



Delta Correctional inmates celebrate Milestone Achievement with Prison Education Partnership

GREENWOOD – Last week, Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) held its annual Milestone Achievement Ceremony for the Prison Education Partnership Program (PEPP) for the women currently incarcerated at Delta Correctional Facility.

This event, deeply significant for many, marked another chapter in the lives of incarcerated individuals who have worked tirelessly to achieve their academic goals.

Dr. Kathie Stromile Golden, the Provost/Senior Vice-President for Academic Affairs at MVSU, brought warmth and personal connection to the ceremony by calling each student's name, making endearing jokes, and acknowledging their individual personalities and achievements. Her profound personal touch illuminated the significance of the occasion and reinforced the university's dedication to its students.

In addition, Dr. Jerryl Briggs, President of MVSU, shared inspiring words, congratulating the women involved in the program.

Dr. Candace Carter Stevens, the Assistant Vice President of Institutional Research & Effectiveness, and Karrington Stockstill, Project Coordinator and Social Media Manager, were instrumental in organizing a program that highlights the power of collaboration and innovation at MVSU.

The special guests underscored the importance of interdepartmental and inter-organizational partnerships in advancing education and societal betterment. Dr. Duy Nguyen, an Assistant Professor of Economics, shared his presence, showing the students the support that they needed. The presence of Latunya Evans, a Communication Specialist at MVSU, emphasized the significance of effective communication across departments to achieve cohesive visions.

Furthermore, the event was enriched by the presence of LaShetta Wilder, Director of Education at the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC), and Yolanda Houston, the inaugural

Director of the Mississippi Consortium for Higher Education in Prison (MCHEP). Their involvement highlighted the critical link between education and rehabilitation.

This initiative reflects not only the thriving spirit of MVSU but also illustrates how collaboration can break barriers and foster environments of learning and growth. MVSU Prison Education Partnership Program plays a crucial role in transforming the lives of incarcerated women, offering opportunities for personal and professional development that they would otherwise not have.

