



Oregon

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July 22, 2010

NEWS RELEASE

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Washington County juvenile parole and probation officer honored

Miguel Herrera, a juvenile parole and probation officer working with youth in Washington County, was recognized Thursday for exemplary service to the Oregon Youth Authority and the youth the agency serves.

Herrera 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.

His supervisor, Cathy Baird, said Herrera balances effective supervision and holding youth accountable with being a strong advocate for youth and their families. She also cited his assistance to his colleagues, mentoring of a new staff member, support of community partners and excellent written work in case plans and court reports.

Herrera 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."

"Miguel Herrera 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 officers 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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