



The United States Conference of Mayors

**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
2009 Summer Jobs Press**

3rd Compilation

Summer jobs program dubbed a success

By COLBY FRAZIER — Aug. 26, 2009

After going 10 years without a summer youth jobs program, the county of Santa Barbara roared back into gear this summer, offering temporary employment to 59 youths who did everything from installing software on the CEO's computer, to helping inspect construction sites.

The program, which filtered the participants through 16 county divisions, was buoyed with \$1.9 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the bulk of which has been tagged for next year's program.

First District Supervisor Salud Carbajal said the program was the culmination of two years of planning that got a kick-start with the federal stimulus money. Additionally, he said a sharp uptick in gang violence in 2007 made it apparent that a summer jobs program at the county level needed to be revived.

"The best way to minimize youth violence," he said, "is to provide them with healthy alternatives and employment is one of those healthy alternatives that research shows goes a long way in youth's lives."

About a dozen youths who were employed through the program and their supervisors gathered yesterday at the Davis Center where they received certificates of achievement.

Carbajal, who with 2nd District Supervisor Janet Wolf kept an intern busy over the summer, told the young people about his childhood in Oxnard, where hope for brighter future wasn't in abundance.

"Since we don't see the opportunities that often, we don't dream as big as we could," Carbajal said, adding that his first job was with the city of Oxnard — an opportunity that he said opened his eyes to a new world of responsibility and possibility. "I hope you can dream more now ..."

The participants were paid \$8 an hour and could work as much as 40 hours a week, or as little as 20.

Mario Magana, 17, fielded constituent phone calls, worked on computers and even lunched with Board of Supervisor staff members.

Magana accepted his certificate in a new, black suit, courtesy of Carbajal, Wolf and other people he worked with over the summer.

"He kind of scares me because now I think he's ready to take my job," Carbajal joked. "This is a wonderful community and our future is in good hands."

Wolf said Magana showed his mettle when he survived a lunch with three of her female staffers.

Two of the participants worked with producers at the county's TV station, channel 20, where they directed a 7-minute documentary about the job program.

Elizabeth Leon, an 18-year-old who graduated from high school last year, was one of the show's producers. She said she enjoyed her time behind the camera, but doesn't think she'll make a career out of it.

Like many of the participants, Leon was having little success finding a job in the recession-riddled economy. Although she's now back job hunting, she said the county's program taught her about a field she likely never would have explored, and kept her busy.

"It was really interesting and fun," she said.

Along with receiving his certificate of achievement, 18-year-old Ruben Gil got a surprise when he was given the Outstanding South County Youth Award (the program was countywide: officials did not know the exact breakdown of participants from south and north county.)

Gil worked with the county's capital projects division, where his scope of work included everything from filing papers to helping inspect construction sites, like a new pool that recently opened in New Cuyama.

Gil, who received his high school diploma through adult education courses, said he sat in on construction-related meetings; valuable experience that he hopes helps him start a construction business with his stepfather.

"Thanks to the program, I met some great people," he said, adding that he'd been unemployed prior to landing the position, which in his case will continue through the end of September. "Thanks to them I finally got a job."

Gil even got shuttled around on a plane. Grady Williams, manager of capital projects, said when Gil went to New Cuyama he traveled with other county officials in a small airplane — the usual mode of transportation for quick county trips to the northeast end of the county.

Sergio Gutierrez, a 17-year-old who's entering his senior year at Santa Barbara High School, worked in the information technology department downloading new programs to various computers throughout the county administration building.

In fact, the last computer he worked on was in county CEO Mike Brown's office. His primary tasks included reformatting computers to run on different operating programs and installing software.

"It was kind of fun, actually," he said. "I learned a lot."

Gutierrez, who hopes to buy a new computer when he gets his final paycheck this week, already landed another job, partly because of the experience he received during the summer.

When school started yesterday he took over as the chief technology officer at the Dons Net Café, a student-run business that among other things, provides a tax preparation service and sells snacks and other items.

Without the summer job, Gutierrez said he imagines he wouldn't have done much of anything.

"I'd probably be at home sitting down either sleeping in or being on my laptop," he said.

The youth jobs program was provided in partnership with the county's Workforce Investment Board (WIB). Victoria Sanchez, youth coordinator for the WIB, said she expects upwards of 200 youths to be placed in jobs next summer. While many will be with the county, she said discussions are underway to ensure cities and nonprofit organizations are involved.

Sanchez said about \$100,000 of stimulus funding was spent on this summer's program, but didn't know the exact amount because expenses are ongoing. Exactly how the remaining \$1.8 million will be spent remains unseen, as employing 150 or so more youth wouldn't likely require this amount.

One county official said some of the money is likely being used for year-round youth employment programs, but couldn't be certain.

For more on this story, see tomorrow's Daily Sound.

