



# News Release

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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## Mill Creek Correctional Facility graduates first GED class

On September 2, 2016, Mill Creek Correctional Facility (MCCF) commemorated its first graduation ceremony for adults in custody who successfully earned their General Education Development (GED) certificates. The seven graduating students dressed in the traditional cap and gown as they marched to pomp and circumstance. Friends and family were invited to celebrate their achievements.

MCCF began collaborating with the Santiam Correctional Institution (SCI) to provide education services in October 2015. The students spend their days working full-time on outside work crews and spend their evenings inside a classroom. Through this partnership, MCCF has been able to offer 36 students the opportunity to enroll in classes. The students are provided instruction by two tutors who are also adults in custody. Students are able to take official tests with the support of Chemeketa Community College staff and SCI staff.



Research shows adults in custody who participate in correctional education programs have 43 percent lower odds of recidivating than those who don't. Analysis also shows that those individuals who participated in vocational training programs were 28 percent more likely to obtain employment after release from prison than adults in custody who did not.

MCCF is an unfenced, minimum-security prison in Salem that houses approximately 290 male inmates who are within four years of release. The facility concentrates on work opportunities, most of which are in the form of work crews contracting with state agencies, local organizations, and private industries within a 60-mile radius of Salem. MCCF opened in 1929 as the Farm Annex of the Oregon State Penitentiary, housing 50 adult male offenders. The Farm Annex provided all of the milk, eggs, meat, fruit, and vegetables for the Oregon State Penitentiary and the State Hospital. The main building (as well as many of the out buildings that made up the farm) still stands today and, at 81 years old, it makes for the second oldest prison in the state.

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