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**NHHLA Welcomes Another Successful Group of Graduates**

MEMPHIS, TENN. – Commencement exercises for the 180th class of the NHHLA Inspector Training School were held on Friday, July 22, 2016 with twenty-three students completing the program. These students completed the 10-week summer program with Inspector Training School instructor, Rich Hascher at Northcentral Technical College in Antigo, Wisconsin.

Tim Kassis, of Kretz Lumber and graduate of the School, delivered a heart-felt graduation address to a capacity filled room. As keynote speaker, Tim spoke about his experience after graduating from the School and how the program played a crucial role in the development of his career including his employment with NHHLA as a National Inspector. He also explained the importance of the School to his future and the future of each graduating student. “The friends you make in this class will be life-long friendships with people that you will work with in the future.”

Graduates were:

- Eric Bobber– Granite Valley Forst Products
- Boyd W. Brewer III– Thompson Appalachian Hardwoods, Inc.
- Raymond Foster Brown – Buchman Lumber LLC
- Jamie D. Cridelich– Endeavor Hardwoods, Inc.
- Jarryl Gerze – Michigan Hardwoods & Lumber
- William Harris – Tooley Creek Lumber, Inc.
- Jesus Nava-Hernandez – Granite Valley Forest Products
- Paul Hoppa – Granite Valley Forest Products
- Brian Hoth – Granite Valley Forest Products
- Charles K. James – Menominee Tribal Enterprises
- Connor James Koxlien – Koxlien Brothers Wood Products
- Tyler Jeffrey Koxlien – Koxlien Brothers Wood Products
- Tyler Lefler – McCormick Sawmill
- Tyler Limbaugh – Thompson Appalachian Hardwoods
- Devin Luethi – Walters Brothers Lumber Mfg., Inc.
- Cory Luke – Endeavor Hardwoods, Inc.
- Travis P. McNamar – Stetson Hardwoods, Inc.
- Lou Meinhardt – Universal Forest Products
- Jeremy Nelson – North Country Lumber
- Marco James Rajk – Snowbelt Hardwoods
- Dusty Randall – Endeavor Hardwoods, Inc.
- Walker Schultz – Granite Valley Forest Products
- Joseph A. Sullivan – Menominee Tribal Enterprises

Class president, Jamie Cridelich, gave a compelling speech while addressing the class and described the bond that grew between students as they all worked together in a common cause.

Shane Cook of Granite Valley Forest Products presented the individual achievement awards.

Outstanding individual awards recipients were as follows:

- Jamie D. Cridelich – John Thomson Award for Highest Overall Average
- Tyler Lefler – Howard Hanlon Award for Second Highest Overall Average
- Tyler Lefler – Westside Hardwood Club Award for Highest Board Run Average
- Boyd W. Brewer III – J.P. Hamer Award for Most Improved Student
- Travis P. McNamar – South Central Lumbermen’s Award for Best Attitude/Citizenship
- Jamie D. Cridelich – Lumbermen’s Club of Memphis Leadership Award

The NHLA Inspector Training School has a proud and rich 68-year history; graduating more than 7,200 students since its conception. The Program teaches the rules and applications of the NHLA grading system and prepares students for a career in the hardwood industry. This unique program has earned worldwide respect, consequently attracting students from throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Africa, South America and Asia.

Enrollment is now open for the 181<sup>th</sup> class, which begins on August 31, 2016 in Memphis, Tennessee. To enroll or learn more about the program please visit [www.nhla.com/school](http://www.nhla.com/school).

The world’s largest and oldest hardwood industry association, NHLA represents 1,100 companies and individuals that produce, use and sell North American hardwood lumber, or provide equipment, supplies or services to the hardwood industry. It was founded in 1898 to establish a uniform system of grading rules for the measurement and inspection of hardwood lumber. Since 1979, its headquarters have been in Memphis. To learn more about NHLA, please visit [www.nhla.com](http://www.nhla.com).

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