MCIW Nail School Classes Near Completion of 1st Month

PEARL – Nearly a month of classes have already been underway at the nail school at the Mississippi Correctional Institute for Women (MCIW). Classes began on October 5.

The Mississippi Department of Corrections opened the Central Mississippi Beauty College on September 10 at MCIW. The Board of Cosmetology and Barbering certified the college.

The new school will fill the gap in education and training as the only independent nail technology school in Central Mississippi.

Inmates must be free of rule violations for at least six months to participate in the nail program. Classes will run 17-18 weeks with 500 hours of instruction. Inmates will learn manicure and pedicure skills, among others, and are licensed upon graduation. With 16 students enrolled now, the next class will begin in February 2027. Two student instructors also assist the head instructor.

MCIW Superintendent Kate Head said during the opening ceremony that while the program had been in the works for two years, the finishing touches were put in over the last three months prior to the ceremony, and it aligns with one of her goals of helping inmates.

“When I stepped into this role, one of the things important to me was making sure the women at MCIW had opportunities to learn, to grow, and to do something they didn’t have when they came here,” Head said. “For the women who will eventually walk through these doors, the school provides opportunities to learn a skill they will take beyond MCIW. We are celebrating a possibility, an opportunity, and second chances.”