



Oregon

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NEWS RELEASE

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Six employees at Oregon Youth Authority receive outstanding service awards

Six employees from throughout Oregon received the Director's Outstanding Service Award last week as part of the Oregon Youth Authority's celebration of National Corrections Employees Week.

"I am grateful for the effective work of employees who blend genuine caring with high expectations to hold youth offenders accountable and help them find the path to productive and crime-free lives," said OYA Director Colette S. Peters, as she presented the awards at a recognition ceremony at the Salem office.

Dan Berger, superintendent of North Coast Youth Correctional Facility in Warrenton, was recognized for the improvements he has made at North Coast YCF since he began working there as an interim superintendent. "He began a new era of integrity and professionalism," Peters said. Berger was recognized for improving staff-youth relations and building successful relationships with community partners.

Tina Crawley, budget analyst, and John Fox, facilities fiscal analyst, both with the Salem central office, were recognized for their successful efforts to effectively carry out their offices' responsibilities during a time of reduced staffing. "They were able to maintain high-quality work and meet all of the stringent deadlines the budget process requires," Peters said, a function which is crucial to the ability of the agency to carry out its mission.

Richard Hendricks, a juvenile parole and probation officer with the Clatsop County office, was recognized for working efficiently and effectively to help youth improve their lives and stay on track. "He succeeds in building relationships with youth and members of the community," Peters said, which helps ensure the success of youth after they leave OYA.

Sherry Sullens, alcohol and drug treatment coordinator at MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility in Woodburn, was recognized for her proactive leadership in developing new alcohol and drug programming. “Her ongoing commitment, leadership and creativity has moved the program in new directions and has brought excitement and enthusiasm to treatment staff,” Peters said.

Steve Schrunk, group life coordinator at Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility in Albany, was recognized for his outstanding job of coaching the youth in the moment using terms and skills taught during treatment. “He consistently refers youth back to the skills they learned during treatment, giving them the opportunity to practice positive behaviors,” Peters said.

OYA employees “are vital components of the state’s criminal justice and public safety systems,” Governor Kulongoski said in proclaiming National Corrections Employees Week in Oregon. “The State of Oregon is proud to join with the rest of the nation in honoring the dedication and professionalism of the women and men” of OYA.

OYA has custody of approximately 900 offenders in correctional and transitional facilities in Albany, Burns, Florence, Grants Pass, La Grande, Salem, Tillamook, Warrenton and Woodburn, and the agency supervises approximately 1,100 youth on parole and probation in communities throughout Oregon.

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