



PRESS RELEASE

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Two 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, two employees were recognized.

Community Services Employees that received awards for January 2002 include:

Walter Lockhart	Yazoo County Community Work Center	Security Employee of the Month
Nancy Nix	Hinds County Restitution Center	Correctional Officer of the Month

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, lapel pin and plaque.

“I am pleased to recognize the hard work that you do each and every day,” said Commissioner Johnson. “The quality of work you do can be seen all across the state. At MDOC we provide a valuable service that is a fundamental mission to the citizens of this state – public safety. I encourage each of you to continue your good work.”

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

Walter Lockhart, of Yazoo City, is the Commander at the Yazoo County Community Work Center. Lockhart was nominated for the Security Employee of the Month Award by Evelyn Dixon, a case manager at the Yazoo County Community Work Center. Dixon nominated Lockhart for the award because of his impressive leadership skills.

“One could not find a more committed professional,” said Dixon. “Commander Lockhart is committed to doing his best in service to MDOC, committed to assisting his staff, expecting the best of their service and committed to an effectively operated center.”

Nancy Nix, of Georgetown, is a Correctional Officer IV at the Hinds County Restitution Center. Nix was nominated for the Correctional Officer of the Month Award by Robert Hughes, the commander at the Hinds County Restitution Center. Nix was nominated because of her ability to deal with both the public and offenders.

“At a restitution center, an officer must be able to talk with potential employers for the residents as well as disgruntled employers,” said Hughes. “An officer must be able to arrange community work programs and services for the residents. Officer Nix does all these things and does them well.”

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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.