Miami Herald

'Youth on the Move' summer jobs program called a success

City officials, businesses and locals laud the success of Youth on the Move, a program that found summer jobs for more than 70 youth.

BY SUSANA MONTES-DELGADO
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AUG 25, 2009

Preparing to return to school, dozens of Miami teenagers said goodbye to their employers as the city wrapped up a summer job training program for inner-city residents.

More than 70 teenagers and young adults took part in a 10-week summer internship program sponsored by two of the city's Community Redevelopment agencies. Most of them bid farewell last week with a ceremony at the Lyric Theater in Overtown.

The jobs initiative, launched this year, was part of the Community Redevelopment Plan of the Miami Commission. The Southeast Overtown/Parkwest and Omni/Midtown CRAs collaborated to fund the jobs.

The agencies provided \$220,000 in grants to businesses and organizations in the Southeast Overtown, Park West, Omni and Midtown Miami areas, said Clarence E. Woods, CRA's assistant executive director.

The agency chose Work America Inc., with its project Youth on the Move, to pair teens with local businesses. The project targeted Liberty City, Overtown and Allapattah youth from 17 to 24.

The program helped prospective candidates with resume building tips and job-skill-training sessions, said Terrance Cribbs-Lorant of Work America, who spoke at the closing ceremony.

"This was a win-win [situation] for businesses and for the youth. We had to refer some kids to South Florida Work Force, who registered some of our overflow," he said.

The summer employees worked from 20 to 25 hours a week and helped with data entry, filing, administrative and clerical work, among other responsibilities. Their salary ranged from \$8 to \$10 an hour.

Interns were able to give back to their community and even pay their own bills, they said.

“I bought my school clothes and shoes. My mom was excited because I got to help her out so that she didn't have to [spend] all her money in school supplies,” said Lamont Page, 17, of Allapattah, who was hired by the Miami Woman's Club. “I felt independent.”

Shakerra Young's summer job at the Community Partnership for the Homeless turned into a permanent part-time position.

“I was able to help my community,” said Young, 19, of Overtown, who attends Miami Dade College. “I also paid my bills.”

Youth on the Move organized clean-up projects, volunteer activities and trained interns as urban tour hosts for the American Black film festival.

The program also planned educational sessions on HIV/AIDs and a field trip to the Everglades, said Cribbs-Lorrant.

More than 50 sponsors and businesses, including Miami Parks and Recreation, The Children's Trust and The Black Archives participated with the program, said CRA's executive director, James Villacorta.

Terremark Worldwide Inc., a technology company whose corporate headquarters is located in downtown Miami, employed several interns. The company even took it to the next level and organized intern meetings and business etiquette workshops to prepare young employees.

“The program is absolutely fantastic,” said Sylvia Bertram, director of bandwidth services at Terremark North America, who supervised two interns. “The interns were efficient, prompt and quick on their feet. Their work was impeccable.”

Marcia Gomez, who supervised an intern at the AI Miami International University of Art and Design, said she was impressed with her work.

“The young lady we hired was very professional and responsible. She far exceed our expectations,” said Gomez, director of the university's public relations department. “The program was very appropriate in helping young people understand how it is to work in an office.”

Although this was the first summer for Youth on the Move, Cribbs-Lorrant hopes the program can continue.

“The program needs more time, at least a full year,” he said. “I'm hopeful that someone will see it and fund it. I look forward to another successful project.”

The Daily Item of Lynn

Tierney sees results of teen workforce program in Lynn

By David Liscio / The Daily Item

LYNN - Determined to check the pulse of federally funded teen job development programs, U.S. Rep. John F. Tierney visited a Lynn career center Tuesday accompanied by Jane Oates, assistant secretary for the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration.

As representative of President Barack Obama's economic stimulus plan for improving the nation's workforce, Oates got a first-hand look at the Lynn Career Center at 181 Union St. and the programs it houses.

Tierney and Oates engaged in candid discussions with the teenagers enrolled in the programs, hearing accounts of enhanced math scores in school, guidance for college plans and supervision as the youth earn money while getting a taste of job responsibility. Mostly, they listened as the teenagers talked about the opportunities afforded by programs like FirstJobs and the Food Project.

"These kids are so grateful to have a job and to learn," said Mary Sarris, executive director of the North Shore Workforce Investment Board, which partners with the career centers in Lynn, Salem and Gloucester.

Sarris described the youth as enthusiastic, noting that on a recent blistering hot day, eight of them were already hard at work on their computers in a church work site at 8 a.m. when she arrived

English High School junior class member Ivan Ventura, 16, said the summer job program allowed him to gain skills in interviewing, writing and gain a sense of where he would like to attend college. "I have a few in mind," he said. "BC, BU, Harvard and UMass Boston. "Maybe I'll go to medical school. I've been visiting colleges. They let me do that here, which I wouldn't have been able to do otherwise." 14-year-old Jefferson Akers said the summer program has helped polish his sagging math skills and introduced him to reading the classics, both accomplishments designed to help him enroll in St. John's Prep.

