



Kentucky Department of Corrections

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vanessa Kennedy Named Warden at Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women

FRANKFORT, Ky. (March 22, 2019) – Kentucky Department of Corrections Deputy Commissioner Randy White today announced that Vanessa Kennedy has been named warden at Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women (KCIW) in Pewee Valley.

“Vanessa Kennedy is a highly skilled corrections professional whose 20-year career has spanned management experience in multiple state correctional institutions,” said White. “She brings many years of unique experience in managing the needs of female felony offenders to her new assignment.”

Kennedy began her career in January 1999 at KCIW, first working at the institution as a transportation officer. She immediately began moving up the ranks, first in security, and then in the programming side of the prison. She has held nearly all the job posts at the institutional level and her service includes managing the prison’s Assessment Center. She is also a certified hostage negotiator and was a member of the KCIW Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT).

In 2010 Kennedy was promoted to deputy warden at Western Kentucky Correctional Complex. She assisted that prison during its conversion from a men’s medium-security prison to a female institution. In 2015 she came back to KCIW to serve as deputy warden and held that role until being named warden.

“Every position I have held throughout my career has prepared me for this opportunity,” said Kennedy. “I am ready to lead our staff into the future and I am excited to make KCIW a leader in safety, programming, and reentry efforts for our justice-involved population.”

Kennedy has been recognized for outstanding service several times during her career. She is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University where she received her bachelor’s degree in corrections and juvenile services. She also attended Sullivan University where she received her master’s degree, cum laude, in conflict management.

A native of Louisville, Kennedy is a member of KCCD (Kentucky Council on Crime and Delinquency), the Southern States Correctional Association and the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation.

Editor’s note: photo attached

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