



Oregon

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NEWS RELEASE

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Two Camp Florence employees honored for exemplary service

Two employees of the Oregon Youth Authority's 25-bed Camp Florence transitional facility have been recognized for exemplary support of the state juvenile corrections agency's mission.

Gary Freshour and Terry McLaren received OYA coin awards, silver dollar-size medals bearing the state seal, as part of the observance of National Corrections Employees Week in Oregon.

Freshour is one of the facility's group life coordinators, a job in which he has responsibility for ensuring security, supporting treatment, providing pro-social role modeling, and coaching, confronting and correcting youth in the close-custody facility. An OYA employee for 30 years, Freshour has worked the Camp Florence night shift since 1981.

“Gary always has adapted to new demands, supervisors and agendas with class and energy,” said Camp Florence Director Clint McClellan. “He has earned the staff's appreciation and respect for the positive influence he has had on the Camp Florence program and on hundreds of youth he has mentored over the years.”

Terry McLaren, an office specialist, has worked at Camp Florence since 1996. “Terry has been a dedicated, efficient and generous employee throughout her career,” McClellan said. “Her quick wit and kind heart have benefited all staff members by lowering stress levels.”

“Gary Freshour, Terry McLaren and other OYA professionals offer compassion, demand accountability and support treatment and education that help former offenders find the promise of productive, crime-free lives,” said OYA Director Colette S. Peters. “They play a key role in minimizing the number of OYA youth who reoffend.”

Camp Florence is a transitional facility that prepares youth to return to the community after receiving treatment and education at a close-custody facility. Camp Florence youth may undertake staff-supervised work, internships and community service outside the facility.

In his proclamation of National Corrections Employees Week in Oregon, Governor John Kitzhaber said employees in juvenile and adult corrections are highly trained, productive and vital members of the state’s criminal justice and public safety systems. Effective work by OYA staff members helps the agency fulfill its mission to protect the public and reduce crime by holding youth offenders accountable and providing opportunities for reformation in safe environments.

OYA has custody of approximately 900 youth offenders ages 12-24 in correctional and transitional facilities in Albany, Burns, Florence, Grants Pass, La Grande, Salem, Tillamook, Warrenton and Woodburn, and the agency supervises approximately 1,100 youth on probation and parole in communities across Oregon.

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