



March 2026

## MDOC celebrates Women's History Month

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JACKSON – The Mississippi Department of Corrections acknowledged and saluted its women employees during Women's History Month in March.



Kelley Christopher comes to the MDOC with more than 30 years of experience in the corrections industry including education, research, instruction, and practical institutional experience. Christopher joined MDOC as a Deputy Superintendent at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility before ascending to Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Programs, Education and Re-Entry, then transitioning to her current position.

Christopher, a native of Houston, Texas, previously served as a professor in criminology at the University of West Georgia, where she focused on research on corrections and re-entry and teaching related courses. Her teaching and research interests were primarily centered on re-entry, crime and social inequality, corrections, disparities in sentencing, women and criminal justice. In addition to lectures, public presentations, and work in the community, she has authored numerous articles in publications and handled research grants supported by thousands of dollars on a variety of topics related to corrections.

Christopher holds a master's degree in sociology, master's degree in public administration; adult education; and a master's degree in post-secondary education. Her bachelor's degree is in social science.

Christopher has been recognized multiple times with honors including Outstanding Teaching Award, Outstanding Service Award, Outstanding Mentor Award, Faculty Member of the Year, and several nominations for similar awards. She has taught undergraduate courses including American Criminal Courts, Prison Law, Correctional Programs, Race and Crime, Correctional Profiling, and many others on virtually every aspect directly or indirectly related to corrections.

Professional memberships include American Society of Criminology, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, National Criminal Justice International Honor Society, International Sociology Honors Society

National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Southern Criminal Justice Association, American Correctional Association, National Association of Community and Restorative Justice, The Association of Reentry Professionals, International Inside-Out Training Institute Instructor Training. Temple University, The Association of Reentry Professionals Certification, University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute: Re-entry Certification.



Meet Ginger Baldwin, Human Resources Team Lead at the South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI) in Greene County.

This on-the-job picture highlights the vital role she plays in Corrections in honor of Women's History Month.



Meet South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI) Programs Director Lisa Herndon, another leader at the Greene County prison, who participated in the ACA's Women in Corrections campaign as part of Women's History Month.

Herndon, the 2024 recipient of the Award of Excellence for SMCI, is known for her unmatched enthusiasm and willingness to make a difference in the lives of incarcerated individuals.