

Christopher B. Epps, Commissioner
723 N. President Street
Jackson, MS 39202

Dear Fellow Mississippians:

I am pleased to present the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) 2011 Annual Report. This report represents the scope and depth of this agency and its talented staff during fiscal year July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. It also provides an in-depth profile of the state's felony population and MDOC's tradition of prudent accountability and excellence in public service to the citizens of Mississippi.

I am proud of our many accomplishments during FY 2011 and am pleased to share a summary with you. These accomplishments reveal the hard work and efforts of the men and women of MDOC:

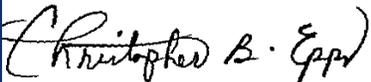
- On March 10, 2011, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi permanently dismissed the Gates case with prejudice applicable to state owned, state-operated, and private company contractor facilities housing state inmates. The court order commented on the historical significance of *Gates vs. Collier*, which has been on the court docket since 1971, and acknowledged Mississippi's strides in the area of inmate treatment and the fact that Mississippi is one of only a few states to earn accreditation from the American Correctional Association for the entire agency.
- In April 2011, the American Correctional Association (ACA) recommended re-accreditation of MDOC Headquarters. The MDOC Central Office received a recommended score for accreditation of 100 on the mandatory standards and a recommended score of 100 on the non-mandatory standards, confirming that the agency's operations, administration and management met nationally accepted corrections standards. To be awarded accreditation, the Central Office had to comply with 100% of the mandatory standards and at least 90% of the non-mandatory standards identified by ACA. This is the second time MDOC Headquarters has taken on the challenge of the rigorous ACA accreditation process.
- The Mississippi Department of Corrections has reduced the recidivism rate from 30.31% to 27.87% in the last four years. This reduction has created an estimated annual cost avoidance of \$7,145,262 to the Mississippi Department of Corrections.
- MDOC launched a six month pilot program to study the use of a house arrest tracking system that uses a combination of Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) and Advanced Forward Link Trilateration (AFLT) technology to track the location of house arrest offenders. The tracking system can be programmed to alert officers of violations of stay away/court orders, regardless of location and the offender proximity to a judge, prosecutor, witness, etc. Under the GPS pilot program, virtually all movement will be able to be tracked – both at home and throughout the community.
- During Fiscal Year 2011, educational programs offered to inmates resulted in 3,770 inmates successfully completing the following programs: General Education Development (GED) – 682, Vocational Trades – 519, Alcohol & Drug – 2,569.
- Offenders in the Community Work Centers contributed \$20,125,753 in free labor to local, county, state and non-profit charitable organizations throughout the state during Fiscal Year 2011. Offenders in the Joint County-State Work Programs also contributed \$13,466,440 in free labor to local, county, state and non-profit charitable organizations during Fiscal Year 2011.

- Last September, MDOC installed a managed-access system at the Mississippi State Penitentiary to combat contraband cell phone usage by inmates. More than a million calls and texts attempted by inmates were intercepted and successfully blocked through the end of the fiscal year. The first corrections agency in the United States to use the new technology, MDOC plans to deploy the system at the state's other prisons.
- In its seventh year, the Christian Ministry program at the Mississippi State Penitentiary has graduated 35 men with bachelor degrees in Christian Ministry.
- The Division of Victims Services (DVS), which began operation in November 2000, has registered 5,188 victims for services that include: Notification prior to an inmate's release from incarceration; Offender status; Crisis intervention; Information regarding the Crime Victim Compensation Program and Crime Victims' Rights; Liaison with law enforcement agencies and field officers; Restitution matters; Protective orders; Harassment by offenders; Support and assistance during victim/offender dialogue; Meetings with the Parole Board; Preparation/Escort services during executions.
- MS SAVIN, Mississippi's Statewide Automated Victim Information Notification Service, is a vital tool for information, providing added safety not only for individual victims, but the community as a whole. SAVIN is designed to provide registered victims/survivors real time information on state inmates and offenders housed in participating county jails. Registered users have access to timely information on offenders 24 hours a day by calling the Toll-Free number and through the internet by accessing vinelink.com. By the end of FY 2011, 80 counties are participating in SAVIN.
- Commissioner Epps was appointed to serve on the Emergency Response Interoperability Center Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) for the Federal Communications Commission.
- In April 2011, Commissioner Christopher B. Epps was presented Mississippi House Concurrent Resolution 143 commending him for his stellar and dedicated service to the Mississippi Department of Corrections and for bearing the most notable distinction of being the longest serving commissioner in the agency's history, and upon his national acclaim and respect of his peers as evidenced by his election as the 102nd President of the American Correctional Association.

I invite you to take a closer look at our 2011 fiscal year in review. With continued commitment to fiscal responsibility, I look forward to the challenges we face together in the coming year.

It is an honor to serve as your Commissioner.

Sincerely,



Christopher B. Epps
Commissioner