milo Fitch. “There is a demand for certified Journeypersons, and this program delivers top-notch skilled workers for California.”

Offenders obtain workplace knowledge, skills and industry-recognized credentials through the apprenticeship training. CALPIA’s registered apprenticeship program provides on-the-job training and job-related technical instruction.

“The Department of Industrial Relations is pleased to join CDCR and CALPIA to celebrate these graduates,” said DIR’s Acting Director André Schoolr. “By completing rigorous on-the-job training through this apprenticeship program, these graduates have earned the tools and skills necessary to secure a job as they return to our communities.”

By December 31, 2018, apprenticeship opportunities will be available in every CDCR institution, with over 5,000 offenders to be registered as apprentices. The number of hours to obtain Journeyperson level varies by job classification, ranging from 2,000 to 8,000 total hours. In addition, all apprentices are required to complete 144 hours of “Related Supplemental Instruction” annually.

“Today is a historic day for these graduates,” said DIR’s Division of Apprenticeship Standards Chief Eric Rood. “They have earned an apprenticeship certificate that represents the highest level of competency in careers in their field. These apprenticeship programs with CALPIA provide second chances along with a trained and skilled workforce for California businesses.”