

FAMILY MATTERS

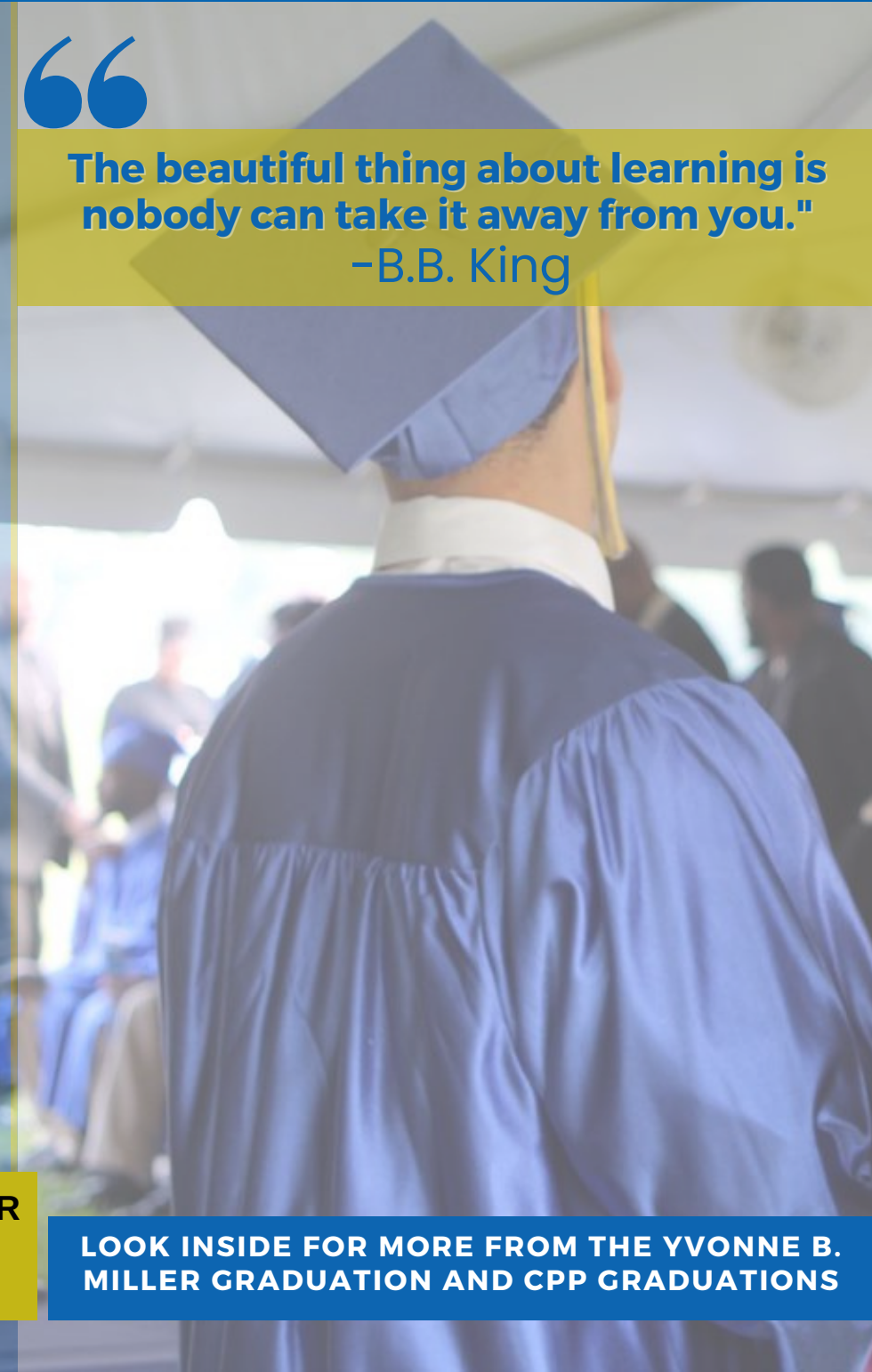


BON AIR GRADUATION CLASS OF 2023

Under a warm summer sun, graduation ceremonies were held on June 16 for 30 youth in a large canopy tent at Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center. Following the processional, presentation of colors by the Yvonne B. Miller High School color guard and singing of the national anthem, Principal Dr. Mark Hudson delivered a motivational speech to the graduates, their families and staff.



The beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you."
-B.B. King



BAJCC SCHOOL CALENDAR
Classes resume July 17

LOOK INSIDE FOR MORE FROM THE YVONNE B. MILLER GRADUATION AND CPP GRADUATIONS

A Look Inside GRADUATION



Yvonne B. Miller High School Principal Dr. Mark Hudson heads to the graduation ceremony.



State Sen. David Marsden addresses the graduates.



School Superintendent Deana Williams provides acknowledgements and remarks

Dr. Hudson brought some levity to the occasion while congratulating the graduates on their hard work, diligence and desire to succeed, along with thanking Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center employees for their efforts to assist and support the youth in their care. State Senator David Marsden offered insightful comments and praise to the new graduates, extending congratulations, challenging the youth to take their successes forward and build upon them, and counseling them on the possibilities the future holds. Marsden's previous experience as a probation officer, chief deputy and acting director of the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice provided the basis for his motivational comments.

School Superintendent Deana Williams also expressed gratitude to all those who helped and encouraged the youth through their high school experience. A special student speaker offered a moving, personal speech about his life leading up to his commitment and included his appreciation of all those who helped him make it to this milestone despite his own destructive behaviors.



Graduates stand before turning the tassels on their caps.



A youth is congratulated by staff after receiving his diploma.



The candidates for graduation march in procession to the event tent.

“At first, school wasn’t in my mind or even part of my plan. I realized that my future depended on me having an education, and it started with a diploma,” he said, challenging his classmates to embrace the change their accomplishments helped them to make, and to go forward with their heads high, proud of themselves and all they can achieve. Family and staff in attendance nodded in agreement, adding later that they found the day’s speeches not only motivational, but entertaining and thought-provoking.

School Superintendent Williams affirmed the certification of the graduations, following which she, Principal Hudson and Deputy Director of Reentry, Education and Intervention Ashaki McNeil offered congratulations as the graduates were presented with their diplomas. Following the ceremonies, the new graduates spent time with their families and other visitors, receiving hugs and congratulations.



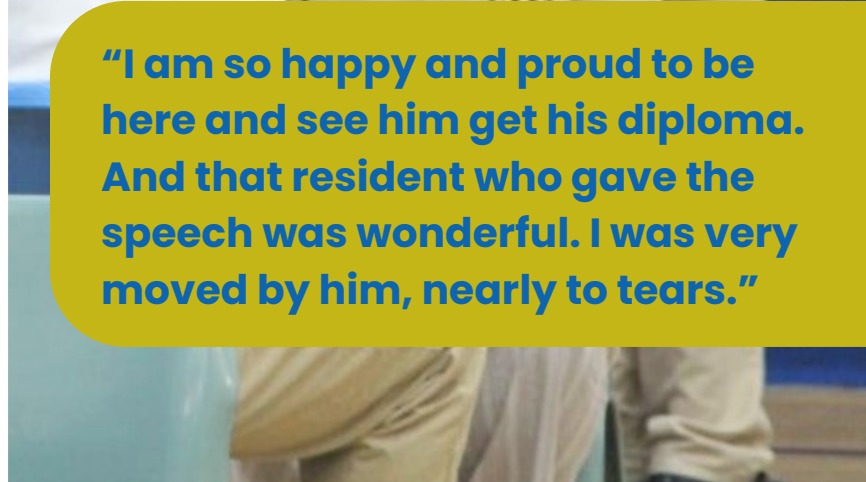
From left Deputy Director of Reentry, Education and Intervention Ashaki McNeil, School Superintendent Deana Williams, and Yvonne B. Miller High School Principal Dr. Mark Hudson present diplomas to the graduates



FINAL FAMILY THOUGHTS

"I had faith and never doubted that this moment would come. I am so proud of him."

"It was a long journey to get him across that stage."



"I am so happy and proud to be here and see him get his diploma. And that resident who gave the speech was wonderful. I was very moved by him, nearly to tears."

CPP GRADUATIONS

Prince William CPP

The Prince William Community Placement Program celebrated their graduates June 12. Dr. LaTanya D. McDade, superintendent for Prince William County Public Schools, spoke to the graduates. In a wonderful collaboration, diplomas were presented to the graduates by their families. The ceremony was followed by a social hour with youth and their families enjoying cake and drinks. Photographs of the graduates were sent to their families as keepsakes.

Merrimac CPP

The Merrimac Community Placement Program in Williamsburg recognized several graduates. While the center did not have a ceremony that families could attend, they did take special photos of each graduate in their caps and gowns. The graduates marched through the facility in a processional, during which other residents and staff congratulated them on a job well done.