



Oregon

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June 15, 2013

NEWS RELEASE

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At-risk girls graduate from Three Lakes High School in Albany



Oregon Youth Authority Director Fariborz Pakseresht praises girls who graduated Friday.

Friday, June 14 was graduation day at Three Lakes High School at Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility (YCF) in Albany. Fourteen at-risk girls received high school diplomas or GEDs during a ceremony in the facility's gymnasium attended by parents, teachers, OYA staff and education officials.

Oak Creek YCF is home to three girls who recently finished first and tied for third place in the ["Words Unlocked" national poetry competition](#). Two of those girls, first-place winner Brianna

Nicole Ireland (hometown: Eugene) and third-place winner Angela Denise Miller (hometown: Salem), graduated Friday after reading their award-winning poems to the assembly.

“You can’t change what’s happened in your past but you can shape your future by doing your very best in the present,” Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) Director Fariborz Pakseresht told the graduates. “What’s on the road behind you is not nearly as important as what’s on the road ahead of you.” He added: “I would be proud to have any one of you as my daughter.”

To improve their prospects after they complete their court-ordered commitments and return to society, all youth in OYA facilities must participate in education programs. OYA partners with the Oregon Department of Education and local school districts to offer classroom and vocational education opportunities. Oak Creek YCF is one of 10 youth correctional and transitional facilities operated statewide by OYA. Three Lakes High School is operated at the facility by the Multnomah Education Service District. Other facilities are holding graduation ceremonies throughout June.

For more on OYA’s education 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/oia and follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/oregonyouth