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Women's state prison celebrates college graduation

PEARL - Six graduates who earned associate degrees with honors through Hinds Community College are examples of two Mississippi higher education-in-prison programs in action at the Mississippi Department of Corrections.

A combined ceremony was held on May 20 for the four women at the Mississippi Institute for Women (MCIW) and two men at the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility.

"The ceremony marked a historic milestone as the first associate degree graduating class at (CMCF) and the second graduating class at (MCIW)," said LaShetta Wilder, correctional program supervisor at the MDOC (shown embracing two graduates). "Witnessing some of these students progress from earning their GEDs to now receiving associate degrees demonstrates that meaningful transformation is possible through resilience, determination, and dedication. Their accomplishments are even more remarkable considering each earned honors distinctions."

The MDOC appreciates the support of Hinds Community College, Woodward Hines Education Foundation, and the Mississippi Humanities Council in expanding college access within Mississippi's correctional facilities through higher education opportunities.

Photos are courtesy of Hinds Community College.