"We strongly stress math every day," said Arthur Akers, director of the College Application Education Project (CAEP), which has been contracted to mesh with the summer program in Lynn.

Mark Whitmore, manager of the North Shore Career Center, said more than 15,000 people have sought services during the past year at the three centers. Approximately 450 teenagers have been given summer jobs through the centers, mostly through the FirstJobs program, working with private sector businesses and non-profit organizations.

The teenagers perform a wide array of jobs, from painting and landscaping to office clerical duties. "We teach them how to dress and act during a job interview and to first identify their areas of interest," Whitmore said.

Many of the youth learned to grow crops through the Food Project and sell them at area farmers' markets. "One of the kids told me he had never eaten a fresh vegetable before this," said Tierney, who quickly put the teenager at ease with a story of his own childhood. "I told him he was doing better than I did because growing up, with both parents working, I only had canned vegetables."

The teenagers asked Oates to fight for funding to ensure that the summer jobs program continues.

The stop in Lynn was among three visits Tierney and Oates paid Tuesday to workforce development sites, the others in Danvers and North Andover. President Obama has emphasized that members of Congress personally witness the federally funded programs in their districts in order to determine whether taxpayer dollars - especially those from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) are being well spent.

Examiner.com

Stimulus funds summer jobs for young Md. workers

Comments 

Aug 25, 2009 9:00 AM (3 days ago) By KATIE ARCIERI, AP

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Map, News) -

Bill Hope loves motorcycles.

The 17-year-old got to work on them all summer at Harley-Davidson in Annapolis thanks to a federal stimulus program.

Hope was one of 70 young people recruited for an Anne Arundel County summer employment program supported by stimulus dollars. "Youth Works" is the first county program of its kind in eight years.

"The whole point of this is to give kids work-readiness skills and we're very happy with the outcome of this program so far," said Kirkland Murray, president and chief executive officer of Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corp., which funded and organized the roughly six-week program.

Workforce development officials spent \$170,618 of stimulus money to support the recruitment and salaries of 70 people ages 14 to 23.

Murray said his agency spent \$93,618 on salaries of participants who worked 35 hours a week and were paid between \$7.25 and \$9 an hour.

He said another \$77,000 went to support the salaries of a program director, as well as two staff members who recruited students and 32 job sites, including Anne Arundel Medical Center, Maryland Therapeutic Riding, the city and county Police Departments, and the Joy in Learning Child Care Centers.

One of the recruits who recently finished the program was Nick Parrish, 17, a soon-to-be junior at Old Mill High School.

Parrish said he enjoyed working at World Gym in Glen Burnie - while getting in shape for a future career goal: "I want to be a cop when I grow up," he said.

In the meantime, Nick impressed the World Gym staff.

"He was a great worker, we really enjoyed his company," said Stefanie Lyle, a manager at World Gym.

Nick was an accountable worker who went "above and beyond," Lyle said. "Now that he's left, everyone misses Nick. He loved to make smoothies."

Anne Arundel Workforce Development roughly doubled its federal allocation this year when it received \$719,000 in federal stimulus funds. The dollars are being used to launch new outreach efforts and employment assistance to the jobless.

Most of the federal money allocated to help youth find jobs was spent on the employment program. But \$23,265 of it also supported the agency's administrative costs and other workforce-development programs, including the county's one-stop employment centers, Murray said.

About \$35,000 of stimulus money will support the youth program next year, he said, adding that he hopes Congress will provide even more federal dollars for it next year.

This year's program seems to be making an impact.

Timothy Trochimowicz, wash/bay supervisor at Harley-Davidson, said Bill Hope worked at the Annapolis bike business last year but was let go when the part-time staff was eliminated.

Hope didn't take the job very seriously then, something he expected of someone Hope's age, Trochimowicz said.

But this summer, Trochimowicz said he was impressed with Hope's performance.

"Before he needed a lot of supervision," Trochimowicz said. "Now I can trust him to do a lot more of that on his own and use my time on doing other things."

Hope said he plans to attend Anne Arundel Community College. Then it's off to tech school to gain skills for working on motorcycles, he said.

One day, he said he hopes to return to Harley-Davidson in Annapolis.

"I love working here," he said.



"Vacant buildings present terrible problems for communities, for neighbors, for children," said Aaron Bartley, executive director of PUSH Buffalo, as he explains how a Winter Street home is the first of its kind slated for renovation at the hands of 60 at-risk youths in a federally funded program.

