



PRESS RELEASE

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Date: March 7, 2002
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Region II 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 II was held today at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in Pearl, Miss. At the ceremony, three employees were recognized.

Community Services Employees that received awards for February 2002 include:

Monica Harper	Flowood Community Work Center	Extra Effort Award
Jenifer Harris	Flowood Community Work Center	Extra Effort Award
Larry Mayo	Hinds County Probation & Parole Office	Extra Effort Award

Region II Community Services Director Brenda Blanks announced the names of the award recipients while MDOC Commissioner Robert L. Johnson and Interim Deputy Commissioner of Community Services Lora Cole presented each with a certificate and lapel pin.

"It is important to recognize the dedication of our employees and their dedication to public safety," said Commissioner Johnson. "I appreciate each of you and the job you are doing for the Mississippi Department of Corrections."

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.

Community Services Division Service Award Recipients

Monica Harper, of Jackson, is a teacher in the pre-release center at the Flowood Community Work Center. Harper was nominated for the Extra Effort Award by Caroline Banyard, director of the pre-release center at Flowood CWC. Harper teaches adult basic education classes to female offenders nearing their release date. The classes that Harper teaches include personal development, life skills and employability skills.

“Because of a teacher vacancy at the Flowood CWC, Ms. Harper has taken on the additional responsibility of providing alcohol and drug education to the pre-release participants and the twelve-week alcohol and drug classes for the general population,” said Banyard. “She is dedicated, competent and an enthusiastic employee.”

Jenifer Harris, of Pickens, is a pre-release counselor at the Flowood Community Work Center. Harris was nominated for the Extra Effort Award by Caroline Banyard, director of the pre-release center at Flowood CWC. Harris is responsible for providing counseling, job coaching, job development, job referrals, employer contacts and follow-ups to pre-release participants.

“She is dedicated in assisting her clients with finding jobs,” said Banyard. “Ms. Harris is a team player, ambitious and willing to accept any challenges or opportunities that are offered to her, without hesitation.”

Larry Mayo, of Raymond, is a field officer III at the Hinds County Probation & Parole office in Jackson. Mayo was nominated for the Extra Effort Award by Tara Frazier, the Victim Services Director. Officer Mayo is known for taking a personal interest in serving crime victims by referring them to the Division of Victim Services.

“His professional interest, initiative and drive has been shown in court when meeting crime victims,” said Frazier. “He takes responsibility in making sure crime victims are aware of the Division of Victim Services.”

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