



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Oregon Youth Authority

Office of the Director

530 Center Street NE, Suite 200

Salem, OR 97301-3765

Voice: 503-373-7205

Fax: 503-373-7622

www.oregon.gov/OYA



June 22, 2013

NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

C. J. Drake, OYA Communications Office

503-385-5899 or CJ.Drake@oya.state.or.us

At-risk boys graduate from William P. Lord High School in Woodburn



Michael Harper, former player for the Portland Trail Blazers, praises boys who graduated Friday.

Friday, June 21 was graduation day at William P. Lord High School at MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility (YCF) in Woodburn. Forty-six at-risk boys received high school diplomas, college degrees or barbering, culinary or welding certificates during a ceremony at the facility attended by parents, teachers, OYA staff and elected officials.

MacLaren YCF is also home to a youth who recently tied for third place in the ["Words Unlocked" national poetry competition](#). Stephen Jerome Fowler (hometown: Portland)

graduated Friday with an associate of arts degree. His poem, “As the Grass Grows,” was judged by a panel that included Chelsea Clinton.

Elected officials attending the graduation ceremony included state Senator Bill Hansell, state Representatives Kevin Cameron and Andy Olson and former Congresswoman Darlene Hooley. Marion County business leader Dick Withnell addressed the graduates, along with OYA Deputy Director Joe O’Leary, former Portland Trail Blazer Michael Harper and Principal Scott Harris.

“You worked for this achievement, you earned it, and you should be just as proud of yourselves as all of us are of you,” O’Leary told the graduates. “You can lose other things in life, but you can never lose your diploma. No one can take that away from you.”

To improve their prospects after they complete their court-ordered commitments and return to society, all youth in OYA facilities must participate in education programs. OYA partners with the Oregon Department of Education and local school districts to offer classroom and vocational education opportunities. MacLaren YCF is one of 10 youth correctional and transitional facilities managed statewide by OYA. William P. Lord High School is operated at the facility by the Willamette Education Service District. OYA facilities have been holding graduation ceremonies throughout June.

For more on OYA’s education services, [click here](#).

###

The Oregon Youth Authority is the state's juvenile justice agency, reducing victimization by helping at-risk young people lead productive, crime-free lives. Learn more at www.oregon.gov/oya and follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/oregonyouth