Bill Wippert / Buffalo News

'This (renovation) will make a visible, measurable impact on the neighborhood.' -- Aaron Bartley, PUSH Buffalo

Job training to combat blight and help at-risk area youth

Buffalo News

By Samantha Maziarz Christmann
News Business Reporter

Updated: August 25, 2009, 11:22 PM / [7 comments](#)

The shuttered, spray-painted home on Buffalo's West Side stood as a symbol Tuesday of the blight plaguing the city. But community leaders believe it will soon stand as a symbol of progress.

The Winter Street home is the first of its kind slated for renovation at the hands of 60 at-risk youth being recruited for a federally funded YouthBuild program by Western New York Americorps and PUSH Buffalo.

The paid positions are open to out-of-school youth ages 16 to 24. Chosen applicants will learn traditional and environmentally sound building trades, take GED, college preparatory and financial literacy classes and apply on-the-job training to transform vacant houses using state-of-the-art green design. Those who complete the yearlong program will also receive a \$2,362

education grant and get job placement assistance from WNY Americorps. They will earn a bi-weekly stipend of \$438.46.

"We're teaching them leadership, giving them confidence, experience and skills to make them more marketable in the future," said Diedra Wright, WNY Americorps manager of strategic partnerships. "Kids who are taught to build are less likely to want to tear down."

The program is designed to attack what are considered the two most critical problems in Buffalo neighborhoods -- joblessness and vacant housing. Those two critical problems often drag neighborhoods down into a culture of violence and crime.

"Vacant buildings present terrible problems for communities, for neighbors, for children," said Aaron Bartley, executive director of PUSH Buffalo. "This [renovation] will make a visible, measurable impact on the neighborhood."

The vacant homes, purchased at auction by PUSH Buffalo, will eventually serve as low-cost housing for visiting Americorps volunteers. Utility bills at the homes are expected to be low, as the homes will bear solar panels, extra insulation and other green energy efficient characteristics.

Council member David Rivera said the program should serve as a model for other progress to be made in the city.

"Of all the plans and projects I've seen, this is the most comprehensive. It hits every issue," he said. "We need more programs like this in the city."

The Envirobuild portion of the project will be funded by the Buffalo and Erie County Workforce Investment Board.

Interested applicants can attend one of two open houses being held Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday at 10 Oak St. and from 4 to 7 p.m. at 271 Grant St. Those interested may also contact WNY Americorps at 558-3325 for more information and to apply.

Memphis Commercial Appeal

Sammons vows pay for Memphis youth workers

By Amos Maki (Contact), Memphis Commercial Appeal

Wednesday, August 26, 2009

The city of Memphis has launched a full-scale audit of the Summer Youth Employment Program after a number of young workers did not receive their paychecks.

City Chief Administrative Officer Jack Sammons said Wednesday that he was disappointed in the program, which is administered by the Office of Youth Services and Community Affairs, and vowed that every young person who worked will get the money he or she is owed.

"They had an inability in that office to collect the time records in a timely manner and convert them to the appropriate pay schedules," Sammons said. "There's 3,000 children enrolled in this program, and they're scattered all over town. It just overwhelmed these people."

On the third floor at City Hall on Wednesday, about two dozen staffers – some of them sitting on the floor -- were busy poring over time sheets and other information related to the program. Sammons said he hoped to have the issues resolved by Sept. 4.

Mayor Pro Tem Myron Lowery would not comment on the future of Sara Lewis, director of the Office of Youth Services and Community Affairs, who was briefly hospitalized after she reportedly passed out Tuesday.

"I'm just sick and I can't talk," said Lewis, a longtime administrator of programs for local children, when reached by phone Wednesday morning. "I've been going on energy reserves for the last five months, and I'm just sick."

Said Lowery: "Right now, she is at home resting and under doctor's care, so we're dealing with her future right now."

Earlier this month, Lewis reported that many of the young people enrolled in the program did not get their final paychecks. Sammons said Wednesday that the problems were more serious, and that some young people may have never been paid, while others were overpaid.

"I think Sara Lewis has long been a leader in this community and has profound interest in children and is well-intentioned, but I'm disappointed with results this program delivered," Sammons said.

For years, the youth employment program supplied summer work for 300 to 400 young people. This year, the city received \$4.9 million in federal stimulus money; the funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act enabled about 3,000 young people to participate.

"It appears to me (Youth Services was) given a giant responsibility without the resources to fulfill the task," Sammons said.

"We didn't originate the problem," he added, referring to the interim mayor's administration, "but we are originating the solution."

Participants were to be paid the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour. Enrollment was open to participants ages 14-21.

Those 16 and older worked in entry-level jobs at government agencies, hospitals, nonprofit groups, small businesses, law firms, museums and sports and retail sites. Career exploration classes were designed for participants 14 and 15 years old.

Participants in the program began working in June and were supposed to get paid every other week.

"The whole purpose of the program is to introduce our underprivileged youths to the culture of work," said Sammons. "If they lose confidence in the system and they're afraid they're going to work and not get paid, all you've done is encourage them to turn to the other options they have in an urban environment."

