



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Three South Mississippi Correctional Institution Employees Receive Employee Recognition Awards

Leakesville – Three South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI) employees were presented Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) recognition awards today by Commissioner Robert L. Johnson. SMCI Superintendent David Turner assisted Commissioner Johnson in presenting the awards. The monthly awards program recognizes exemplary employees within MDOC's ranks for outstanding service to the system.

"Our agency is truly blessed with countless numbers of professional public servants who give their all by providing crucial security for our prison system," said Commissioner Johnson. "I extend a salute to all of those dedicated men and women within our ranks for their untiring public service."

The Mississippi Department of Corrections employs over 3,700 personnel statewide. Approximately 70% of the agency's workforce are in security and work around the clock to protect the public. SMCI, the newest of the state's three public prisons began operation as a 500-bed medium security institution in April 1989. It presently has 571 people in its employ and the prison houses over 2,100 offenders on a daily basis. SMCI has a capacity to house 2,214 prisoners.

South Mississippi Correctional Institution employees receiving recognition awards for February 2002 included:

Scott Hoefflich Leakesville, Miss.	Correctional Commander SMCI Academy Instructor	Security Employee of the Month
Kirby McLain Richton, Miss.	Correctional Officer SMCI – Area I	Correctional Officer of the Month
Martez Giles Waynesboro, Miss.	Accounting Auditor Technician SMCI – Area I	Staff Employee of the Month

The 2 p.m. awards ceremony was held in SMCI II's visitation area. Superintendent David Turner announced the names of the award recipients as Commissioner Johnson presented each employee with lapel pins and certificates. Additionally, the Security Employee of the Month, the Correctional Officer of the Month and the Staff Employee of the Month award recipients were each presented an individual plaque honoring them for their outstanding service.

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“These monthly awards presentations symbolize staff loyalty and dedication,” said Superintendent Turner. “These recognition awards provide us with a special opportunity not only to recognize these outstanding public servants but equally important, a time for us to pause and be thankful for their untiring service.” Superintendent Turner continued, “Life in corrections is difficult and is often stressful and it is proper for us to recognize them for their loyal dedication.”

South Mississippi Correctional Institution Awards Recipients

Scott Hoeflich, SMCI Academy Instructor, of Leakesville, an 11-year veteran with the prison system, received the Security Employee of the Month award. Nominated by Correctional Commander Timothy J. Morris, Captain Hoeflich was characterized as being a highly dedicated employee who exemplifies the highest level of professionalism. “Captain Hoeflich plays an invaluable role in our training program at SMCI,” said Correctional Commander Morris. “Training is so crucial to safety in a prison environment. Lt. Hoeflich is an excellent instructor who has an uncanny ability to refocus the attention of those being trained to never lose sight of the importance of security; he knows that one can never learn all there is to know about security and is equally mindful of the fact that refresher training for security is crucial to maintaining a safe prison environment. That’s what sets Captain Hoeflich apart from other instructors. He not only holds his class participants’ attention, but he also gets them involved in the instruction. That’s what training’s about. SMCI is most fortunate to have a person with Lt. Hoeflich’s skill and ability to keep the staff at SMCI focused on the importance of security.”

Kirby McLain, of Richton, a three-year veteran with the Mississippi Department of Corrections, received the Correctional Employee of the Month recognition award at SMCI. Nominated by Correctional Commander Sheila Hill, Officer McLain was saluted for his spirit of commoradery and his unceasing willingness to be a team player. “Officer McLain is true to his word, and he sees each assignment through to completion,” said Correctional Commander Hill. “Officer McLain is vigilant and takes pride in his highly responsible role in security at SMCI. He’s a stickler for perfection and takes each assignment with equal importance and with a determination to always do the best job that can be done.” Officer McLain was characterized for his integrity and for having earned great respect from his fellow co-workers as well as his supervisors.

Martez Giles, of Waynesboro, received the Staff Employee of the Month recognition award. Giles, an account auditor, is an eight-year veteran at SMCI and was nominated for her recognition award by Glenda Smith, Correctional Services Aide II. “Ms. Giles plays a very important role at SMCI,” said Smith. “As an accounting auditor/technician, she has the daily burdensome responsibility of keying in purchase requisitions which are linked to the timely receipt of supplies ordered by the various prison departments. She also is responsible for keying in requisitions for community work centers in the southern region of the state. Her devotion and dedication to her job is unprecedented.” Ms Martez was characterized as being totally loyal to her job and unwavering in her determination to fulfill her role to help her co-workers.

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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