



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Four South Mississippi Correctional Institution Employees Receive Service Recognition Awards

Jackson – Commissioner Robert L. Johnson, joined by Superintendent David Turner, presented the Mississippi Department of Corrections' (MDOC) employee recognition awards this week to four employees at the South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI) located near Leakesville in Greene County. "It is indeed a pleasure to have the opportunity to recognize this fine group of dedicated employees," said Commissioner Johnson. "Our agency is most fortunate not only to have these service award recipients within our ranks, but also the over 540 additional dedicated employees hear at SMCI who daily place their lives on the line to make society a safer place for all to live."

The awards presentation was part of an employee recognition program instituted by the agency in July to recognize exemplary employees within the MDOC. The state prison system currently has over 3,600 people in its employ statewide. SMCI, which began operation as a 500-bed institution in April 1989 today, houses over 2100 offenders on a daily basis. It currently has a capacity to house 2214 prisoners.

South Mississippi Correctional Institution employees receiving awards for October 2001 included:

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| Angelia Stenson | Correctional Officer II Front Gate, Area III | Correctional Officer of the Month |
| Sherman Walley | Correctional Supervisor, SMCI - I | Security Employee Of the Month |
| Lisa Bivens | SMCI Personnel Officer III, SMCI Personnel Office | Staff Employee Of the Month |
| Norma Rucker | Correctional Officer IV, Area II Lockdown Control | Extra Effort |

(more)

The 2:00 p.m. special awards presentation ceremony was held in the in SMCI II's visitation area. Superintendent David Turner announced the names of the award recipients as Commissioner Robert L. Johnson presented each employee with lapel pins and certificates. The Correctional and Security officers of the Month also received plaques.

"The recipients of these service awards are to be commended for their dedication and long hours of hard work," said Superintendent Turner adding, "life in corrections is stressful and is very demanding."

South Mississippi Correctional Institution Awards Recipients

Angelia Stenson, Correctional Officer II was nominated by Ginger Baldwin, Personnel Officer I to receive the Correctional Officer of the Month service award. "Officer Stenson embodies all of the qualities of a top-notch security employee," said Ms. Baldwin. "I feel that she shows pride in her job as well as a great deal of professionalism. No matter who is entering the institution they will be greeted in a friendly manner. I applaud her for her outstanding ability to not do her job, but do it well!"

Sherman Walley, Correctional Supervisor at SMCI-I, was nominated by Sister Kathleen Spurlin, Chaplaincy Director to receive Security Employee of the Month service award. "Lieutenant Walley exemplifies professionalism in his daily work and consistently conducts himself with integrity," said Sister Kathleen. She continued, "He never shirks a responsibility with regard to matters of security and his commitment in no way stops him from being respectful to all persons."

Lisa Bivins, Personnel Officer III was nominated to receive the Staff employee of the Month by Mary Steed, Personnel Officer I. "Lisa Bivens is an asset to SMCI," said Ms Steed. "Personnel is a technical field that requires the highest degree of proficiency. It has been my pleasure to work with both Ms. Bivens and her staff. Regardless of the situation, I'm always accorded the same professional treatment on personnel matters."

Norma Rucker, Correctional Officer IV was nominated by Lieutenant Vivian Hoeflich to receive the Extra Effort service award. "Officer Rucker personifies the true meaning of teamwork," said Lieutenant Hoeflich. She added, "The esprit de corps that has evolved on the first watch because of Officer Rucker's caring nature for her fellow officers is difficult to describe in words. She is an asset to SMCI's team."

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Media Note: If you would like a digital photograph of the Service Award recipients, e-mail bgreenleaf@mdoc.state.ms.us or phone him at: (601) 359-5646.