-- *Amos Maki: 529-2351*

Work program will get federal funds to help job-seekers

By Karen Robes Meeks, Staff Writer
Posted: 07/10/2009 05:03:39 PM PDT

LONG BEACH - A Long Beach-administered work force program serving more than a half-million people in Long Beach, Signal Hill and South Bay cities will get federal funds to help people seeking transportation, engineering or construction jobs.

The Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network will receive a \$130,000 On-the-Job Training Supportive Services grant, funds that were included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to supplement federal training programs and to support the training programs of state departments of transportation for highway construction contractors, apprentices and trainees.

Pacific Gateway is one of several agencies in 14 states receiving the training grants, which amount to \$6.7 million, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood's office announced this week.

"Providing individuals with the job-training skills they need is key to keeping our highway system up and running," LaHood said in a statement. "These training programs will help ensure that the American highway system has able stewards for years to come."

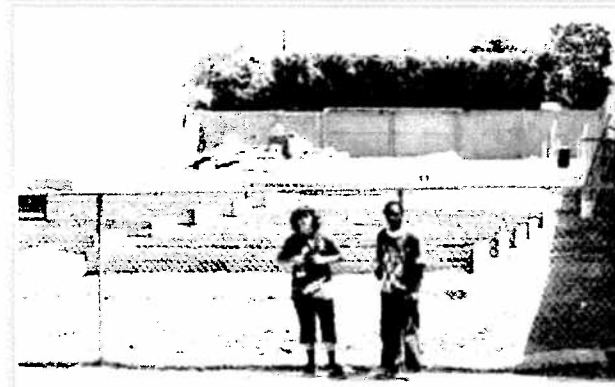
Awardees in California also include Cypress Mandela Training Center, \$55,000; Center for Training and Careers, \$60,000; Asian Business Community Development, Inc., \$73,217; and Sacramento Employment and Training Agency, \$90,000.

"This is a long-term sustained strategy for the Workforce Investment Board," said Bryan Rogers, the Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network's executive director. "The construction sector has been a focused area for about eight years now, so this project was a targeted effort to ensure that we have training, employment preparation and resources for residents, both with some background and skills in construction as well as entrants into the sector so that they can compete for jobs that come down that are related to infrastructure and projects in the Southern California area."

Pacific Gateway, which serves Long Beach, Torrance, Signal Hill and Lomita, estimated that more than 30,000 people in its coverage area are out of work.

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Community Garden Sprouts To Help Feed North Long Beach



FRAMEWORK. Kenneth Herrera, left, and De'Jon Booth stand in front of the new community garden plot. —Photo courtesy Darick Simpson

By Shereen Oca
Staff Writer

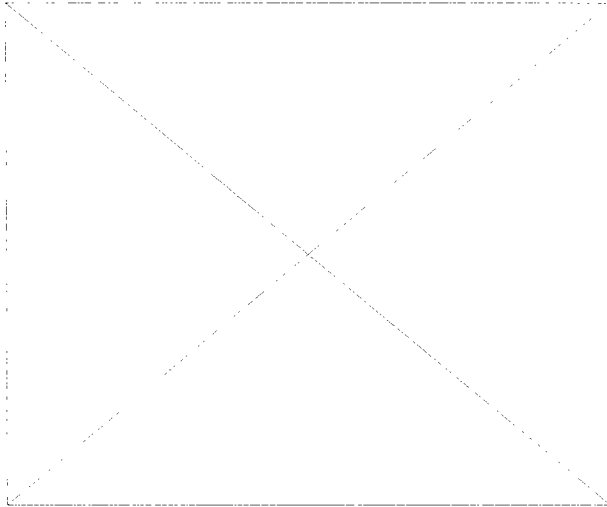
Published: Friday, August 21, 2009 11:03 AM PDT

As Kelli Johnson and her team tended to their community garden in North Long Beach last week, bees and butterflies flitted among the site's blooming flowers and fledgling plants.

But the garden, located behind the Long Beach Community Action Partnership (LBCAP) building on Long Beach Boulevard near East Spring Street, wasn't always such an idyllic setting.

"We were just standing out there in a dust bowl," Johnson said. "There was nothing living out there three weeks ago. Now, we have beetles, bees, butterflies. It's amazing."

Spearheaded by the LBCAP, an area nonprofit that works to fight poverty, the community garden project kicked off in July. Back then, it was a vacant, 5,500-square-foot lot owned by the Salvation Army, according to Darick Simpson, executive director of the LBCAP. The Salvation Army then donated the lot to the LBCAP after Simpson and his staff pitched the idea of converting the unused area into a sustainable community garden, he said.



"When staff looked at how we could be more engaged in the green initiative that is going on nationally, as well as locally, and how we can have a role in impacting the environment, we thought about the community garden project because it will serve a purpose," Simpson explained.

