

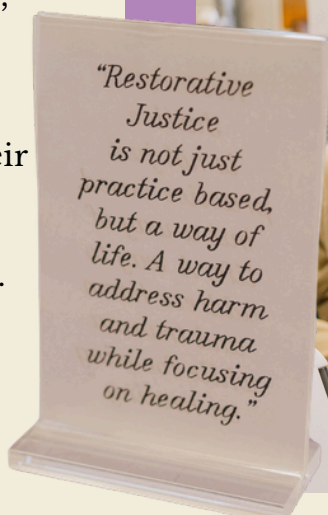
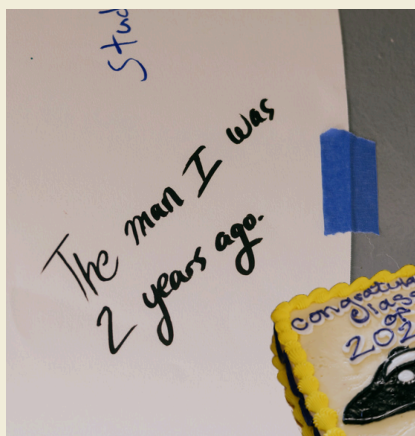
Cohort 2 GRADUATION



July 2026

"What is ending, what remains, and what is not yet known?"

These are the questions our guest facilitators from Collective Justice asked Cohort 2 students during a workshop on transitions and goodbyes in the days leading up to graduation on July 16, 2026. Students spent weeks planning their own ceremony alongside the student support coordinator; decisions on program art, presentations, speakers, food, and more were all made using group consensus. The planning resulted in an intentional, customized, moving, and beautiful day where thirteen students graduated at Limestone Correctional Facility with their professional certificate in Restorative Justice from the University of North Alabama.





“This program gave me new understandings about life and helped me build skills and friendships that open possibilities I never would have found on my own.”



Students celebrated their cumulative work over two years, having completed six courses, navigating the challenges of pursuing college in prison, and building community with one another. Cohort 1 also attended graduation and welcomed the new graduates to the Inside Student Advisory Council. Cohort 2's time with the program is not “ending” but transforming. Students, faculty, staff, and guests were also treated to a musical performance by one of the graduates who sang their chosen class song, “Good Riddance: Time of Your Life.”



Graduation quilt featuring student art

Without our various stakeholders, funders, and supporters, this day would not have been possible. Thank you for believing in the transformative power of restorative justice and higher ed in prison in Alabama. Our program now welcomes Cohort 3 as they begin coursework in August. “What is known” is that we look forward to working with these future restorative justice practitioners, and we thank you for being part of our community!

UNA Restorative Justice Lab



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www.una.edu/pjlp/restorative-justice-lab.html