



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Oregon Youth Authority
Director's Office
530 Center Street NE, Suite 200
Salem, OR 97301-3765
PHONE: (503) 373-7212
FAX: (503) 373-7622

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NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Ann Snyder, Interim Communications Manager, 503-378-6023,
ann.snyder@oya.state.or.us

Eight youth recognized Friday in significant Albany commencement

Wearing traditional caps and gowns, eight youth offenders were recognized for educational achievement Friday afternoon during commencement ceremonies at the Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility in Albany.

Three youth received diplomas from Oak Creek's Three Rivers High School and five others received GED high school equivalency certificates. Oak Creek is one of 11 correctional and transitional facilities operated by the Oregon Youth Authority.

Speaking to graduates and their families were Jean Straight, OYA assistant director for business services, and Lory Humbert, Oak Creek superintendent.

"Today is special because by completing this step in your education you are opening an important door," Straight told graduates. "You have accomplished something many of you might not have thought possible, and all of you have done this through your own efforts."

The commencement was especially significant because educational achievement is fundamental to supporting offenders in leading productive, crime-free lives after they return to the community. "This is just the beginning of my path to success," one youth said when it was the graduates' turn to speak, "but it's a great start." Several dozen family members attended.

The Linn Benton Lincoln Education Service District provides education staff for Three Rivers High School through a contract with the Oregon Department of Education.

Oak Creek YCF is a 50-bed facility for female offenders ages 12 to 24, and also delivers transitional services for up to 25 offenders while a new transitional facility is being built adjacent to Oak Creek. OYA has custody of approximately 900 offenders 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 parole and probation in communities throughout Oregon.

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