



Oregon

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May 13, 2011

NEWS RELEASE

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Oregon Youth Authority recognizes six correctional employees in Albany

Six employees of the Oregon Youth Authority's Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility and Young Women's Transitional Program in Albany have been recognized for exemplary support of the juvenile corrections agency's mission.

The six 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 Oak Creek YCF employees are:

- Bill Christy, a qualified mental health professional, who was named Oak Creek YCF employee of the year. He was recognized as an employee who demonstrates integrity and professionalism; is an excellent liaison and advocate for staff and youth; and goes out of his way to help and teach both staff and youth. He says positive and influences others to support youth on their pathway to change.
- Matt McLin, a group life coordinator, named employee of the year for the Birch unit. He was recognized for not only contributing to his team but also filling other positions within the facility; taking an instructor development course; and leading training and drills for Oak Creek staff.
- Christina Olson, a youth corrections unit coordinator, was named employee of the year on the Cedar unit. She was recognized for leadership, support and professionalism that raises the performance of both staff and youth; and for being a role model who contributes to the activities committee, leads treatment groups and effectively balances youth accountability and reformation.

- Drew Reynolds, assistant security manager on rotation as a youth corrections unit coordinator, who was named employee of the year for the Aspen unit. He was cited for implementing a new staff scheduling program, being an integral member of the activities committee, and being the prime motivator of a new health-oriented youth group that received grant support.
- Matt Clarno, a group life coordinator and acting shift supervisor, who was recognized as campus security employee of the year. He was recognized for his work in facilitating group treatment, managing youth cases and conducting youth risk and needs assessments; enrolling in an instructor development course and conducting staff training; and consistently balancing youth and staff safety and security.

Recognized in the Young Women's Transitional Program was Counselor Lori McGovern. She was named YWTP employee of the year for being a respectful and professional role model, responding to facility-wide incidents and ensuring youth receive transition services at the highest possible level to return them to the community as productive, crime-free citizens.

“These six 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.”

Oak Creek YCF offers female youth offenders treatment for criminogenic behaviors, education through its Three Lakes High School, and serves as OYA's intake facility for female offenders. The Young Women's Transitional Program prepares youth to re-enter the community.

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. The agency also supervises approximately 1,100 youth on probation and parole in communities across Oregon.

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