

OBSERVER-DISPATCH

Local inmates partake in Celebration of Success ceremony

Tuesday

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Oneida County Sheriff Robert Maciol said finding jail inmates a career is a high priority once they leave the facility.

“Part of our obligation here is to work with these folks to try and give them the tools that they need to be a positive member in their community,” he said.

One part of achieving that goal took place Tuesday evening as the Sheriff’s Office conducted its 2017 Celebration of Success graduation ceremony at the jail.

Approximately 40 inmates received completion and/or graduation certificates from multiple programs.

The programs offered were through the Oneida County Workforce Development Board, the Madison – Oneida BOCES Adult Education, the Linking to Employment Activities Pre-Release Program, the Alternatives to Incarceration Program and the Oriskany Central School (Alternative High School).

Mark Montgomery, the associate dean of Social Sciences and Public Services at Mohawk Valley Community College, gave a heartfelt speech during the ceremony.

“What I wanted them to understand is that you can come from an area that you perceive as nothing and get another shot,” Montgomery said. “A lot of people come to jail and believe that their life is over and that they’re no longer employable. Programs like this need more funding, they need more attention, and they need more conversation.”

Maciol concluded, “We can’t give up on anybody.”