



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 13, 2011

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Ann Snyder, OYA Communications Office, 503-378-6023,

ann.snyder@oya.state.or.us



Five North Coast Youth Correctional Facility employees recognized

Five employees at the Oregon Youth Authority's 50-bed North Coast Youth Correctional Facility in Warrenton have been recognized for exemplary support of the state juvenile corrections agency's mission.

The five received OYA coin awards, silver dollar-size medals bearing the state seal, as part of the observance of National Corrections Employees Week in Oregon. The employees are:

- Rhonda (Jensen) Cabalona, an executive support specialist, recognized as a detail-oriented self-starter who was instrumental in implementing and coaching personnel on new scheduling and payroll systems, organizing and restructuring the administrative area, and participating in the facility's staffing analysis and continuous quality improvement committee.
- Candy Green, a group life coordinator, recognized as an employee with integrity, a notable work ethic and outstanding organizational skills who promotes workplace safety, health and sanitation and has an extraordinary ability to motivate youth and develop appropriate working relationships and rapport with them.
- Dean Jones, a group life coordinator, recognized as a dedicated and motivated employee who improved personnel scheduling and communication about staff scheduling, contributed to a staffing analysis and other operations improvements, and has taken on other duties such as evidence coordinator and trainer of staff.
- Jason Kost, a group life coordinator, recognized as a motivated and flexible self-starter who volunteers for shift changes and assignments that meet

operational needs and also fosters positive youth development and learning opportunities by organizing youth work crews to promote the facility's cleanliness, sanitation and professional appearance.

- Andy Wyatt, a qualified mental health professional, recognized for his contributions to youth drug and alcohol treatment that include developing treatment programming, providing clinical supervision for employees working toward state certification as drug and alcohol counselors, testing for a certification as a Master of Addiction Counseling, and preparing North Coast's Skamokawa living unit to be a state-certified drug and alcohol program.

“These North Coast YCF employees 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.”

North Coast YCF offers youth offenders treatment for criminogenic behaviors and education through its South Jetty High School.

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.

#