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

*CALPIA Partners with Construction Unions to Provide  
New Opportunities for Recent Parolees*

FOLSOM - Today, 40 inmate workers at Folsom State Prison and California State Prison, Sacramento, received diplomas and/or certificates during graduation ceremonies at the California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA) Modular Building factory at Folsom State Prison. Each Career Technical Education (CTE) graduate completed the necessary steps that will lead to apprenticeships in the construction industry following their parole.

"These graduates are learning valuable skills that will give them a foundation for success as they transition back to the communities from which they came," said the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR) Secretary, Matthew Cate.

With a recidivism rate of approximately 10 percent, CALPIA's CTE programs are among the CDCR's most successful vocational training programs.

To increase the chance of employment, all CALPIA inmate 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 ironworking, laborer or carpentry training, these graduates have built new prison 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 \$49,000 per year for housing, the vast majority of CALPIA graduates will become law-abiding and taxpaying citizens."

Highly-skilled journeymen supervise and train inmates in various construction skills that include welding and ironwork, general labor, and finished carpentry. In a partnership with CALPIA, the Northern California Carpenters Regional Council, the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Ironworkers, and the Northern California District Council of Laborers allow paroled ex-offenders to be eligible for placement in pre-apprenticeship jobs.

CALPIA provides paroled graduates with a set of tools, a tool belt, and union dues for one year, so they are ready for the first day of their new job.

The CALPIA Modular Building Enterprise, operating out of a 30,000 square foot facility at Folsom State Prison, has produced more than 100,000 square feet of new building space. These ISO 9001-2000 certified portable structures are manufactured, sold, and subsequently transported for use at various prisons, juvenile centers and State agencies throughout California.

*CALPIA is a self-financed state entity that receives all of its revenue from the sale of products it manufactures. The recidivism rate among CALPIA inmates is more than 25 percent lower than the general prison population, a success attributed to the job skills they receive by working in CALPIA business enterprises.*