

# THE UNION-RECORDER

165 Garrett Way

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## Native promoted to oversee all DJJ long-term facilities

*Special to The U-R*

Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice Commissioner L. Gale Buckner announced this week that Milledgeville native Ronnie Richardson has been selected as the acting director of secure campuses. In his new position, Richardson will oversee the operations of DJJ's six long-term Youth Development

Campuses (YDCs) located throughout the state. Previously, Richardson was the director of the Macon Regional Youth Detention Center (RYDC).

Since joining DJJ in 1990 as a juvenile correctional officer, Richardson has served in many capacities, including as a juvenile detention counselor, substance abuse program direc-

tor, assistant director of the Macon YDC and as director of the now closed Bill Ireland YDC in Milledgeville.

"Mr. Richardson's many years of experience in DJJ's secure facilities make him an ideal choice for this key position as we work to find innovative ways to rehabilitate the youth in our care," said Buckner in a press release.

"I am honored to

have been chosen for as the acting director of secure campuses," Richardson said. "I look forward to working with Commissioner Buckner and other key staff to ensure that our Youth Development Campuses are safe environments for youth to pursue their education and rehabilitation goals."

Richardson, who

lives in Milledgeville, earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Georgia College, a master's degree in organizational management from the University of Phoenix and a master's degree in criminal justice from Capella University.

District Director Melissa Aaron will serve as acting director of the Macon RYDC.