



PRESS RELEASE

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MDOC Central Office Employees Receives 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 February 2002 include:

Josephine Rogers	Staff Employee of the Month
Willie Edwards	Extra Effort Award
Christy Gutherz	Extra Effort Award
Ivy Keys	Extra Effort Award
Bobby Twiner	Extra Effort Award

MDOC Commissioner Robert Johnson presented the award recipients with lapel pins and certificates; the Employee of the Month was also presented a plaque. "I take every opportunity I can to brag here today and all over the state about how MDOC employees dedicate their all," said Commissioner Johnson. "I am proud of the hard work that our employees do."

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.

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.

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Central Office Award Recipients

Josephine Rogers, of Bentonia, is an account auditing technician for MDOC. Rogers was nominated for the Staff Employee of the Month Award by a coworker, Ruth West. Rogers was nominated because of the professional and cheerful manner in which she conducts her job duties.

“Ms. Rogers handles herself in a very professional and cheerful manner at all times, and makes a significant contribution to operational productivity,” said West. “Her dedication to the agency and its employees is above and beyond and her interpersonal skills make her a real asset to the agency.”

Ivy Keys, of Jackson, is the Interstate Compact Administrator for MDOC. Keys was nominated for an Extra Effort Award by her supervisor, Lora Cole, Interim Deputy Commissioner of Community Services. Keys was nominated because of her dedication and willingness to work extra and long hours over the last several months, due to a staff shortage in the Interstate Compact Division.

“Ms. Keys has risen to the occasion by consistently working late hours, on weekends and holidays in an effort to get the job done,” said Cole. “She also exhibited untiring efforts in preparation for this year’s legislative session.”

Christy Gutherz, of Raymond; **Willie Edwards**, of Braxton; and **Bobby Twiner**, of Brandon, are all compliance officers in the Institutions Division of MDOC. All were nominated for an Extra Effort Award by their supervisor, Patricia Dean-Wilson. These compliance officers were nominated because of their exemplary teamwork attendance and their professionalism in dealing with regional staff, inmates and the public.

“Over the past couple of months, the compliance team members have started their days at 7 a.m. and ended their days at 7 p.m. without complaint,” said Dean-Wilson. “Most importantly, I have heard nothing but positive comments from the regional wardens about the compliance team.”

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MEDIA NOTE: MDOC has digital photos of award recipients. If you are interested in receiving a photo, please call Bill Greenleaf at (601) 359-5646 or e-mail him at bgreenleaf@mdoc.state.ms.us