

MISSISSIPPI

Dear Fellow Mississippians:

On behalf of the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC), it is with immense pride that I present the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2008. This thorough report profiles the agency's accomplishments and performance indicators from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008; is filled with a collection of data reflecting the state's felony population; and provides definitions of correctional terminology.

Always striving to serve the state through increased accountability, strengthened programs, public safety and fiscal responsibility, Fiscal Year 2008 demonstrated the agency's commitment to excellence:

The American Correctional Association (ACA) recommended its highest honor for commitment to excellence to the Mississippi Department of Corrections for having all programs within the state's jurisdiction accredited. This award is only presented to those states whose entire correctional systems have achieved compliance with hundreds of national correctional standards. MDOC is only the 14th state correctional system in the nation to claim this accomplishment.

MDOC Field Services/Probation and Parole Division of Community Corrections became one of fifteen (15) Field Services Divisions in the world to be accredited by the ACA.

All three (3) state prisons remain accredited by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care for meeting correctional healthcare standards and for providing quality healthcare to offenders.

The Mississippi Department of Corrections expanded re-entry efforts for inmates and established a practice authorizing offenders incarcerated for two (2) years or more to participate in a Pre-Release Program.

Over the course of the past year, MDOC successfully increased inmate graduations by 16% in Adult Basic Education, Vocational Trades and Alcohol and Drug programs. There were 4,376 inmates awarded certificates for these three programs: General Education Development (GED) - 615 inmate graduates; Vocational Trades - 456 inmate graduates; Alcohol and Drug - 3,202 inmate graduates.

Offenders in the state's community work centers provided nearly \$20 million dollars in free labor to local, county, state and non-profit charitable organizations during the fiscal year. Inmate labor saved taxpayers millions of dollars while also allowing offenders to learn a trade.

Mindful that for each offender there is a victim and that safety of the public is paramount, MDOC successfully obtained a \$1.3 million dollar federal grant from

the Bureau of Justice to develop and implement the state's first Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) network. The automated system will provide victims round-the-clock access to information about the custody status of state inmates, and of offenders housed in county jails statewide. More importantly, registered victims will be automatically notified if the inmate is released or escapes.

As the Mississippi Department of Corrections moves forward in the coming months, we will continue to strive to perform at our best as leaders in corrections. We will remain committed to maintaining high standards of accountability and excellence in public service as we steadfastly carry out our mission to provide public safety.

Sincerely,



Christopher B. Epps
Commissioner