



## **MDOC Chief of Staff selected for MSPB's 2025-2026 Leadership Program**

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JACKSON – The Mississippi Department of Corrections is pleased to announce that Dr. Mary Ann Ross, Chief of Staff, has been selected to join the 2025-2026 cohort of Mississippi LEAD (Leadership Excellence and Development), a strategic leadership program administered by the Mississippi State Personnel Board.

Launched in January 2024, this two-year program is designed to enhance the leadership skills of state government executives through monthly webinars and quarterly events. Each participant must be nominated by his or her agency head and meet the program's eligibility qualifications. The 2025-2026 cohort will consist of 30 leaders representing 20 agencies across state government.

Dr. Ross brings more than 25 years of Executive Leadership experience in Corrections, Mental Health, Education, Substance Use Disorder Treatment, Permanent Supportive Housing, Nonprofit Management, and Business Consulting. Her extensive career includes developing and directing "landmark" reentry facilities for the California Department of Corrections and serving as Executive Director/Warden for several private prisons.

Dr. Ross has earned a Doctorate in Psychology with an Emphasis in Psychopharmacology/Health Psychology, a Master of Education in Instructional Technology, and a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and Social Work. Dr. Ross is a licensed Community Mental Health Therapist and certified Substance Use Disorder Supervisor. She holds professional certifications in Human Resource Management/Labor Laws and has teaching credentials in multiple academic subjects and specialized certifications in didactic instruction for individuals with Moderate to Severe Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities.

“As Mississippi LEAD enters its second year, we are excited to expand our program to thirty additional leaders in state government,” said State Personnel Director Kelly Hardwick. “We look forward to building on the momentum of the program's first year with a new group of dedicated leaders.”

For more information about the Mississippi LEAD program, please visit [mspb.ms.gov](https://mspb.ms.gov).