According to Simpson, project objectives are manifold. First, it will be used as a training ground for young adults to learn sustainable gardening practices. It also will operate as a teaching garden for area families and schools, acting as a model for others featuring drought-resistant shrubbery and plants. In addition, organizers plan to distribute the fruits, vegetables and herbs harvested from the garden to low-income families who live nearby.

"We are trying to plug in, in terms of what are green jobs and initiatives, making sure that we, as an agency, can not only train and expose people to new job pathways, but also to allow lower-income families to be recipients of the goods from our green program as well," Simpson explained. "In many areas where obesity and diabetes are prevalent, they increase among families of low income. It's incumbent upon us to fight poverty as an agency to help our families see where we can get healthy foods and veggies."

According to Johnson, the time to begin planting seeds for a fall harvest is soon. She said she plans to grow cauliflower, broccoli, peas, Swiss chard, onions, leeks and more. The garden also will feature edible flowers, bird feeders, a Monarch Waystation and an "ethno-botany" project, which involves planting beds of herbs and vegetables particular to such cultures' cuisines as Indian, Cambodian, Mexican and Italian, among others. Additionally, organizers are thinking about installing solar and wind-powered artwork by area artist and resident Doug Kurtz, according to Johnson.

"We are trying to encapsulate the diversity of Long Beach," Johnson said. "We're trying to make that connection and show everybody that while Long Beach is diverse and large, we can see our commonality through our food."

For the past six weeks, Johnson and her crew — seven interns from the Summer Youth Employment Training Program hosted by the Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network — have wielded shovels, wheelbarrows and hammers creating flower beds, constructing trellises, digging trenches and more.

"It's been awesome," Johnson said. "It's been really, really hard work, and I felt kind of bad at first. But everybody got on their gloves, got into it... They are standing back amazed at what they did."

La Kita Elliott, a senior studying graphic design at California State University, Dominguez Hills, participated in the summer intern program at LBCAP. She said she was able to take her love of and experience in gardening to contribute to the greater good of the community and the environment.

"It makes you feel good because there was nothing there when we started," she said. "Even though

it's a process and it takes time, there will be a better end result. It's a great experience. I love doing it."

Interns and staff at the LBCAP will be able to show off the fruits of their labor to family and friends at an end-of-summer showcase on Friday, Aug. 28. The event will not be open to the public.

LBCAP recently received a \$60,000 portion of the nearly \$1 million Green Job Corps grant awarded to the Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network. Simpson said the money would be used to create employment opportunities for youth after the summer program ends.

Organizers plan to create public visiting hours for the community garden as well.

For more information about the Long Beach Community Action Partnership, call 437-0681 or visit www.lbcap.org.

TYP launches youth job bank



ADRIELLE HARVEY/THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

Georgianna Wong, executive director of the Topeka Youth Project, talks Thursday about the launching of an online youth job bank. The job bank will list job openings available to youth 16- to 20-years old.

BY ADRIELLE HARVEY

Created August 27, 2009 at 12:58pm

Updated August 27, 2009 at 1:07pm

A youth recently found out about a job opening at a department store, but it was across town. Her mom took off work to drive her to the store, where she filled out an application only to find out she had to be 18 years old to work there.

This story is often too familiar for Topeka youths. But employees of the Topeka Youth Project expressed their excitement Thursday about an opportunity that will ease this problem.

Georgianna Wong, executive director, announced an online job bank available that will cater to 16- to 20-year-olds.

"The job bank itself will have profiles of the employers so the young people will know what the criteria is so that they're not applying for jobs that they're not eligible for or they're too far across town," Wong said.

The job bank will include listings of job openings by local employers for youths. The Web site, <http://typjobbank.org>, will be available to employers who can post monthly ads for \$20 or yearly ads that also include job openings and a direct link to the employer's site for \$300 a year.

Wong said she hopes to expand the site so that it will be multipurpose in that youths won't only be able to find out what jobs are available in Topeka, but also learn about

volunteer opportunities, coupons, activities and shopping locations through employer advertising.

The job bank is still building, though Wong said she has five to six \$300 commitments from employers. The Youth Project is working with the nearly 200 employers who are a part of the Jobs for Young Adults program. Kim Schultz, program developer for the Topeka Youth Project, also has appointments next week with new employers.

Another aspect to the launching of the job bank is that the Youth Project will have laptops employees will take to different locations in the city. Youths will be able to visit those locations and seek out and apply for jobs in the job bank while Youth Project employees are available for assistance.

"We'll go to various parts of Topeka where kids may not have access to computers, but they'll be able to apply directly online, get the information," Wong said. "If they've been in the Jobs for Young Adults program, they will also have their resumes posted online so the employers will know which young people have had extensive training in how to be a good employee."

