

Good morning, Committee members.

I am the Monroe School Principal at Monroe School, the secondary school inside the Eastern Oregon Youth Correctional Facility in Burns, Oregon.

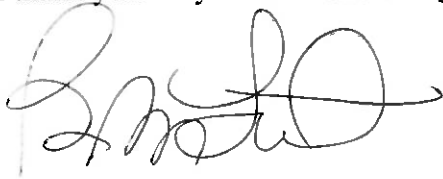
Education within the Oregon Youth Authority is a unique opportunity for some of our most challenging and complex students and their families to rebuild healthy and safe relationships with education and all the opportunities a quality education provides.

Success in today's workforce starts with preparation, and that begins with strong educational pathways. Youth diplomas, Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, and workforce readiness initiatives are more than just stepping stones—they are launch pads for lifelong success.

Career & Technical Education programs offer hands-on experience and real-world skills that prepare our students for high-demand careers in healthcare, technology, skilled trades, and other fields. Some examples of the programs offered at the facility where my school is (Eastern Oregon Youth Correctional Facility) include CAT Heavy Equipment simulators, welding certification, barber licensing, barista certification, construction training, and more. These programs bridge the gap between education and employment, ensuring that when our students earn their high school diplomas or GEDs, they graduate with a clear career path forward and the confidence to succeed. Funding for these initiatives is crucial. It supports cutting-edge technology, industry partnerships, and training opportunities that equip our students with in-demand skills. It also opens doors for internships, certifications, and dual-credit programs, enabling our young people to re-enter the workforce prepared and competitive for positions where youth can be self-sufficient and contributing members of society.

When we invest in these programs, we're not just shaping individual futures—we're strengthening our economy and building a skilled, adaptable workforce. Let's continue to champion these opportunities and ensure every one of our students has the tools they need to succeed.

I thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration in the spirit of supporting all learners.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brandi M. Fulton', written in a cursive style.

Brandi M Fulton, M. Ed