



PRESS RELEASE

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Date: November 13, 2001
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Four MDOC Central Office Employees Receive Employee Recognition Awards

Jackson - The employee recognition awards ceremony for the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) Central Office was held in Jackson today. At the ceremony, four employees were recognized.

Central Office Employees that received awards for October 2001 include:

Rita Twiner	Staff Employee of the Month
Ann Divine	Extra Effort Award
Claire Papizan	Extra Effort Award
Sandra Shelton	Extra Effort Award

"I take every opportunity I can to brag about all of the hard work each and every one of you do for MDOC," said Commissioner Johnson. "I am proud of how dedicated our employees are and you are valuable to the state of Mississippi."

The MDOC Employee Service Award Program originated in July 2001 to nominate fellow MDOC employees for the following awards:

- Correctional Officer of the Month
- Field Officer of the Month
- Staff Employee of the Month
- Security Employee of the Month

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 or prevent other lives from dangerous 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.

(more)

MDOC will hold ceremonies each month to officially recognize outstanding employees at all three state institutions (Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman, Miss; Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in Pearl, Miss; and South Mississippi Correctional Institution in Leakesville, Miss.) and at the MDOC central office in Jackson.

Central Office Recognition Award Recipients

Rita Twiner, purchasing agent for the MDOC central office, was nominated by Lora Cole, Interim Deputy Commissioner of Community Services. Twiner, who has been with MDOC since 1999, is in charge of all the purchasing functions for the central office of MDOC and is over the purchasing department at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in Pearl. “In these very tight budget months, it is reassuring that MDOC has a purchasing agent who takes her job seriously and is willing to go the extra mile to ensure that the agency’s and tax payer’s funds are handled prudently,” said Cole.

Ann Divine, interim MDOC Personnel Director, was nominated by her supervisor, Cheryl Lunsford, director of Human Resources. In addition to the personnel office at central office, Divine oversees the personnel offices at all three state prisons. Divine was nominated for the award because of her assistance in helping get the MDOC Employee Service Award program off the ground; more specifically, Divine was in charge of ordering some of the recognition items. “Her persistence paid off and the pins and key rings arrived in time for the first ceremonies,” said Lunsford. “It was a job well done and was done while she successfully continued her daily duties.”

Claire Papizan, Communications Specialist, works in the Communications Division at the MDOC central office. Papizan handles media inquiries regarding Community Services, community work centers, probationers and parolees. Papizan was nominated by Cheryl Lunsford, director of Human Resources, because of her help in assisting the MDOC Employee Service Award committee members. “Without Claire’s help, we would not have had plaques, certificates or extra effort pins for the first ceremonies,” said Lunsford. “Claire’s willingness to work across division lines, spending numerous hours on this project, while maintaining her daily communications duties ensured MDOC would have a successful Employee Recognition program.”

Sandra Shelton, a personnel officer, was nominated by Cheryl Lunsford, director of Human Resources. Shelton is responsible for assisting the statewide MDOC human resources director, Cheryl Lunsford. Shelton was instrumental in helping with the MDOC Employee Service Awards. “Without the extra effort put forth by Sandra, the first awards ceremonies held throughout the state in September would not have happened,” said Lunsford.



MDOC Central Office Employee of the Month Rita Twiner

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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.