The Jobs for Young Adults program takes 28 to 32 hours and teaches youths job readiness and life skills, such as preparing a resume, interviewing, how to dress and interacting with others.

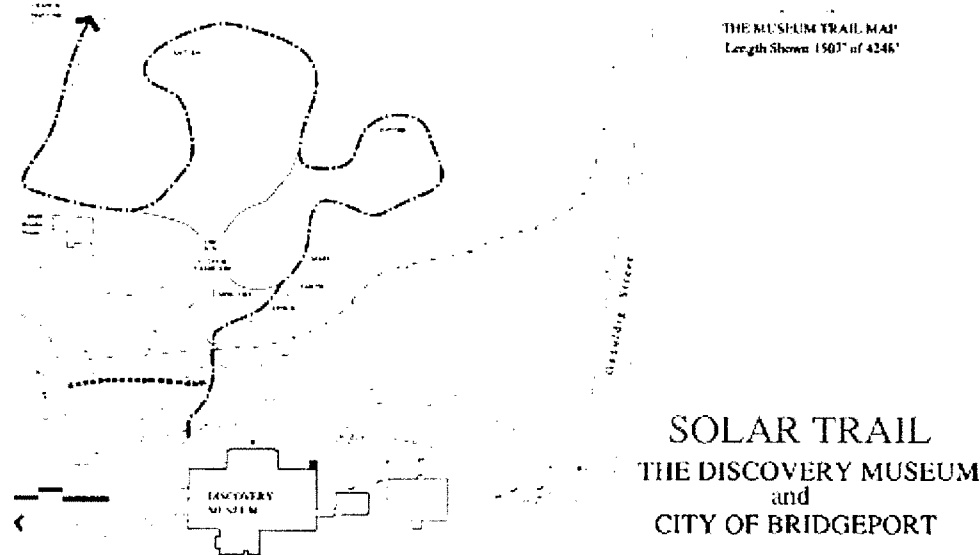
For more information about the job bank, call Schultz at (785) 273-4141.

Adrielle Harvey can be reached at (785) 295-1285 or adrielle.harvey@cjonline.com.

Helping nature while learning skills: Youth spend summer building a nature trail in Veterans Memorial Park

Written by Brad Durrell

Thursday, 27 August 2009 15:43



Joseph Martinez got a taste of the real world this summer.

The 17-year-old participated in the Student Conservation Association's (SCA) four-week program to build a nature trail behind the Discovery Museum in Veterans Memorial Park.

"We did heavy stuff like lifting rocks and trees," said Joseph, who splits his time between Bridgeport and Stratford while taking high school classes at night. "We got blisters and scratches and all that."

Despite the physical challenges, he loved the \$10 an hour job offered through the city and SCA. And he's confident it will help him as he prepares for a career.

"You learn a new skill and you can take that with you wherever you go in life," said Joseph, who secured the summer job through the Workplace Inc., a Bridgeport-based jobs training program. Other participants came through the city's Lighthouse after-school and summer program.

During the SCA program, nine young people cleared land and built benches from hickory and oak trees for a trail that will replicate the solar system on a miniature scale. Participants worked 32 hours a week outdoors with axes, shovels, saws, loppers and other tools.

Joshua Rodriguez, 14, of Bridgeport, said he removed dirt, raked and built benches. He also made new friends and learned a little about what he might want to do when he gets older.

"I want to go into carpentry," said Joshua, who began the eighth grade at Geraldine Johnson School this week.

Rafael Ruiz, 14, of Bridgeport, said the work showed him how to use new tools and sandpaper. "We helped clear a lot of land," said Rafael, who just began his freshman year at Central Magnet High School.

Marina Deluca, one of the Bridgeport SCA leaders, said it was impressive watching the young people "turn a forest into a trail."

"They learned they could do it," Deluca said. "We're proud of the work they accomplished. They learned how to use tools and figured out how to work with each other — improving their communication skills."

"On a career ladder"

Mayor Bill Finch told the young people at an informal commencement ceremony that they were the first class in what he hopes will be an ongoing outdoor classroom program in the city.



Mayor Bill Finch talks to Student Conservation Association program participant Chris Diaz about the trail work at Veterans Memorial Park in the North End.

"You're getting trained and exposed to potential careers," said Finch, noting he has emphasized the need for the city to create green-related jobs, meaning those related to improving the environment.

He said some of those jobs could involve the cleaning up and making further improvements at Veterans Park in the North End.

"There's so much work to do here," he said "We need better trails that are safe and reduce erosion. We need

to remove old asphalt and fencing."

Other positions will be created by weatherizing homes, finding cleaner energy sources, and building rain gardens and green rooftops to reduce stormwater runoff, Finch said. "This puts you on a career ladder," he told the SCA program participants.

