



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Oregon Youth Authority
Director's Office
530 Center Street NE, Suite 200
Salem, OR 97301-3765
PHONE: (503) 373-7212
FAX: (503) 373-7622

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NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Ann Snyder, Interim Communications Manager, 503-378-6023,
ann.snyder@oya.state.or.us

Eight youth recognized in significant Grants Pass commencement ceremony

Wearing traditional caps and gowns, eight youth offenders were recognized for educational achievement Monday during commencement ceremonies at the Rogue Valley Youth Correctional Facility in Grants Pass.

Five youth received diplomas from Rogue Valley's Newbridge High School and three others received GED high school equivalency certificates.

Commencement speakers were one of the graduating youth; Warren Helgeson, the facility's vocational teacher; Matt Sweeney of Medford, volunteer of the year; Newbridge principal Dave Fuller; and Rogue Valley YCF superintendent Larry McKinstry.

The commencement was especially significant because educational achievement is fundamental to supporting offenders to lead productive, crime-free lives after they return to the community.

Three Rivers School District provides education staff for Newbridge High School through a contract with the Oregon Department of Education.

Rogue Valley YCF is a 100-bed facility for male offenders ages 12 to 24. OYA has custody of approximately 900 offenders 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 parole and probation in communities throughout Oregon.

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