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Correctional Officer cadets reach graduation

JACKSON – The South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI) welcomes its newest class of correctional officers who will play a vital role in maintaining facility security and supporting the Mississippi Department of Corrections' mission of rehabilitation and public safety.

Their graduation last week on the SMCI grounds marked their official entry into the department.

Deputy Warden Belinda Miller, who gave the keynote address, offered the new officers poignant advice on professional integrity and the importance of a strong support system. Miller emphasized that success in corrections is not a solitary journey.

"Surround yourselves with people that will not only support you in your careers, but who will also correct you if you make a mistake," Deputy Warden Miller told the graduates.

She stressed the weight of the badge and the uniform, adding, "The way you carry yourself from this day forward represents yourself, your family, each other, and every single one of us."

As the ceremony concluded, Miller provided a final charge to the new officers, reminding them of the higher purpose behind their daily duties. "If ever you feel like quitting, remember why you started in the first place," she said. "We're here to serve and to change lives."

Superintendent Brand Huffman thanked Deputy Warden Miller for her "insightful words of advice to our new officers."

"To the graduating class: remember that corrections is more than just a job—it is a career with limitless potential for those willing to climb the ladder," Huffman said. "If you give 100% every day, keep your head high, and walk with pride, there is no limit to what you can achieve

