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Dermott Student-Athletes Earn Forklift Licenses and Take Charge of Their Future

This June and July, 34 student-athletes at Dermott Juvenile Treatment Center achieved a major milestone by earning their two-year forklift licenses.

While some students initially felt nervous and unsure, their excitement quickly took over. Curiosity turned into confidence as they engaged fully in the hands-on training, eager to gain a new skill that could open doors to meaningful employment after returning to their communities.

What stood out most during this training was the keen sense of teamwork. Students motivated and coached one another, turning individual challenges into shared victories. Their conversations with the instructor reflected genuine interest in long-term career opportunities, with many students already identifying companies where they plan to apply. Their energy and enthusiasm created a positive, forward-thinking environment focused on planning for their best next steps.

In addition to technical training, students walked away with valuable life lessons—understanding the importance of patience, communication, and maintaining balance, all while staying focused on safety. This experience not only supports their personal growth but also embodies the ROP mission: improving the lives of youth and preparing them to be gainfully employed upon leaving us.

These young men are proving that with the right tools and support, their futures are bright and full of promise.