

# OYA *In the Loop*

## **National Correctional Employees' Week 2009**

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation creating "National Correctional Officers' Week." Known today as "National Correctional Employees' Week," this year it will occur May 3-9, 2009, with ceremonies and special events to acknowledge the work done by the men and women serving the field of corrections and to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

In OYA, Correctional Employees' Week is a time to recognize the many, many dedicated staff and partners who work in the Oregon juvenile justice system. While the nature of what we do and how we do it is constantly changing, there is always one important element—the people working in juvenile justice ultimately determine our success or failure.

Our charge is a large one. We join together to promote problem-solving practices and interventions aimed at changing delinquent behavior and keeping communities safe. Our work offers youth choices and enforces consequences thereby promoting public safety.

In recognizing excellence during Correctional Employees' Week, it must be mentioned that the contributions of OYA staff and partners extend well beyond their juvenile justice jobs. Many of us are leaders in our communities and many of us have served or still serve our country. We are volunteers at schools and non-profit organizations, board members and coaches on youth sports teams. OYA staff and partners are dedicated, hard-working individuals who are truly concerned about making a difference in the community where they live to impact the safety of Oregonians and to help youth improve their lives.

Whenever we exercise self-control in the face of provocation, a step forward is achieved. Whenever we choose to see the silver lining in the clouds and remain in control of our attitudes, the battle is being won. Whenever we support colleagues in their struggles and help them do a better job, offering them gifts of teamwork and compassion, we reinforce why we are an asset to our profession.

I am grateful to work with the over 1,100 employees of OYA and the multitude of partners who passionately care about Oregon's troubled youth and demonstrate their commitment to reformation. You bring distinction to the job each and every day, and I thank you for that.

Bobby