



# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **MDOC ‘Vocational Village’ features re-entry programs**

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JACKSON – News media outlets and other visitors were treated Tuesday, May 9, to a look inside MDOC’s new “Vocational Village” which includes a complex of new programs aimed at getting parolees ready for good-paying jobs.

Visitors saw first-hand inmates participating in the classes now held at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility, an example of programs offered across the state prison system.

“Vocational Village is our new complex of instructional programs banded together at a centralized area at CMCF,” explained Commissioner Burl Cain. “This streamlines the process for inmates, especially those who are eligible for parole, as well as for instructors teaching multiple classes across the vocational spectrum.”

Bradley Lum, MDOC Deputy Commissioner of Workforce Development, added, “Vocational Village allows us to better oversee attendance, curriculum, progression through the program, and work completed so that inmates who are coming up for parole or release are ready for the workplace. At the same time, we are also trying to serve as a placement office by matching inmate skills and certifications with job openings.”

Vocational Village groups together many different vocations with study guides and equipment for hands-on instruction. Through MDOC-formed alliances, vocational instruction has been sanctioned and certified by both ASE, the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence, as well as by NCCER, the National Center for Construction Education and Research. NCCER is the national standard for training workers in the construction industry. Vocations taught at CMCF include auto repair, construction trades, metal working, welding, duct-working, horticulture and landscape design, small engine repair, fiber optics, computer and coding classes, culinary arts, and others.

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