



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



May 21, 2013

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: C. J. Drake, OYA Communications Office

503-385-5899

CJ.Drake@oya.state.or.us

Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility honors volunteer of the year



Dr. Larry Griggs (center) has been named volunteer of the year at Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility (YCF) in Salem. He is joined by Hillcrest YCF Superintendent Troy Gregg (left) and Karen Daniels, assistant director of Facility Services for the Oregon Youth Authority.

A retired university administrator has been named volunteer of the year at Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility (YCF) in Salem.

Dr. Larry Griggs began volunteering at Hillcrest YCF in 2010. Since then, “his commitment to the youth we serve has never faltered,” said facility Superintendent Troy Gregg. “He is a great advocate and role model for our kids.”

Hillcrest YCF is one of 10 youth correctional and transitional facilities operated statewide by the [Oregon Youth Authority \(OYA\)](#). Griggs leads the facility’s African-American Support Group, and has donated books and movies to Hillcrest’s at-risk youth to motivate them to lead better lives after they leave OYA.

“When I was younger my family and the adults I associated with taught me to give back to the community,” said Griggs when asked why he volunteers his time with at-risk youth. “I can’t change the behavior that got them incarcerated but I can encourage them to change their behavior in the future. It’s really critical that they change their behavior so they become productive in the future, through a trade or some kind of training or by continuing their education. It sends the message that they are valued, that their community cares about them.”

Griggs received his undergraduate and master’s degrees from Pacific Lutheran University in Parkland, Wash. After graduation, he continued his education at Oregon State University (OSU) in Corvallis, where he received his doctorate in 1978. In 1987, he was appointed director of OSU’s Educational Opportunities Program, a position he held until his retirement in 2008.

Griggs lives in Corvallis, where he has volunteered with the city and the local Boys and Girls Club.

###

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/oia and follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/oregonyouth.