



June 25, 2026

Youth: Breaking Negative Cycles

PEARL – A group of juveniles recently granted parole demonstrates the dedication of correctional staff, educators, counselors, case managers, mental health professionals, and community partners to create positive outcomes for Mississippi's youth sentenced to the Department of Corrections, according to Director of Youth Operations Derrick Chambers.

Prior to appearing before the Mississippi Parole Board, each individual participated in rehabilitative programming, educational opportunities, counseling, and structured activities designed to prepare them for successful reintegration into society. During their parole hearings, members of the all-male group presented themselves with professionalism, respect, and a clear vision for their future goals, Chambers said.

"Watching these young men stand before the Parole Board with confidence, respect, and a plan for their future was truly inspiring," Chambers said. "Their success is proof that when we invest in rehabilitation, education, structure, and mentorship, lives can change. I am proud of these young men, proud of our staff, and proud of what the Youthful Offender Unit continues to accomplish. These are not just parole approvals; these are four young lives being given a genuine opportunity to succeed."

The Youthful Offender Unit opened in December 2012 on the grounds of the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility after it was established by law to house youth ages 17 and under, separate from adults. Individuals aged 18 and 19 who have been classified as vulnerable can be housed there at the Commissioner's discretion.

The Y.O.U.'s mission is to provide young incarcerated individuals with the tools, guidance, and support to break negative cycles and become productive members of their communities.

