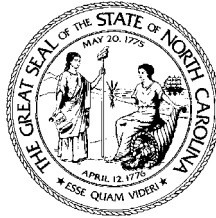


Beverly Eaves Perdue
Governor



Alvin W. Keller Jr.
Secretary

North Carolina Department of Correction

For Release: IMMEDIATE
Date: Aug. 2, 2011

Contact: Keith Acree
Phone: 919-716-3700

Forsyth prison has new superintendent

WINSTON-SALEM — Benita J. Witherspoon is the new superintendent at Forsyth Correctional Center.

Succeeding the retired Wallace Shields Jr., she is in charge of a prison for approximately 248 male minimum-custody inmates. It has 77 staff members. She was assistant superintendent at Forsyth CC in 2005-2006.

Most recently superintendent at North Piedmont Correctional Center for Women since 2007, Witherspoon began her corrections career as an intern in the South Piedmont Area Office in the Division of Prisons. She rose through the ranks as a programs assistant, case analyst, programs director, unit manager and captain. She has also worked at Cabarrus and Charlotte correctional centers and the Albemarle and Lanesboro correctional institutions.



Witherspoon has an associate's degree from Davidson Community College, a bachelor's in business administration from Catawba College, a bachelor of science in criminal justice from UNC-Charlotte and a master's degree in education from Western Carolina University. In addition, she has postgraduate studies in public administration and criminal justice.

Witherspoon enjoys reading fiction, watching old movies, is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and Morning Star Baptist Church in Winston-Salem.

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