

## **Spectrum News - Inmates Earn Degrees Through Educational Program**

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FALLSBURG, N.Y. -- Twenty inmates at the Sullivan Correctional Facility graduated and received their liberal arts associate degrees through the Hudson Link Program for Higher Education in Prison program through SUNY Sullivan.

"It is really a great move in a forward direction," said graduate Robert Ehrenberg. "I studied, I wrote, I read and I performed very well in many of the classes."

To take part in the degree program, the inmates needed to be discipline-free for 12 months and remain disciplined throughout the program. Once graduates are released, they will be able to attend four-year colleges to pursue further educational opportunities.

"This is a confirmation that people do change, and so whenever we see men graduate, basically what they're doing is providing their families with something of substance that they can say, 'OK, this is how I'm changing my life through education,' " said Hudson Link Program Director Samuel Arroyo.

Robert Ehrenberg, the class valedictorian, completed the program with a 4.0 GPA and helped develop a pre-math and basic algebra class used in other correctional facilities as a prep course for the program.