

December 2016
Happy Holidays!



DYS executive staff from left to right: Peter Renner, Kim Jump, Cedric Collins, Shawn Smith, Monica Ellis, Stacy Browning, Director Harvey Reed, Marla Burton, Ginine Trim, Wendi Faulkner, Ursel McElroy Drake, Linda Janes, Joe Andrews, and Ryan Gies

Happy holidays to all of our youth, families, staff, volunteers, and supporters!

As 2016 comes to a close, I would like to thank all of you for the part you play in preparing youth for a successful future. Together, we are making a difference and have much to celebrate. In particular, I'm proud of the following accomplishments:

- **Program supports alternatives to detention and improves conditions of confinement:** In an effort to reserve detention placement for youth in need, address challenges of troubled youth early, and improve detention services and conditions of confinement, DYS provided \$1.8 million in funding to assist 23 counties through the new Detention Alternatives and Enhancements Initiative. The funds will benefit more than 5,000 youth with alternatives to secure detention, physical plant enhancements, and boosted services and supports provided within detention facilities.
- **More opportunities for youth to prepare for careers:** Recently 9 students in Mr. Hoskins' horticulture class at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility qualified for

zero-turn mower safety and operation certificates. On December 6, a total of 10 youth at the Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility will begin the National Center for Construction Education and Research core certification training offered by Pickaway-Ross Career and Technology Center. In addition, we are working to finalize a similar affiliation with the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center for youth in our northern facilities.

- **Supportive housing option developed for transition-age youth:** A pilot project began that offers older DYS youth supportive housing options in Cuyahoga and Hamilton Counties. The Reset for Success pilot is a partnership with the Corporation for Supportive Housing, FrontLine Service, and Lighthouse Youth Services and provides housing to youth who may be unable to reside with their family or are ready to take the next step toward independence.

Of course, we will be hard at work on many other exciting initiatives in 2017. Currently we are working through our planning process for the two-year operating budget, which Governor Kasich will introduce after the first of the year. While it is clear that this is going to be a very restrained budget, the governor has been challenging his cabinet directors to continue to toss aside the status quo, embrace new technologies and advanced techniques of data analytics, and use those advances to create a stronger, better Ohio.

During the coming months, we will provide you with updates on our progress. In the meantime, I wish you and yours a safe and joyful holiday season!