



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## Oregon Youth Authority

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Juvenile parole and probation assistant for Central Oregon honored**

Rick Christensen, a juvenile parole and probation assistant working out of the Bend office, was honored Wednesday for exemplary service to the Oregon Youth Authority and the youth the agency serves.

Christensen received one of the state juvenile corrections agency's "coin awards," a silver dollar-size medal bearing the state seal and given to employees for excellence in reflecting agency values. Christensen is part of the parole and probation unit that serves youth in Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Hood River, Jefferson, Sherman, Wasco and Wheeler counties.

His supervisor, Donna McClung, said Christensen enthusiastically backs up parole and probation officers from around the state including assisting with transporting youth, meeting with youth in residential treatment to complete file documents, intervening with youth to resolve crisis and maintaining positive relationships with youth, families and community partners. "It truly would not be the same without Rick's smile, humor, positive attitude and willingness to support others," she said.

Christensen is among several OYA staff members being recognized statewide as part of Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week, July 18-24. Governor Ted Kulongoski said in his proclamation, "Community corrections professionals uphold the law with dignity, model positive behavior for offenders and dedicate themselves to the public's right to be protected from criminal activity."

"Rick Christensen and other OYA professionals offer compassion and demand accountability that helps former offenders find the promise of productive, crime-free lives," said OYA Director Colette S. Peters. "They play an important role in minimizing the number of OYA youth who reoffend."

Effective community supervision by juvenile parole and probation professionals helps the agency fulfill its mission to protect the public and reduce crime by holding youth accountable and providing opportunities for reformation in safe environments.

Assistants such as Christensen support juvenile parole and probation officers who develop agreements with youth, determine special needs and services for youth, conduct monthly reviews with youth, arrange vocational services, administer urinalyses, prepare for and testifying at hearings, and participate in quarterly meetings of team members who support the youth. A juvenile parole and probation officer is assigned when a youth is committed to OYA and provides continuity regardless of whether the youth is being supervised in the community or a close custody facility.

OYA has 82 juvenile parole and probation officers across the state with caseloads averaging 25 youth.

OYA supervises approximately 1,100 youth on parole and probation in communities throughout Oregon, and 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.

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