

Dear Fellow Mississippians:

It is with immense pleasure that I present the Fiscal Year 2006 Annual Report on behalf of the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC). This thorough report profiles the agency's accomplishments and performance indicators from July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006; is filled with a collection of data reflecting the state's felony population; and provides definitions of correctional terminology that I hope you will find useful.

It has been a year of noteworthy achievement.

With public safety as its top priority, MDOC joined nationally touted Pegasus Research Foundation in an unprecedented collaboration with Mississippi law enforcement to integrate criminal information databases, providing law enforcement officers with real time automated information about offenders under MDOC supervision or incarceration. Users have access to records and photographs of more than 21,000 MDOC inmates as well as over 30,000 offenders who are serving under community supervision. MDOC is the first state department of corrections participating in the database program to provide all-inclusive information sharing with law enforcement agencies.

MDOC has one of the lowest costs per inmate in the United States having successfully reduced the daily incarceration cost for inmates housed at state operated facilities for the fifth consecutive year. The FY 2005 PEER Report showed an average cost of \$36.42 per day for inmates of all custody levels housed in the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in Pearl, Mississippi, Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman, Mississippi, and South Mississippi Correctional Institution in Leakesville, Mississippi. MDOC reports a daily cost per inmate of \$34.85 when blending in the cost of the 17 community work centers which aren't included in the PEER Report formula.

State offender work crews continue giving back to Mississippi communities in a variety of ways, providing free labor to nonprofits, municipalities, counties and other state agencies. Following Hurricane Katrina, inmate labor saved thousands of dollars for the citizens of Mississippi. Offender work crews provided much needed help to the Mississippi Gulf Coast region, removing debris from roadways, state and local government properties and private properties; repairing damaged buildings; unloading relief supplies; assisting the American Red Cross in the distribution of relief items for residents; and facilitating in the building of Habitat for Humanity homes.

Recognizing the impact of crime perpetrated against the agency's nearly 3,000 registered crime victims, MDOC conducted the first state prison victim impact panel. The goal of the victim impact panel was to provide inmates information and understanding about crime and victimization, while also providing a forum for crime victims to discuss their trauma. For the 100 participating inmates, the victim impact panel put a face on victimization, helping inmates realize that there is a story and victim behind every crime committed.

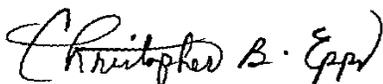
All three state prisons, sixteen of the seventeen community work centers, two of our four restitution centers, all eleven county/regional facilities, and five of the six private prisons have continued to be accredited with high scores by the American Correctional Association.

The National Commission on Correctional Health Care has awarded accreditation to the South Mississippi Correctional Institution, the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility and the Mississippi State Penitentiary for providing quality healthcare to offenders by meeting correctional healthcare standards.

MDOC provided valuable treatment programs for offenders, graduating 852 state inmates through the agency's GED, Adult Basic Education/Literacy programs, and 384 offenders through vocational training programs during FY 2006.

The Mississippi Department of Corrections continues to carry out its mission with purpose, enthusiasm and hard work. We remain committed to maintaining high standards of accountability and excellence in public service.

Sincerely,



Christopher B. Epps  
Commissioner