



May 1, 2026

MDOC celebrates partnership with Coahoma CC through forklift vocational program

QUITMAN – The Mississippi Department of Corrections celebrated its partnership with Coahoma Community College highlighting the forklift operations within vocational education.

The program provides incarcerated individuals with hands-on training and industry-recognized certification, helping prepare them for employment after release while addressing workforce needs in the Mississippi Delta. College and MDOC officials emphasize that the initiative supports reentry, economic growth, and long-term community development.

On May 1, 26 inmates were recognized for earning their forklift certifications during an awards ceremony. The event highlighted the 100th certification issued. Sens. Sarita Simmons, Reginald Jackson, and Justin Pope also attended to show legislative support with MDOC leaders.

The milestone reflects a growing collaboration between Coahoma Community College and the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) aimed at expanding career-technical training opportunities for incarcerated individuals. Through the program, participants receive hands-on instruction and industry-recognized forklift certification, equipping them with marketable skills for post-release employment.

College officials noted that the partnership was designed to address workforce gaps while supporting reentry initiatives across the Mississippi Delta. Since its launch last summer, the program has steadily increased participation and completion rates, culminating in the 100th certification milestone.

“This achievement represents more than a number—it reflects access, opportunity, and preparation for meaningful employment,” said Kyrie Antici, Executive Director of Workforce Development. “Workforce training programs like this are essential to building stronger communities and supporting individuals in their transition back into the world.”

MDOC representatives emphasized the program's role in rehabilitation and economic development. By aligning training with industry needs, the initiative provides participants with a pathway to stability and self-sufficiency upon release.

Participants in the program complete both classroom instruction and practical training aligned with safety and operational standards. The certification earned is recognized by employers across multiple sectors, including logistics, manufacturing, and distribution.

The partnership continues to serve as a model for collaboration between educational institutions and correctional systems, demonstrating the impact of targeted workforce development programs in underserved communities.

Launched in summer 2025, the collaboration between Coahoma Community College and the Mississippi Department of Corrections was established to expand access to career-technical education. The forklift certification program is one of several initiatives designed to prepare participants for high-demand careers and reduce barriers to employment.



