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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **INMATES FROM MCCI GO BACK TO SCHOOL TO HELP ENSURE A BRIGHTER FUTURE**

The Monmouth County Sheriff's Office Correctional Division continues to strive in assisting inmates with a brighter future, by having them utilize their time in the most productive manner, by going back to school. For the past five months, four inmates from the Monmouth County Correctional Institution have been studying for their GED (high school equivalency diplomas) online through a program run by the Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission. On Wed. Jan. 17, they officially became graduates of the program and received their high school diploma from the State of New Jersey during a special ceremony at MCCI.

"I am gratified by the commitment made by today's graduates to use their time at MCCI in a constructive manner that will benefit them for the rest of their lives," said Sheriff Shaun Golden. "The wrong choices that brought the graduates to MCCI have provided these individuals the opportunity to make right choices about furthering their education and changing their lives."

This state of the art, virtual online GED program began at the jail in 2007. The most recent graduation has put the total number of graduates to 193. The inmates study math, science, social studies, reading and writing five days a week to prepare for the GED exam. The online program runs throughout the entire year.

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The administration of the Monmouth Ocean Educational Services Commission consists of Stuart Veeder, GED Teacher and Loren Basselini, Director of Education. Lt. Richard Vilacoba and Capt. John Kolodziej handle the program administration for the Sheriff's Office Corrections Division.

"Education is the key to a productive future," said Sheriff Shaun Golden. "No one can take that knowledge away. I'm hopeful these graduates will use it as they move forward and transition back into society for the purpose of positive change."

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