



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **Oregon Youth Authority employee in Lane County honored**

Ann Kupper, a long-time Oregon Youth Authority employee, was recognized Thursday for exemplary service to the Oregon Youth Authority and the youth the agency serves.

Kupper received one of the state juvenile corrections agency's "coin awards," a silver dollar-size medal bearing the state seal and given to employees for excellence in reflecting agency values. Kupper, an office specialist, retired in January after 30 years' state service and now works in the office as a part-time, temporary employee supporting nine members of the field staff.

Her supervisor, Steve Harder, said over the years Kupper transcended her job description by her willingness and ability to do whatever was necessary (including leading the office's successful participation in the annual Governor's State Employees Food Drive). "She is the professional in our office who models follow-through, accountability and consistency in her work," Harder said.

Kupper is among several OYA staff members being recognized statewide as part of Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week, July 18-24. Governor Ted Kulongoski said in his proclamation, "Community corrections professionals uphold the law with dignity, model positive behavior for offenders and dedicate themselves to the public's right to be protected from criminal activity."

"OYA professionals offer compassion and demand accountability that helps former offenders find the promise of productive, crime-free lives," said OYA Director Colette S. Peters. "They play an important role in minimizing the number of OYA youth who reoffend."

Effective community supervision by juvenile parole and probation employees helps the agency fulfill its mission to protect the public and reduce crime by holding youth accountable and providing opportunities for reformation in safe environments.

Among the tasks performed by parole and probation officers whom Kupper supports are developing agreements with youth, determining special needs and services for youth, conducting monthly reviews with youth, arranging vocational services, administering urinalyses, preparing for and testifying at hearings, and participating in quarterly meetings of team members who support the youth. A juvenile parole and probation officer is assigned when a youth is committed to OYA and provides continuity regardless of whether the youth is being supervised in the community or a close custody facility.

OYA has 82 juvenile parole and probation officers across the state with caseloads averaging 25 youth.

OYA supervises approximately 1,100 youth on parole and probation in communities throughout Oregon, and 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.

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