



PRESS RELEASE

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Three MDOC South Mississippi Correctional Institution Employees Receive Inaugural Employee Recognition Awards

Jackson—The first employee recognition awards were presented this week at the South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI) in Greene County. At the inaugural ceremony Wednesday, September 26, three SMCI employees were recognized.

South Mississippi Correctional Institution Employees that received awards for August 2001 include:

Shelton Madden	Correctional Officer Area 1	Correctional Officer of the Month
Nicole Hicks	Community Services Aide SMCI II	SMCI Staff Employee of the Month
Cynthia Bivens	Correctional Officer SMCI II	Extra Effort Award

SMCI Superintendent David Turner announced the names of the award recipients while MDOC Commissioner Robert L. Johnson presented each with certificates and lapel pins. The Correctional Officer and Staff Employee of the Month also received plaques.

“The South Mississippi Correctional Facility is filled with corrections professionals,” said SMCI Superintendent David Turner. “The three employees we recognized for August each demonstrate and exemplify our commitment to public safety.”

The MDOC Employee Service Award Program originated in July 2001 and August was the first month to nominate fellow MDOC employees for the following awards:

- Correctional Officer of the Month;
- Field Officer of the Month;
- Staff Employee of the Month; and
- Security Employee of the Month.

(more)

In addition, MDOC established the Heroism Award and Extra Effort Award. The Heroism Award is given to MDOC employees who go above and beyond the call of duty in heroic efforts to either save the life of an individual protect other lives from encountering life threatening situations. The Extra Effort Award is designed to recognize employees who go the extra mile or take on additional duties to assist in a project in order to get it done.

MDOC will hold awards ceremonies each month to officially recognize outstanding employees.



(From left to right) SMCI Correctional Officer Shelton Madden, Correctional Officer of the Month, MDOC Commissioner Robert L. Johnson, SMCI Community Services Aide Nicole Hicks, Staff Employee of the Month, SMCI Correctional Officer Cynthia Bivens, Extra Effort Award recipient.

South Mississippi Correctional Institution Award Recipients

Shelton Madden, Correctional Officer I, works in Area I. Madden was nominated for Correctional Officer of the Month by his immediate supervisor and fellow Correctional Officers. Madden is assigned to the lock down unit and also provides assistance in the yard, visitation area, vocational technological classes and garment factory. Madden is always focused on adequate security at the prison and volunteers to work on his regular days off to insure that the facility is adequately staffed.

Nicole Hicks, Community Services Aide II, works at SMCI-II in the ARP Department. Investigator Kevin Fortinberry nominated Hicks for Staff Employee of the month. Hicks has been described as a dedicated employee with a positive caring attitude that works diligently to keep the office up to date in all of the tasks assigned to her.

Cynthia Bivens, Correctional Officer, works at SMCI-II. Correctional Case Manager Ben Bentsen nominated Bivens for the Extra Effort Award. Bivens has been described as a professional who coordinates multiple duties flawlessly while maintaining security, custody and control of the offenders in the unit.

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MEDIA NOTE: If you would like a digital photograph of the Service Award recipients, contact Jennifer Griffin at (601) 359-5689 or by email at jgriffin@mdoc.state.ms.us