January 2, 2014

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed the holiday season and that you were able to relax and recharge with friends and family. The ending of one year and the beginning of another is a good time to affirm how much we appreciate and value the important work you do for Oregon’s youth and communities.

We are grateful to serve with such a dedicated family of professionals. Each day we arrive at work knowing that we are part of a team committed to helping youth build better lives for themselves, their families and their communities. Public service is an honor, and we are honored to serve the public with you.

We also take pride in knowing that we are moving into 2014 highly focused on improving our services and youth outcomes. This past year, we made much progress in refining the Youth Reformation System and the culture of Positive Youth Development. We will continue to expand our use of the latest research and data to create a safer environment for staff and youth, achieve better outcomes for youth, and reduce future victimization.

There could be no better resolution for 2014 than to renew our commitment to our vision – that every youth who leaves OYA goes on to lead a productive, crime-free life. And we are confident that your continued dedication to serving youth with skill, fairness and compassion will help achieve that vision.

From day to day, it can be easy to forget just how meaningful and important your work is, but what you do has no comparison – you make a difference in the life of every Oregonian. Please remember that, and accept our best wishes for the coming year.

Sincerely,

Fariborz Pakseresht
Director

Joe O’Leary
Deputy Director