



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
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PRESS RELEASE

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South Mississippi prison has a new leader

JACKSON - A correctional professional with nearly 30 years of experience working in three states is Corrections Commissioner Marshall Fisher's choice to lead the prison in south Mississippi.

Fisher announces the appointment of Jacquelyn Banks as superintendent of the South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI).

Banks has worked with adult offenders in Mississippi, Texas, and Kansas as well as the District of Columbia. She has served as a warden and an assistant warden at both state-run and privately operated prisons. Her most immediate past position was as warden at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in Pearl. She is a member of the Adult Corrections Committee of the American Correctional Association and was an ACA delegate assembly officer from 2010-2015.

"She is an accomplished professional with many years of public service in the corrections arena," Fisher said of Banks, who is only the second female superintendent in the history of the Mississippi Department of Corrections. "We are most fortunate to have someone with her depth of experience and commitment to this state."

SMCI is the newest of the state's three prisons. It sits on 360 acres at Leakesville in Greene County. One of its unique features is a 25-acre blueberry operation farmed by inmates. The prison can house a maximum 3,282 inmates. It employs 525 people.

Banks, a native of Texas, said she appreciates Commissioner Fisher's and Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams' confidence in her abilities.

"I am honored, and I look forward to the new challenges and opportunities that this position will afford me," Banks said. "I will do my very best to surpass expectations, and I am excited to continue to serve in the state of Mississippi. I love my job and the people I work with and for every day."

Banks succeeds Raymond Byrd, who returned to his home state of Texas in April.

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