



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Mississippi Department of Corrections Announces Two New Appointments**

Jackson – Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) Commissioner Christopher Epps today announced the appointments of Audrey McAfee to serve as Director of the agency's Management Information System (MIS) and Johnnie Denmark to the position of Warden at Area I at the South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI).

Audrey McAfee is a graduate of Tougaloo College and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in chemistry and a minor in math. She joined the ranks of MDOC in 1986 as an accounting clerk. In 1987 she transferred into the agency's Management Information System (MIS). Over the past 13 years, McAfee has served as a research statistician, a systems analyst, a data processing systems manager, and office director of planning research and evaluation prior to her appointment as Director of MIS. "I'm deeply honored to have been selected to serve in this important position," said McAfee. "I look forward to the many challenges that lie ahead. MIS plays a key role in both storing information and generating special reports for staff needs and the general public alike. MIS's staff is highly trained and skilled in their ability to meet all requests."

Warden Denmark is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. He began working toward his degree in 1988 one year prior to joining the ranks of SMCI in 1989 as a correctional officer. He continued to work full-time and go to school after hours. In 1995 he graduated after completing all requirements for his degree. From 1994-1996, Denmark served as a Correctional Administrator I where he directly supervised the general population and the special needs units. In 1996 he was promoted to Correctional Administrator III and in 1997 he was elevated to Correctional Deputy Warden where he supervised unit administrators in the daily operation of the institution. As warden of SMCI 1, Denmark will have the responsibility of managing the daily security operation and the care and treatment of 750 male prisoners. "I look forward to my challenging new role at SMCI," said Warden Denmark. "Supervision of prisoners can be very difficult at times. However, from my experience of dealing with prisoners, I have witnessed success stories of offenders who left prison never to return. This has always been personally gratifying to me."

"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 continued efforts to reduce the recidivism rate in our prison system. We will use every resource available to achieve this important goal."