



PRESS RELEASE

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13 MDOC Central Office Employees Receive Employee Recognition/Service Awards

Jackson –The second employee recognition awards ceremony for the Mississippi Department of Corrections Central Office was held in Jackson today. At today’s ceremony, 13 employees were recognized for their years of service to MDOC.

Central Office Employees that reached a milestone in service years during September include:

Daphine Blackwell	5 years
Justin Hall	5 years
Natalie Holmes	5 years
Jerry Horton	5 years
Gay Marsalis	5 years
Patricia Maxey	5 years
Ken North	5 years
Stephanie Skipper	5 years
Charlotte Tanner	5 years
Angela Underwood	5 years
Sue Wood	5 years
Sidna McHann	10 years
Alma McGowan	15 years

At the ceremony, Deputy Commissioner of Administration & Finance Rick McCarty presented the September Employee of the Month award to Valencia Grooms. Grooms, a personnel technician for the Community Services and Central Office Personnel Department, is responsible for much of the Central Office processing functions and maintains the statewide off-duty employment system.

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“She demonstrates great dedication and professionalism in the performance of her duties,” said McCarty. “Valencia has proved her dependability by sticking with the job until it’s done even if it means after hours.

The MDOC Employee Service Award Program originated in July 2001 and September was the second month to nominate fellow MDOC employees for the following awards:

- Correctional Officer of the Month;
- Field Officer of the Month;
- Staff Employee of the Month; and
- Security Employee of the Month.

In addition, MDOC established the Heroism Award and Extra Effort Award. The Heroism Award is given to MDOC employees who go above and beyond the call of duty in heroic efforts to either save the life of an individual protect other lives from encountering life threatening situations. The Extra Effort Award is designed to recognize employees who go the extra mile or take on additional duties to assist in a project in order to get it done.

MDOC will hold awards ceremonies each month for Central Office, the state’s three (3) prisons, and Community Services Division to officially recognize outstanding employees.



MDOC Central Office September Employee of the Month recipient
Valencia Grooms with MDOC Commissioner Robert Johnson.

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MEDIA NOTE: If you would like a digital photograph of the Service Award recipient, contact Claire Papizan at (601) 359-5689 or by email at cpapizan@mdoc.state.ms.us.