



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Oregon Youth Authority honors two Southern Oregon employees**

Two Southern Oregon employees were recognized Friday for exemplary service to the Oregon Youth Authority and the youth the agency serves.

Bill Bowers and Jill Hayes each 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.

Craig Contreras, OYA field office supervisor for Jackson, Josephine, Klamath and Lake counties, said:

- Bowers, a juvenile parole and probation officer, not only does an outstanding job of working with youth but also worked in both Josephine and Klamath counties for nine months after a colleague retired and budget issues delayed filling the position. The dual assignment required Bowers to travel more than 100 miles two and three times a week, Contreras said.
- Hayes, an office specialist serving OYA's Jackson and Josephine county field offices, assists in training other office specialists across the state and is the go-to person for juvenile parole and probation officers, foster parents, residential treatment providers and others.

Bowers and Hayes are among several 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."

"OYA corrections 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 supervision by community corrections 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.

Among the tasks performed by parole and probation officers are developing agreements with youth, determining special needs and services for youth, conducting monthly reviews with youth, arranging vocational services, administering urinalyses, preparing for and testifying at hearings, and participating 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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