



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 23, 2011

CONTACT

Sarah Russell 651/361-7606

**Minnesota
Correctional Facilities**

- Faribault
- Lino Lakes
- Oak Park Heights
- Red Wing
- Rush City
- St. Cloud
- Shakopee
- Stillwater
- Thistledeew Camp
- Willow River/Moose Lake

Community Supervision

District Offices

- Albert Lea
- Bemidji
- Center City
- Detroit Lakes
- Grand Rapids
- Mankato
- Marshall
- Moorhead
- St. Cloud
- Shakopee
- Winona

Sentencing to Service

Regional Offices

- Elk River
- Moorhead
- Red Wing

**MINNCOR Prison
Industries**

WARDEN SET TO RETIRE FROM OAK PARK HEIGHTS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

St. Paul – After 35 years of service to the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC), **Jessica Symmes** will be retiring as warden from the Minnesota Correctional Facility (MCF)–Oak Park Heights on September 1.

Warden Symmes is a St. Croix Valley native. She grew up in Stillwater and is a graduate of Stillwater High School and Metropolitan State University.

Symmes’ career with the DOC has kept her close to home. She started in a support position at the Stillwater facility in 1975 and later was hired as a corrections officer at Oak Park Heights where she rose through the ranks to watch lieutenant. During her career, Symmes has worked in many different areas of the MCF-Oak Park Heights and the MCF-Stillwater, where at one time her dad was a Sergeant.

In 1993, Symmes began her management career at the MCF-Oak Park Heights as assistant to the warden. She also served as a cell hall director and associate warden of administration. “It has been an honor to serve the department at these two facilities,” she said. “It has not only been a pleasure and honor to serve the Department of Corrections, but the citizens of Stillwater and Oak Park Heights, my home town.”

During her time as warden, Symmes served as vice president of the West Central Wardens and Superintendents Association, a professional group dedicated to the advancement of sound correctional practice and principles.

DOC Commissioner Tom Roy says, “Jessica’s service to the Department of Corrections has been an outstanding asset. I wish her the best of luck in her retirement.”

###

