



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Oregon Youth Authority

Office of the Director

530 Center Street NE, Suite 200

Salem, OR 97301-3765

Voice: 503-373-7205

Fax: 503-373-7622

www.oregon.gov/OYA

May 10, 2011

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Ann Snyder, OYA Communications Office, 503-378-6023,

ann.snyder@oya.state.or.us



Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility employees recognized for exemplary service

Three individual employees and all employees of one living unit at the Oregon Youth Authority's 204-bed Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility in Salem have been recognized for exemplary support of the state juvenile correction agency's mission.

They received OYA coin awards, silver dollar-size medals bearing the state seal, as part of the observance of National Corrections Employees Week in Oregon. The employees are:

- Rod Martin, a recreational therapist, who was recognized as a dedicated employee who is a role model for youth, has been successful in creating and maintaining recreational opportunities for youth, has built strong relationships with community partners, and supported youth in their successful application for a Youth in Action grant from the American Leadership Forum of Oregon.
- Dallas Pearce, a living unit coordinator, recognized for her team spirit, effective communications, consistency in dealing with youth, ability to bridge the gap between management and staff, and participation in a facility staffing analysis that will improve operations.
- Shawna Smith, program director, recognized for the positive and powerful impact she has had on the facility with her work ethic, professionalism, willingness to take on assignments, consistency in holding staff

accountable, and positive interactions with youth, staff, family members and stakeholders.

- All employees of the Zeta unit, recognized for their skill in completing the “monumental task” of creating and opening a new unit to support youth offenders with special needs in a short period of time under the leadership of treatment manager Karri Robinson.

“These Hillcrest YCF employees and other OYA professionals offer compassion, demand accountability, and support treatment and education that help former offenders find the promise of productive, crime-free lives,” said OYA Director Colette S. Peters. “They play a key role in minimizing the number of OYA youth who reoffend.”

Hillcrest offers youth offenders treatment for criminogenic behaviors and education through Robert S. Farrell High School, and also serves as OYA’s intake facility for all male youth offenders.

In his proclamation of National Corrections Employees Week in Oregon, Governor John Kitzhaber said employees in juvenile and adult corrections are highly trained, productive and vital members of the state’s criminal justice and public safety systems. Effective work by OYA staff members helps the agency fulfill its mission to protect the public and reduce crime by holding youth offenders accountable and providing opportunities for reformation in safe environments.

OYA has custody of approximately 900 youth offenders ages 12-24 in correctional and transitional facilities in Albany, Burns, Florence, Grants Pass, La Grande, Salem, Tillamook, Warrenton and Woodburn, and the agency supervises approximately 1,100 youth on probation and parole in communities across Oregon.

#