



Department of
Youth Services

**Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed
Celebration of Accomplishments**

January 3, 2014

Dear Staff:

I hope your New Year is off to a great start! As we begin 2014, it is important to pause and reflect on the good work that has been done at DYS over the past year. There are three accomplishments from 2013 that have made me particularly proud.

DYS Reaches New Low for Recidivism

DYS programming and treatment for youth is resulting in success. The one-year rate for recidivism reached a new low of 22.8% (tracking youth released in 2011 who returned to DYS or were admitted to the adult system). The agency continues to make education a priority because for those youth released from DYS with a high school diploma or GED, the one-year rate drops to 13.2% percent.

DYS Strengthens Family Relationships

About 90% of youth return to live with their families after their stay at DYS. For this reason, the agency is committed to strengthening healthy relationships between youth and their families. The agency's C.L.O.S.E. (Connecting Loved Ones Sooner than Expected) to Home Project provides free bus trips on a monthly basis to help families in need of transportation connect with youth. In 2013, DYS provided a total of 69 bus trips to 786 passengers.

DYS Surpasses Minority Business Enterprise Goal

DYS reached 17.37% Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) spending in 2013. The agency has made MBE a priority by raising awareness at all sites, providing agency-wide competitions, reaching out to certified vendors, attending trade fairs with MBE vendors, conducting MBE trainings for purchasers throughout DYS, benchmarking with other state agencies, and distributing a quarterly newsletter on MBE activities.

These accomplishments are only possible because of the dedication and persistence of staff. Our efforts for youth distinguish this agency and provide the quality rehabilitation and treatment that improves youths' futures. To all staff who serve youth either directly or indirectly, thank you!