



Inmates Learning Valuable Vocational Skills Through CDL Class at South Mississippi Prison

LEAKESVILLE – Inmates are learning new skills that will help them find employment after incarceration while holding commercial drivers licenses at the South Mississippi Correctional Institution.

A preparation class was recently started to help inmates make progress toward earning a CDL that will allow them to be truck drivers and other opportunities in the workforce.

The program, taught by Joseph Cook in Area 1, is progressing through its third class since it started. Cook held a Class A CDL and has years of road experience. Dwight Nelson, also an experienced driver, teaches classes in Area 2.

CDL Preparation Course

The recently initiated Commercial Driver's License Preparation class is moving right along. The class, taught by Joseph Cook in Area I is currently progressing through its third class. Joseph held a Class-A commercial driver's license and has several years of over the road experience. Since the inception of this course in Area I, Area II has added CDL Prep class, as well. The course in Area II is taught by Dwight Nelson, an experienced driver himself. Below you will see Dwight giving classroom instruction.

In the remaining pictures, Joseph is leading instruction on the Pre-Trip Inspection (PTI). The PTI is necessary before starting any trip where the vehicle and driver will be hauling a load. Once they reach the end of their trip, they have to perform a Post-Trip Inspection, as well. Attention to detail in the pre and post trip inspections make the highway safer for all involved. Thanks to Deputy Warden Jones and the transportation department for allowing this class to utilize one of their buses for this very important objective of the course. If you are interested in taking this course, properly fill out a Vocational/Academic Choice Sheet and return it to the VoTech.

-Randy Marquis

