



An employee publication of the  
Texas Department of Criminal Justice

May/June 2016  
Volume 23 Issue 5

## Saluting Employees

### SHSU/CMIT scholarship winners announced

Sam Houston State University's College of Criminal Justice, in partnership with the Correctional Management Institute of Texas, has awarded scholarships to TDCJ employees Misty Dowdell, an operational review sergeant at the Holliday Unit in Huntsville, and Adrienne Bailey, a legal assistant support supervisor with the State Counsel for Offenders.

Bailey and Dowdell have been admitted to the Master of Science in Leadership and Management Weekend Program, an intensive degree program that teaches critical management skills to criminal justice professionals so they can advance in the field of criminal corrections. Misty Dowdell wants to become a TDCJ warden or departmental director, while Adrienne Bailey hopes to improve her leadership skills and promote at the State Counsel for Offenders. Both will begin the program this fall and plan to advance their TDCJ careers using the knowledge acquired through their scholarships.

"I am very proud to represent my agency and to do the best I can to make the agency proud," said Dowdell. Bailey hopes the degree will help open up new avenues for her



Sam Houston State University's College of Criminal Justice scholarship recipients Operational Review Sergeant Misty Dowdell (left) and Legal Assistant Support Supervisor Adrienne Bailey.

career at TDCJ. "I enjoy the different departments and how they work together," said Bailey.

Dowdell has been with TDCJ for more than 14 years, starting her career at the Polunsky Unit in Livingston, and eventually moving on to the Plane and Henley units. The mother of four advanced through the ranks to lieutenant before moving to the Parole Division for three years. She returned to security in November as an operational review sergeant at

the Holliday Unit, where she helps perform operational audits to ensure the unit is in compliance with agency policies and procedures.

Dowdell holds a Bachelor of General Studies degree from the Texas Woman's University, strongly supports the Special Olympics and is active during TDCJ fundraisers. She has also represented the agency in the annual Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

Bailey, a graduate of Sam Houston State University with a bachelor's degree in Psychology, held a variety of jobs in the Huntsville area before joining TDCJ. After joining the agency, she worked in the Classification and Records Division handling open records requests, and served in the Offender Time Management Section, which monitors time served by offenders. She joined the State Counsel's Office in August 2014 as a legal assistant and has risen through the ranks to become a supervisor in the Legal Services section, overseeing nine legal assistants who help offenders deal with a number of legal issues including child support, divorce, lawsuits, time calculation-related issues, bien-

*Continued on page 2*

*Continued from page 1*

nial reviews for civil commitment and immigration matters.

“I am a (SHSU) Bearkat, and I loved the Huntsville area so much, I stayed,” said Bailey. “I’m hoping to improve my leadership skills in my office, and I would love to learn different areas of TDCJ. I really enjoy investigating time issues.”

The SHSU/CMIT scholarship provides tuition costs each year for selected employees accepted into the Masters of Criminal Justice Leadership and Management Weekend Program. Applicants for the scholarships must first be accepted into the Master of Science in Leadership and Management Program and be active professionals in the criminal justice field with a minimum of five years’ experience. Continued financial support of selected students is contingent upon their maintaining at least a 3.3 grade point average and making satisfactory progress toward completing the degree program in two years. ●