



Oregon

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NEWS RELEASE

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Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility employees honored for excellence

Seventeen employees of the Oregon Youth Authority's (OYA) Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility in Albany 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:

- Alice True, executive support specialist, voted "Staff of the Year" by her peers.
- Cooking staff Audrey Adams, Jason Atkinson, Kelly Carpenter, and Chris Carsner were all recognized for "supporting the campus day in and day out with not only excellent meals, but superior support of each and every special event at the facility."
- Tony Dela Cruz, group life coordinator, honored for his "low key but deliberate approach to his job which helps contribute to the safety of the entire campus."
- Mike Frieze, group life coordinator, recognized for his "ability to motivate and engage the youth in outdoor activities, which is a real plus for the facility."
- Brenda Frontino, group life coordinator, commended for "helping youth perform at their best and helping them to be successful."
- Bridgette Johnson, group life coordinator, honored for being "a reliable and helpful team member who always looks for ways to improve the program at Oak Creek."
- John Jones, group life coordinator, recognized for being "calm in a crisis and willing to work with any youth, regardless how they may have behaved in the past."

- Dawn Leon, qualified mental health professional, commended for "carrying out her duties with quality, fidelity and excellence, and also taking the time to plan extra-curricular activities for staff and youth."
- Lori McGovern, counselor, honored for "inspiring youth to dream more, learn more, do more and become more."
- Matt McLin, group life coordinator, recognized for "carrying out his duties with excellence, perseverance and empathy."
- Kevin Nelson, group life coordinator, commended for his work "as a trainer for the facility, who ensures that curriculum is delivered with integrity and in a way it is absorbed by all staff."
- Terry Santini, group life coordinator, honored for "playing a crucial role in improving the facility's drug and alcohol treatment services."
- Joal Traynor, group life coordinator, recognized for his "great care and concern for the local community and volunteering for various organizations to help those less fortunate."
- Angie Weitman, group life coordinator, commended for being "a leader who has a great work ethic, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of the youths."

OYA Medical Services Director Marcia Adams, M.D. and facility Superintendent Mike Riggan presented the certificates at the facility May 10. 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. Learn more at www.oregon.gov/oia and follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/oregonyouth.