For Immediate Release

August 8, 2012

Contact: Adam Moore (601)-351-8262 adam.moore@msh.state.ms.us

SMITH NAMED EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AT MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

WHITFIELD— Tonya Smith of Byram has been named Mississippi State Hospital's (MSH) August Employee of the Month for Support Services. A Vicksburg native, Smith is the Director of Nurse Affiliations and the Nurse Educator at Mississippi State Hospital. She has worked there for almost 6 years.

The MSH Employee of the Month award recognizes employees who have made outstanding contributions to the hospital through their work. The program is sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital Inc.

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.

- 30 -

PHOTO ATTACHED: Tonya Smith