



Oregon

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May 10, 2010

NEWS RELEASE

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Six employees at MacLaren YCF honored with achievement awards

In officially proclaiming the first week in May Corrections Employees Week, Governor Ted Kulongoski encouraged all Oregonians to join him in honoring the work of the state's corrections professionals. At the Oregon Youth Authority's MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility in Woodburn, this took the form of celebrating staff accomplishments with a series of awards recognizing excellent service.

MacLaren YCF Superintendent Sid Thompson acknowledged six of the facility's employees by presenting them with OYA achievement awards. They are Heber Bray, acting treatment manager; Darwin Crabtree, shift supervisor; Gabino Jimenez, group life coordinator; Jamie McKay, qualified mental health professional; Michelle Mintun, group life coordinator; and Robert Spencer, acting assistant security manager. The following excerpts from their awards highlight the services they have provided at MacLaren YCF.

Heber Bray, acting treatment manager: Heber Bray, a qualified mental health professional, represents MacLaren YCF on the Gang Task Force, and has stepped up to provide oversight of as many as three high-security units at a time. He is a well-regarded trainer with great skills in working with youth and staff, frequently takes on extra work, and serves as an example for others.

Darwin Crabtree, shift supervisor: Darwin Crabtree launched and piloted the TROY program, which serves high-risk youth from throughout the state, and brought it to maturity. Following that project, he was asked to become MacLaren YCF's first shift supervisor. He brings years of experience and a steady presence to all that he does.

Gabino Jimenez, group life coordinator: Gabino Jimenez provides translation services for the non-English speaking youth during treatment groups, to ensure youth understand and participate in their treatment. He also assists OYA's Office of Minority Services and helps coordinate special events and activities. He brings a very calm demeanor to his work with youth.

Jamie McKay, qualified mental health professional: Jamie McKay conducts up to 11 treatment groups per week and works tirelessly to provide treatment services to youth at MacLaren YCF. She is known for setting a high standard for performance, modeling a strong work ethic and engaging in her work with integrity.

Michelle Mintun, group life coordinator: Michelle Mintun is known for the support and compassion she shows the youth at MacLaren YCF. She consistently demonstrates a firm but fair demeanor. She goes above and beyond as needed, taking on special projects when asked. She demonstrates high-quality work and cares deeply about her responsibilities to youth.

Robert Spencer, acting assistant security manager: Robert Spencer is very responsive to MacLaren YCF's security needs and facility scheduling. He stays on the cutting edge of current security practices and technology, and implements positive changes to enhance the safety and security of the youth and staff at the facility.

"Our terrific employees deserve our thanks and gratitude year round," Thompson said at the awards ceremony. "Corrections Employees Week gives us a reason to put their work with youth in the spotlight, front and center, for all Oregonians to recognize and appreciate."

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. MacLaren YCF, the largest of OYA's close custody facilities, serves approximately 270 youth.

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