



Oregon

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NEWS RELEASE

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Multnomah: OYA parole and probation officer recognized for exemplary service

An Oregon Youth Authority parole and probation officer serving Multnomah County has been recognized for exemplary service to the agency and the youth it serves.

Janie Richards received a Coin Award, a silver dollar-size medal bearing the state seal, from OYA Director Colette S. Peters and Philip Cox, assistant director for community services. The award, given to employees for excellence in reflecting agency values, was presented as part of Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week observances.

Richards is responsible for making referrals of OYA youth in community supervision to residential treatment programs, foster care, treatment and other services that are most appropriate to them. “She has a depth of knowledge of community resources and programs to best match the needs of the youth,” said Debbie Hansen, OYA field supervisor for Multnomah County. Hansen also praised Richards for representing the agency with updates to the court and positive collaboration with community partners, and for being a team builder who builds staff morale with thoughtful recognitions, birthday celebrations and holiday events.

Richards is one of 72 OYA parole and probation officers.

“Janie Richards and other OYA professionals protect public safety and help former offenders become productive, crime-free citizens by offering support and compassion, demanding accountability and being consistent role models,” said

Peters. “They give youth consistency throughout their time with OYA, and play a critical role in minimizing the number of OYA youth who reoffend.”

Among the tasks they perform are developing agreements with youth, determining special needs and services for youth, conducting monthly reviews with youth, arranging vocational services, administering urinalyses, preparing for and testifying at hearings, and participating in quarterly meetings of team members who support each youth’s progress. A juvenile parole and probation officer is assigned when a youth is committed to OYA and provides continuity regardless of whether the youth is in a close-custody facility or being supervised in the community.

Effective community supervision by juvenile parole and probation officers 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 supervises approximately 1,100 youth on parole and probation in communities across Oregon, and has custody of approximately 800 youth offenders ages 12-24 in correctional and transitional facilities in Albany, Burns, Florence, Grants Pass, La Grande, Salem, Tillamook, Warrenton and Woodburn.

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