



PRESS RELEASE

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Four MDOC Community Services Division Employees Receive Employee Recognition Awards

Jackson - The employee recognition awards ceremony for the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) Community Services Division Region I was held today at Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman, Miss. At the ceremony, four employees were recognized.

Community Services Employees that received awards for October 2001 include:

James Sherman	Lee County Probation & Parole Office	Field Officer of the Month
Alverna Harris	Bolivar County Probation & Parole Office	Staff Employee of the Month
James Sherman	Lee County Probation & Parole Office	Extra Effort Award
Daryl Saylors	Prentiss County Probation & Parole Office	Extra Effort Award

Interim Deputy Commissioner of Community Services Lora Cole announced the names of the award recipients while MDOC Commissioner Robert Johnson presented each with certificates. The Field Officer of the Month and Staff Employee of the Month recipients also received plaques.

"I take every opportunity I can when I talk to people to tell them about all of the hard work MDOC employees are doing," said Commissioner Johnson. "I know that I really appreciate each and every one of you and the dedication you have to MDOC."

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
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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.

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.

Community Services Division Service Award Recipients

James Sherman, Field Officer III, works at the Lee County Probation & Parole office in Belden. Sherman was nominated for the Field Officer of the Month and Extra Effort awards by his supervisor, Bill Brand. Sherman, who supervises three other field officers, maintains a caseload of about 120 offenders. In addition to his normal job duties, Sherman has been involved in revising and writing policies and procedures as part of the American Correctional Association (ACA) accreditation process for the MDOC Community Services Division.

“Officer Sherman has spent numerous hours on this (ACA) project in addition to working his regular caseload and while supervising his subordinates,” said Brand. “He works past 5 p.m. most every day and even comes in on the weekends so that his caseload duties are done and his work on the ACA project is completed by the deadlines given.”

Alverna Harris, Correctional Services Aide, works at the Bolivar County Probation & Parole office in Cleveland. Harris was nominated for the Staff Employee of the Month by her supervisor, John Brinson, Community Services Director for Region 1. Harris’s job responsibilities include supervising the clerical staff to ensure purchases are made correctly, review time sheets, compiles information for the monthly reports, etc.

“She is every manager’s dream of the complete correctional services aide,” said Brinson. “During my absence from the office I am always confident that all duties pertaining to my office and those tasks placed upon it will be carried out.”

Daryl Saylor, Field Officer III, works at the Prentiss County Probation & Parole office in Booneville. Saylor was nominated for an Extra Effort Award by his supervisor, Bill Brand. Saylor supervises a caseload of over 150 in addition to clients in Prentiss county. Officer Saylor also serves as the preliminary probation revocation hearing officer for the north half of Region 1-B.

“Even with his extremely high caseload he puts forth 110%, never complains about being over worked and always accepts any extra duties that are asked of him,” said Brand. “He is always willing to attend any training events which will give him more knowledge and better skills to perform his duties for the agency.”



MDOC Community Services Employees pictured left to right:
James Sherman, Alverna Harris and Daryl Saylor