



# Oregon

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## Oregon Youth Authority

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### ***MEDIA ADVISORY***

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### **Oregon's First Lady and OYA Director to present awards to youth**

Youth offenders at Oregon Youth Authority correctional facilities in Salem and Albany will be presented with grant awards Wednesday, June 1, by Oregon First Lady Cylvia Hayes and OYA Director Colette S. Peters.

The awards will be presented to youth at 1 p.m. at Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility, 2450 Strong Rd. S.E., in Salem, and at 2:30 p.m. to youth at Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility, 4400 Lochner Rd. S.E., in Albany.

Youth at the two facilities' high schools were among students at eight schools across Oregon who received corporate-financed Youth in Action health and fitness grants from the American Leadership Forum (ALF) of Oregon. The grant competition was a project of the forum's annual leadership group, of which Hayes is a member, and was modeled on First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" initiative.

At Hillcrest's Robert S. Farrell High School, youth received a grant to purchase a fitness training system that helps users work on strength, balance, flexibility and core strength. The equipment was purchased from Exercise Equipment Northwest of Salem, whose in-kind contribution combined with ALF's \$1,767 grant brought the total to \$2,000.

"The more active these guys can be, the better," said Rod Martin, a recreational staff member at Hillcrest. "It benefits attitude and increases social skills and sportsmanship as they work together and encourage each other."

At Oak Creek's Three Lakes High School, youth calling themselves the "Healthtastic" group proposed growing a garden, encouraging cooking classes, sponsoring fitness events and bringing in nutritional speakers.

"We want to grow some of our own fresh vegetables and learn how to cook them so they appeal to people our age," youth wrote in their application for the grant. "We believe that we will feel better emotionally if our bodies are in better shape."

They are using the \$2,000 grant to purchase garden seeds, plants and tools; cooking and nutritional supplies; and recreation and PE supplies.

Hayes and Peters are presenting the grant awards to incarcerated Hillcrest and Oak Creek youth who were unable to join other high school students who attended a May 4 celebration at the State Capitol.

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*(Note: Media representatives planning on attending either of these events can find information about agency rules, policies and procedures for visiting OYA facilities at <http://www.oregon.gov/OYA/newsroom/reporterstools.shtml>. Reporters are advised to make prior arrangements with OYA's Communications Office (503-378-6023) to ensure access to the facilities. To avoid interfering with treatment and to protect public and personal safety, most OYA youth cannot be identified. However, for these events superintendents of the two facilities will select a youth who can be interviewed about the accomplishment and can be identified.)*