

MISSISSIPPI

Dear Fellow Mississippians:

On behalf of the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC), I am pleased to present our Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report. The report provides an in-depth profile of the state's felony population, along with the agency's many functions and operations.

In a continued effort to serve the state with prudent accountability, fiscal responsibility, and excellence in public service, MDOC maintained its traditional efficiencies for progress during Fiscal Year 2009. Highlights of this effort include:

Educational Programs Offered to Inmates

Over the course of the past year, educational programs available for inmates resulted in 4,156 inmates successfully completing the programs including, General Education Development (GED) 513 inmate graduates, Vocational Trade 499 inmate graduates, Alcohol & Drug programs 3,144 inmate graduates.

Inmates at Parchman Received College Degrees

Twenty-eight (28) Mississippi State Penitentiary inmates received Bachelor of Arts degrees from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Candidates for the Bachelor of Arts degree must satisfactorily complete the five-year (5) faith-based program which is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The program is fully funded by the Mississippi Baptist Theological Seminary and the Inmate Welfare Fund.

Labor Provided to Government and Non-profits

Offenders in the state's community work centers provided \$20,634,495 million dollars in free labor to local, county, state and non-profit charitable organizations throughout the state during the fiscal year. Inmate labor saved taxpayer dollars while also allowing offenders to learn a trade.

MDOC Converted to Electronic Medical Records

A comprehensive electronic medical record system that automates patient records and provides clinicians fast access to complete patient records has been implemented by the agency. The system is now operating in the three (3) state prisons, eleven (11) county/regional correctional facilities and seventeen (17) community work centers in MDOC. Planning is underway for implementation in the five (5) private prisons.

New Inmate Re-entry Facility Opened in Walnut Grove

A new transition facility for inmates opened in March 2009. The Walnut Grove Transition Center provides opportunities for offenders by providing housing, job training and placement for qualified inmates.

New Animal Care Program Operating at Parchman

Utilizing wild horses adopted from the Bureau of Land Management, inmates at the Mississippi State Penitentiary (MSP) can now acquire the job skills necessary to become certified horse trainers through the care and training of equine stock in the newly established Parchman Animal Care and Training Program. Operated under the Agricultural Enterprises Department at MSP, MDOC was awarded a \$50,000 grant over five (5) years from the Bureau of Land Management to obtain and train wild mustangs from federal lands.

As we move forward, MDOC remains deeply committed to performing at our best as leaders in corrections, while vigorously developing measures to operate more efficiently. Our mission of providing public safety is only matched by our pledge to be good stewards of the state's resources.

Sincerely,



Christopher B. Epps
Commissioner