



Oregon

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NEWS RELEASE

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Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility employees honored for excellence

Twelve employees of the Oregon Youth Authority's (OYA) Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility in Salem have been recognized for excellence in supporting the state juvenile justice agency's mission.

They received OYA coin awards, silver dollar-sized medals bearing the state seal, as part of the observance of National Correctional Officers and Employees Week in Oregon, May 5-11. The employees are:

- Marcus Bigelow, treatment manager, commended for his "dedication to creating vocational and educational opportunities for youth. You have been instrumental in Hillcrest's partnership with Oregon State University and the Inside/Out Program that offers college level courses to youth on campus with the feel and experience of a real classroom."
- Frank Dawson, group life coordinator, recognized for his work to "achieve positive outcomes and harmony with both youth and your co-workers. You are friendly and easy to get along with, and you have a great ability to de-escalate youth in crisis with your strong, calming influence."
- John Day, alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) coordinator, commended for "doing an excellent job coordinating services and required documentation. Due to your work, Hillcrest has passed another review of the ATOD program and is licensed for another two years with no adverse findings."
- Thomas Decker, youth corrections unit coordinator, recognized for "spending more time than just about anyone on campus, covering extra activities, including the bike repair program, and youth supervision for other units through mandatory team coverage."
- Brad Garner, qualified mental health professional, recognized for his "effort and energy, which have gone a long way to create a positive mutual helping environment. Your contribution has been invaluable."

- Ty Glazier, group life coordinator, recognized for his “commitment to ensuring that the youth on your unit are safe and bringing a keen focus on involving youth in treatment as well as positive pro-social activities.”
- Rod Green, youth corrections unit coordinator, recognized for having “outstanding leadership skills and going above and beyond in all you do. Your exemplary work ethic and commitment to your co-workers are inspiring.”
- Levi Miller, group life coordinator, recognized for being “very security conscious and proactive in your duties to prevent issues before they arise. You are to be commended for maintaining a safe environment while at the same time providing opportunities to impact youth in a positive way.”
- Scott Perry, group life coordinator, recognized for being “able to work with very difficult youth through your calm approach, which encourages and allows them to be able to make good choices when in crisis. Your willingness to think outside the box is appreciated and valued.”
- Delvena Torrez, treatment manager, recognized for being “a strong supporter and believer in the reformation of youth. You have brought this passion to over thirty years of state service and it shows in your day-to-day interaction with youth and in the way you manage them.”
- Jeff Rodin, qualified mental health professional, recognized for “most recently helping a youth connect with his grandmother, as he learned that she had been placed in Hospice. You are to be commended for your attention to these details and being a positive team member at many different levels.”
- Robby Tully, group life coordinator, commended for having “a natural, therapeutic way about you that introduces alternative points of view and draws youth into discussions without eliciting defensive or negative responses.”

OYA Treatment Services Director Dr. Whitney Vail and facility Superintendent Troy Gregg presented the certificates Thursday. They praised the employees as being role models for others and “providing positive development to each other and the youth we serve.”

In his [proclamation](#) of National Correctional Officers and Employees Week in Oregon, Governor John Kitzhaber commended adult and juvenile correctional workers for “holding offenders accountable for their actions and reducing the risk of future criminal behavior and future victimization.”

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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. To learn more, visit www.oregon.gov/oya and follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/oregonyouth