



## Director's Message

May 1, 2014

Dear Colleagues,

Each year the first full week in May is set aside to recognize those who work in the nation's adult and juvenile correctional agencies. In Oregon, Governor Kitzhaber has proclaimed May 4-10 as National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. We are honored to join him in saluting the dedicated, hard-working professionals who serve at OYA.

This well-deserved recognition celebrates the important contributions you make to youth reformation and public safety, which are essential to fulfilling our mission. Your work helps at-risk youth build positive futures for themselves and their families. It directly reduces future crime and future victimization. Oregon's relatively low recidivism rate – more than 70 percent of youth who leave OYA are still leading crime-free lives after 3 years – proves the value of your work.

We know that your jobs often can be challenging and sometimes dangerous, but what you do is meaningful and important. When our youth respond to treatment, engage in school, and start to mature into healthy and positive young adults, we see the rewards of our work. Their progress is not always steady or constant, but we help keep them on track.

We also know from our encounters with youth that most of them truly appreciate the opportunities we provide. Many have told us that OYA commitment is their first exposure to positive adult role-models who offer encouragement, set expectations, and hold them accountable for their actions. Our expectations make a difference.

We offer treatment, teach accountability, and provide opportunities for classroom education and job training. We balance holding youth accountable for their crimes with teaching them new ways of thinking and acting, so they can become positive role-models for others. And we see the results in the many youth who go on to lead productive, crime-free lives. Their success is ours.

Please accept our gratitude and appreciation for the important role you play in making Oregon a better and safer place to live and work.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Fariborz Pakseresht in black ink.

Fariborz Pakseresht  
Director

Handwritten signature of Joe O'Leary in black ink.

Joe O'Leary  
Deputy Director