



Oregon

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NEWS RELEASE

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OYA Community Services employees honored for excellence



Left to right: OYA Deputy Director Joe O'Leary, Community Services employees Tara Williams, Steve Mayo and Jan Seiler, and Assistant Director of Community Services Phil Cox. Other Community Services employees honored but not pictured are Craig Contreras, Richard Hendricks, Chris Jensen and Ron Sandler.

Seven Community Services employees of the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) were honored Wednesday for outstanding performance during a ceremony at the state public safety academy in Salem.

Community Services employees provide case management for youth offenders, focusing on protecting the public by reducing the risk of future criminal activity. Parole and probation,

oversight of contracted community residential services, foster care and other direct service providers are some of the responsibilities of Community Services staff.

“Community Services employees contribute directly to Oregon’s quality of life by working closely with at-risk youth so they can lead productive, crime free-lives,” said Philip Cox, assistant director of Community Services. “By strengthening public safety and reducing future victimization in our communities, they are making Oregon a better place to live, work and play. I am honored to serve with them.”

The seven employees honored Wednesday are:

- Craig Contreras, field supervisor for Jackson, Josephine, Klamath and Lake counties, based in Medford; OYA employee since 1998. “Craig can often be found communicating with parents, covering cases, transporting youth, attending court and meeting with youth in detention,” said Cox. “He has developed trusting, professional relationships with colleagues, youth and community members.”
- Richard Hendricks, juvenile parole/probation officer for Yamhill County, based in McMinnville; OYA employee since 1997. “Richard goes above and beyond for youth, co-workers, and our community partners,” said Cox. “His positive attitude is a powerful tool when it comes to being a role model for youth in our care.”
- Chris Jensen, foster care certifier for Eastern Oregon, based in Ontario; OYA employee since 1995. “Not only does Chris work well with individual foster parents, she maintains excellent relationships with foster youth while covering a large geographical area,” said Cox. “She always goes the extra mile to help out.”
- Steve Mayo, juvenile parole/probation assistant for Northwest Oregon, based in Portland; OYA employee since 1997. “Steve has effectively escorted many at-risk youth who have been returned to Oregon over the years under the Interstate Compact for Juveniles,” said Cox. “He has received frequent compliments from officials in other states about his efficiency and consideration during these transports, which are often stressful.”
- Ron Sandler, juvenile parole/probation assistant for Southern Oregon, based in Medford; OYA employee since 1999. “Ron plays a vital role in transporting youth who abscond back to Oregon under the Interstate Compact on Juveniles,” said Cox. “While

flying with at-risk youth in the commercial airline system is often stressful and frustrating, Ron maintains a positive attitude and is a pleasure to work with.”

- Jan Seiler, office specialist for Northwest Oregon, based in Portland; OYA employee since 2009. “Jan supports staff in four counties, with each county having its own separate and distinct needs,” said Cox. “She has developed collaborative working relationships in all four counties with ease,” said Cox.
- Tara Williams, acting field supervisor for Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Polk and Yamhill counties, based in Albany; OYA employee since 1997. “Tara has established great working relationships with our numerous community partners in the five counties she supervises,” said Cox. “She treats others with respect and always has the best interests of the community at heart.”

Cox and OYA Deputy Director Joe O’Leary presented the employees with certificates and OYA coin awards, silver dollar-sized medals bearing the state seal.

To learn more about OYA Community Services, [click here](#).

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The Oregon Youth Authority is the state's juvenile justice agency, reducing victimization by helping at-risk young people lead productive, crime-free lives. Learn more at www.oregon.gov/oya and follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/oregonyouth