



Green Haven High School Equivalency Graduation

October 5, 2015

On Wednesday, September 23, 2015 Green Haven Correctional Facility held the 2015 High School Equivalency Graduation for 30 inmate students.

The tables were covered in yellow and white tablecloths, adorned with fresh cut floral arrangements from Willard Correctional Facility. Chairs were grouped for graduates and guests; gowns pressed and ready to be worn.

When the graduates marched in, they were greeted by family members, teachers, Vocational Instructors and Offender Rehabilitation Coordinators' (ORC). While most family members drove to Green Haven from the five boroughs or Dutchess County, one family flew from Louisiana to celebrate their relative's accomplishment.

The ceremony commenced with Father Fernando's invocation. DSP Collado welcomed and thanked family, Academic and Vocational staff, and the ORCs for the knowledge, support and encouragement they supplied to the graduates on the journey toward their High School Equivalency Diploma.

Professor Amanda Vladick of Bard College was the Keynote Speaker. Her message was based on her personal experience teaching both incarcerated and non-incarcerated students. Professor Vladick has found that once the inmates have found that they can achieve, they become very serious students when they choose to further their education. Even though they have reached this HSE milestone, she encouraged them to continue the pursuit of knowledge as it is a life-long journey.

Diplomas were distributed, and the entire gathering gave the Graduates a very exuberant round of applause.

Following the formal ceremony, the Inmate Liaison Committee (ILC) funded a delicious luncheon prepared by Green Haven's Messhall. The room was filled with happiness and joy as the Graduates basked in their accomplishment in the company of family and fellow graduates.

To view photos from the event, please visit the Department's official [Facebook page](#).