



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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Two Rogue Valley Youth Correctional Facility employees recognized

Two employees of the Oregon Youth Authority's 100-bed Rogue Valley Youth Correctional Facility have been recognized for exemplary support of the state juvenile corrections agency's mission.

The two employees received OYA coin awards, silver dollar-size medals bearing the state seal, as part of the observance of National Corrections Employees Week in Oregon. The employees are:

- Mike Nissen, a qualified mental health professional, recognized for his can-do attitude. "Matt has been instrumental in developing numerous evidence-based curricula being used with offenders across OYA," said Rogue Valley YCF Superintendent Ken Jerin. "He has volunteered to be a member of our annual update training team and to develop a volunteer-training program for the facility."
- Matt Schulze, a group life coordinator, who was recognized for making significant contributions to the facility's team. "Matt's competence, professionalism and respect for others has been positively noted throughout the facility," Jerin said. "He has helped to create a positive work environment where staff and managers engage in mutually supportive relationships while resolving problems amicably and effectively."

"Mike Nissen, Matt Schulze and other OYA professionals offer compassion, demand accountability, and support treatment and education that help former offenders find the promise of productive, crime-free lives," said OYA Director

Colette S. Peters. “They play a key role in minimizing the number of OYA youth who reoffend.”

Rogue Valley YCF offers youth offenders treatment for criminogenic behaviors and education through its Newbridge High School.

In his proclamation of National Corrections Employees Week in Oregon, Governor John Kitzhaber said employees in juvenile and adult corrections are highly trained, productive and vital members of the state’s criminal justice and public safety systems. Effective work by OYA staff members helps the agency fulfill its mission to protect the public and reduce crime by holding youth offenders accountable and providing opportunities for reformation in safe environments.

OYA has custody of approximately 900 youth offenders ages 12-24 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 probation and parole in communities across Oregon.

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