Dear Friends,

As we reflect on our accomplishments it is an ideal time to express our sincere appreciation to each of you who have built the Center for Ethics in Health Care. You have provided the resources to enable us to serve as a powerful force for change, including our success in building the POLST Program and the POLST Registry. We remain committed to our original mission of enhancing the compassion and respect with which health care is delivered. We have expanded our focus to include not only ethics and professionalism but communication skills. We aim at nothing less than transforming the culture of health care in Oregon, and beyond, to make sure that everyone receives compassionate, effective, safe, and respectful care. We hope you will continue to support us in this work.

With heartfelt thanks,

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POLST Registry Provides 1000 Forms in a Time of Crisis

The Oregon POLST Registry was created entirely through the power of private philanthropy and its effectiveness has exceeded our expectations. Over 100,000 Oregonians have submitted POLST forms to the Registry and over 1000 of these people have benefited from having the Registry respond to an emergency request for their POLST form in a time of crisis. Following legislative approval in 2009, the state supports the day to day Registry operations. The Center continues to provide statewide education, conduct research, and keep the POLST form up to date. POLST’s next frontier is to make access to the power of POLST truly available to all who need it.

Expanding Outreach and Collaboration

Following a successful pilot program, The Kinsman Foundation has awarded the Center a three-year grant to host conferences on Enhancing Communications Skills for Health Professionals. We have recently hosted regional conferences on the theme of “difficult conversations” partnering with health care leaders in Klamath Falls and Newport. The new conferences will allow us to partner with colleagues in more rural areas to build a true statewide network of communications skills experts. The overall goal is to promote better coordinated and more respectful care.

Developing Master Educators in Compassionate Communication

Six OHSU faculty trainees have been selected to enroll in our newest initiative, to recruit and train some of the most gifted faculty in the Schools of Medicine and Nursing to more effectively teach communications and empathy skills to the next generation. The six, who begin their formal training in January, 2014, are: Linda Brown, from the School of Nursing, and, from the School of Medicine, Elizabeth Bower, Joe Hardman, and Katie Iossi from the Department of Medicine, Alex Verdieck from the Department of Family Medicine, and Jennifer Watters from the Department of Surgery. We thank The Collins Foundation whose support has made this unique and innovative program possible.

To Keep Up to Date with the Center:

Please provide your email address to applegja@ohsu.edu to receive the Center’s up to date news and calendar of events.