



MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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MSH RECOGNIZES 2009 EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

WHITFIELD—Mississippi State Hospital recently honored all of its 2009 Employees of the Month, but three of those walked away from the recognition ceremony with the top honors – Employee of the Year.

Brenda Hayes of Florence, Lisa Nichols of Brandon and Sharron Mills of Jackson were named the 2009 Employees of the Year on Friday, Feb. 5 in the Albert Randel Hendrix Treatment Center on the MSH campus. Hayes received the honor for Direct Care Services, while Nichols was honored for Licensed Clinical Services and Mills for Support Services.

“Each of the Employee of the Month nominees are among a very special group of employees, but only three could be chosen,” MSH Director James G. Chastain said.

The Employee Recognition Committee votes on the Employees of the Year after having selected one employee per month throughout the year from each of the three hospital divisions (Licensed Clinical, Direct Care and Support Services). At the end of the year, the committee votes from the Employees of the Month to decide on one Employee of the Year in each category.

Besides being recognized for their hard work and achievements, all those gathered Friday got to hear well-known Florence resident Margo Hemphill. An entrepreneur, author and motivational speaker, Hemphill gave the nominees one specific piece of advice.

“Always think before you act,” she said.

That was one aspect of their personalities that had helped get them nominated, Hemphill said. In the nomination forms from their coworkers, they were also all noted as being respectful, honest, responsible and hardworking.

Mississippi State Hospital Support Services Director Kelly Breland said that since its inception in 1978, the Employee of the Year program had honored 48 employees.

“Each employee is here because you have demonstrated the core values of Mississippi State Hospital – respect, teamwork, trust, communication and commitment,” Breland said.

The MSH Employee of the Year program is sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public about mental illness and the needs of the mentally ill.

In addition to employee recognition programs, Friends sponsors patient events such as an annual fishing rodeo and the patient Job Placement Program.

MSH, a facility of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, was founded in 1855 and facilitates improvement in the quality of life for Mississippians who are in need of mental health, chemical dependency or nursing home services, by rehabilitating to the least restrictive environment, utilizing a range of psychiatric and medical services, which reflect the accepted standard of care and are in compliance with statutory and regulatory guidelines. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.

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PHOTO ATTACHED: MSH EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR – On Friday, Feb. 5, Mississippi State Hospital recognized its 2009 Employees of the Year. Pictured are (l to r) MSH Director James G. Chastain, Direct Care Services Employee of the Year Brenda Hayes, Licensed Clinical Services Employee of the Year Lisa Nichols, Support Services Employee of the Year Sharron Mills, former Friends president Bill Bobbs and MSH Support Services Director Kelly Breland.