



Oregon

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Denessa Martin, Camp Tillamook, 503-842-4243

Denessa Martin named director at Camp Tillamook

Denessa Martin, who has diverse experience working in Oregon juvenile corrections, is the newly named director at Camp Tillamook.

Camp Tillamook is one of 11 Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) facilities charged with protecting public safety and reducing crime by holding youthful offenders accountable and providing opportunities for reformation in safe environments. It is a 25-bed transitional work-study center that prepares offenders to return to a community placement such as home, foster care or independent living.

Martin began full-time work with the Oregon Youth Authority in 1999 and had worked at MacLaren and North Coast youth correctional facilities in Woodburn and Warrenton, respectively, and at Camp Tillamook before becoming interim director there in April.

She also recently completed a six-month assignment working in OYA's parole and probation office in Linn County, where she worked as a foster care certifier. She said that experience not only gave her a window onto the foster care system for youthful offenders, but also helps her talk with youth about working successfully with their parole officers.

"Denessa has learned both sides of OYA, working in both facilities and parole and probation," said Colette S. Peters, OYA director. "She has a commitment to public safety and believes in youth and their ability to change and be more prepared when they re-enter the community. She has earned respect at Camp Tillamook and across the agency."

Martin holds a bachelor's degree in social and human behaviors from George Fox University in Newberg.

Besides delivering treatment and education in the facility, Martin said, Camp Tillamook has provided supervised work crews to entities such as the Nestucca/Neskowin Watershed Council, Tillamook Food Bank, Oregon State Parks, Port of Garibaldi and local churches.

OYA has custody of approximately 900 youthful offenders in correctional and transitional facilities, and supervises about 1,100 youth on parole and probation. Also among OYA's facilities is the 50-bed Tillamook Youth Correctional Facility adjacent to Camp Tillamook.

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