



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

**Oregon Youth  
Authority**

**Office of the Director**

530 Center Street NE, Suite 200

Salem, OR 97301-3765

Voice: 503-373-7205



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## ***MEDIA ADVISORY***

Contact: Jim Sellers, OYA Communications Office, 503-373-7425,

[jim.sellers@oya.state.or.us](mailto:jim.sellers@oya.state.or.us)

*Note: Hillcrest YCF expects to have one or more graduating students who can be interviewed, photographed and identified by name. Other youth should not be identified by name or in photographs.*

## **40 youth to be recognized Tuesday during Hillcrest YCF commencement event**

In its biggest commencement event in years, Robert S. Farrell High School will recognize 40 Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility youth Tuesday during 1 p.m. commencement exercises in the school gymnasium.

High school diplomas will be conferred on 28 graduates. Eight youth will receive GED certificates, one youth will receive an associate's degree, and three others will receive vocational certificates in barbering and hair design. Principal Bill Conlon said this will be the largest number of youth Robert S. Farrell High School has graduated in at least a decade.

Speakers will be Pat Evenson-Brady, superintendent of the Willamette Education Service District; Fariborz Pakseresht, OYA deputy director; and Gordon Kruse, a former teacher at the high school. Family members will be able to congratulate youth during an "open mic" period and also at a reception following commencement exercises. Graduating youth will be photographed with their families.

High school graduation is a significant milestone because studies show greater levels of educational achievement reduce the likelihood of new offenses later on. In all, OYA projects its high schools this spring will recognize more than one in eight youth in its close-custody facilities – 101 high school diplomas, 27 GED certificates, three associate's degrees, and a number of vocational and other certificates.

Willamette Education Service District provides education staff for Robert S. Farrell High School through a contract with the Oregon Department of Education.

Hillcrest YCF is one of 10 OYA close-custody facilities statewide delivering education and treatment to approximately 900 offenders ages 12-24. OYA also supervises approximately 1,100 youth on probation and parole in communities across Oregon.

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