



NEWS RELEASE

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TWO APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED by the MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT of CORRECTIONS

Jackson – Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) Commissioner Christopher Epps has announced the appointments of Joan Strain to serve as the agency’s statewide education director and Eddie Cates to the post of warden at the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility (CMCF).

Joan Strain, a veteran educator, is a graduate of Delta State University and holds Bachelor of Education and Master of Education Degrees with endorsements in elementary education, reading, educational administration and post secondary vocational education. Strain has served as both an instructor and coordinator of CMCF’s education program for the past 15 years. “I’m deeply honored to have been selected to serve in this highly important position,” said Strain. “I strongly feel that education of the offender population is imperative for MDOC to successfully rehabilitate prisoners and prepare them to become productive citizens.”

Warden Cates, also a Delta State University graduate, joined MDOC’s ranks as a correctional officer at the Mississippi State Penitentiary in July 1982 after completing all requirements for a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. He advanced through the ranks and served as sergeant, and later as lieutenant, captain and deputy warden following his transfer to CMCF in 1986. As warden of CMCF 1-A, Cates will have the responsibility of managing the security operation and also the care and treatment of 589 female and 320 male prisoners. “I look forward to my challenging new role at CMCF,” said Warden Cates. “Supervision of prisoners is difficult at times but success stories of offenders who leave prison never to return is personally gratifying.”

“We feel most fortunate to have employees within our ranks who are corrections professionals to assume these key roles of leadership,” said Commissioner Epps. “Their educational background and proven experience will greatly assist our agency in its mission of providing custody, care and supervision to our offender population. I truly feel the appointment of these individuals will facilitate our efforts to reduce the recidivism rate. We will use every resource available to achieve this important goal.”