

Transitions for Re-Entry: Project Update

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Scope

- \$50,000 BTNEP award; project launched February 15, 2025
- Scholarships for justice-involved individuals
- Support successful re-entry and contribute to the long-term goal of reducing recidivism
- Training connected to coastal, environmental, and related high-wage/high-demand jobs
- Tuition, transportation, supplies, gear, and materials covered

Why This Mattered: From Re-Entry to Opportunity

- Built on Fletcher's existing reentry work
- Online degree programming at Elayn Hunt Correctional Center in St. Gabriel
- Partnerships with Lafourche and Terrebonne parish correctional facilities
- No-cost credentials as a pathway to employment and stability

Application Process

- Flyer shared through correctional, reentry, regional partners, and socials
- Simple application and a 100–250 word statement
- Personal phone and email follow-up
- Barriers identified before training began

In Their Own Words...

“With 10 years of oil field experience, I’m ready to learn a new trade, work steadily, and give back to my community through honest, consistent work.”

“I hope to help preserve Louisiana’s wetlands so they will be here for future generations.”

“I’m determined to be a better woman and a better example as a mother to my kids. I’ve made many mistakes, I’ve learned from them, and now I’m ready to prove that.”

What the Project Provided

- Coastal and field operations
 - Airboat, Drones, Heavy Equipment
- Skilled trades
 - Electrical and Welding
- Technology and Cybersecurity
 - Tech+, CompTIA certifications
- Workplace safety
 - CPR
- Tuition, credentials, gear, supplies, and transportation support

Different Pathways

- Individuals living in the community after release
- Referrals from reentry agencies, case managers, parole officers, and partners
- Individuals preparing for release
- Group training delivered within a correctional setting

Successes (Results)

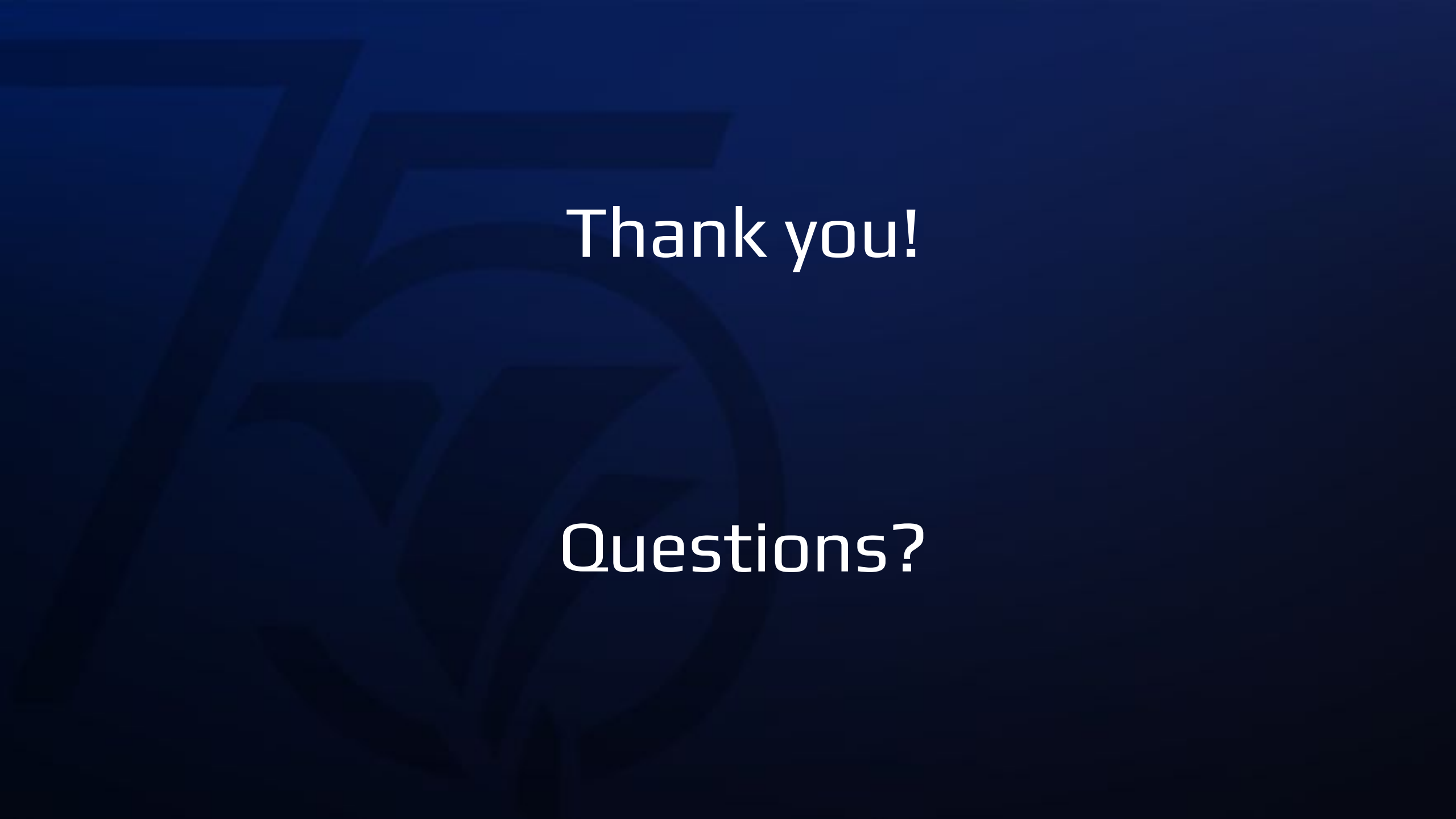
- 40 students were awarded, accepted, and completed training
- 55 credentials were earned
 - 17 Welding | 18 Heavy Equipment/Forklift
 - 13 CPR | 5 Coastal 101 | 2 Airboat Operator
- 100% RETENTION from DAY 1 to COMPLETION!

What We Learned

- Barriers beyond our control
 - Work requirements and immediate income needs
 - Multiweek schedules limited participation
- Retention
 - Every participant who began a training completed it
 - The challenge wasn't commitment; it was access

Building the Next Pathway

- Engage employers before training begins
- Identify job opportunities in advance
- Explore paid training or employer-sponsored wages
- Continue following participants from credentials into employment
- Long-term goal: stable employment, successful reentry, and reduced recidivism



Thank you!

Questions?