



# News Release

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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## **SRCI “Blue Room” Named in TIME Magazine’s Best Inventions of 2014**

The Blue Room at Snake River Correctional Institution (SRCI) has been named as one of TIME Magazine’s “25 Best Inventions of 2014,” an accomplishment of which the institution is very proud. This is due in large part to the desire of SRCI staff to see something meaningful come to life through their efforts.

The Blue Room is a groundbreaking nature imagery research project, developed through a partnership with the Utah Sustainability in Prisons Project. In 2013, SRCI began working with University of Utah Professor Nalini M. Nadkarni, who was exploring ways that nature positively impacts individuals and the effect it could have on those who are incarcerated. To incorporate Professor Nadkarni’s concepts with the prison’s needs, SRCI decided to place nature imagery, through video and audio, in one of the recreation areas of SRCI’s Intensive Management Unit (IMU). The Blue Room, as it is known, is a fairly simple combination of modern technology, correctional practices, crisis intervention, and behavior de-escalation.

The next step is to conduct research that focuses on whether nature imagery in prisons:

- Changes behavior
- Reduces stress, agitation, and anxiety
- Reduces violence
- Reduces disciplinary segregation admits
- Reduces suicide attempts

SRCI is a multi-custody prison in Ontario that houses approximately 3,000 male inmates. SRCI has multiple special housing units including disciplinary segregation, intensive management, infirmary (with hospice) with 24-hour nursing care, and an administrative segregation unit. The institution participates in prison industries with Oregon Corrections Enterprises including a contact center, laundry, and sign shop. SRCI focuses on incentive housing, specialized housing, inmates with mental health/medical vulnerabilities, education and trades programs, cognitive and parenting programs, and institution work programs. It opened in 1991 and is the largest correctional institution in the state.

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