Finch has focused on environmental issues since being a teenager, when he was an activist in Trumbull. "Right now we're disrespecting and cooking our planet," he said. "We haven't been taking care of it in a long time. And almost everything we do for the environment saves us money."

The city also has started a Mayor's Conservation Corps, in which young people walk door-to-door to tell residents how to make their homes more energy efficient and encourage them to recycle more.

The Veterans Park solar nature trail will include signs about the sun and planets, spaced in proportion to the solar system. It should be completed by the spring of 2010, and was designed by Stuart H. Sachs, a landscape architect from Black Rock.

Steve Hladun, special projects coordinator with the city Parks and Recreation Department, said the state-funded trail will combine recreation with education and be easily accessible to Discovery Museum visitors as well as students and staff at the new Discovery Magnet School, to be built nearby.

SCA eyes Bridgeport

Adam Hinman, SCA program director for Connecticut, said the nationwide organization has had programs in Stamford and Greenwich and is eager to become more active in Bridgeport.

Eight of the nine Student Conservation Association workers pose for a group photo on their last day of work.

"We want to build up programs in Bridgeport," said Hinman, who congratulated program participants and presented them with free outdoor boots from Timberland.

This summer the New Hampshire-based SCA had 4,000 young people working on similar programs throughout the country. President Barack Obama participated in a SCA tree-planting program on Earth Day.



Hladun found out about the program when he attended a conference in 2008.

"The skills and techniques the program instills in its students helps them to become a more vital part of the community," Hladun said. "It teaches them the importance of a work ethic that than can take to other jobs. They all are proud to wear the SCA helmet."

The students were paid by SCA and by the city through federal stimulus funds targeted to environmentally-related jobs for youth.

Sean Maxfield, 17, said he loves working outside. "Landscaping is what I like to do, so this made me eager to get up every morning," said Sean, who now is a senior at Stratford High School.

Sean's father, James Maxfield, was proud of his son's participation. "I was glad to see him take the initiative to get a job and to show up every day," James said. "Sean is using the leadership skills he had learned in the Boy Scouts here."

Chris Diaz, 18, of Fairfield, said doing the trail work was "great" and a way to make new friends. "The highlight for me was de-barking the trees," Chris said.

Vanity Dennis, 18, of Bridgeport, called the program a learning experience. She also learned how to de-bark trees with a unique tool, among other skills.

"As an inner-city resident it was a challenge, but I like doing things outside the box and was able to meet many new people," said Vanity, who just began attending Housatonic Community College.

Thursday, August 27, 2009

Austin receives \$2M in HUD stimulus funds for four projects

Austin Business Journal

Austin city officials and U.S. Congressman Lloyd Doggett on Wednesday announced the city's intention to receive \$2 million in Community Development Block Grant Recovery funds that will help fund four development projects in East Austin.

The funding, coming through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, is expected to help create more than 100 construction jobs and create or keep another 150 permanent jobs in the next 18 months. The Austin City Council will vote to accept the funds at its meeting on Thursday.

The projects being funded include:

- \$500,000 to LifeWorks for the purchase of land to construct a 32,000-square-foot Resource Center to expand critical workforce, youth development, adult and youth education, and mental health services to low-income populations. LifeWorks will close on the land in September 2009. Ground breaking will occur in the first quarter of 2010. The Center is scheduled to open in mid-2011.
- \$500,000 to PeopleFund for the construction of the Center for Economic Opportunity. This two-story facility will provide comprehensive services to local small businesses and low to moderate income homebuyers. In addition, the facility will provide affordable office space to small businesses. The center will be located in the Martin Luther King Station Area at 1700 Alexander Ave.
- \$552,703 towards the historic renovation and new construction of the African-American Cultural and Heritage Facility, located at 912 E. 11th St., the site of the historic Detrick-Hamilton House.
- \$250,000 to support the construction of sidewalks in historically disadvantaged neighborhoods of Central East Austin. Sidewalks are an essential component of public transit, which is used primarily by low- to moderate-income Austin residents, and also will enhance the lifestyles of residents and businesses in the area. This project will create 17 full-time construction jobs.
- The remaining \$200,300 will be used for Community Development Block Grant-Recovery administration.

“Matching worthy projects with federal dollars is how we build a stronger community. This is another example of how federal stimulus dollars have been put to productive use in supporting worthy local initiatives,” said Doggett, D-Austin.

The stimulus bill signed by President Barack Obama earlier this year awards \$1 billion in CDBG-R funds to be distributed by HUD to cities, counties, insular areas and states. Austin is one of 1,200 jurisdictions that received block grants in fiscal year 2008, making it eligible to receive CDBG-R.



Ryan Daniel, 14, left, of Kenosha receives a certificate of recognition from Mayor Keith Bosman and Kenosha County Executive Jim Kreuser for his work in the Summer Youth Employment Event. (KENOSHA NEWS PHOTO BY KENOSHA NEWS PHOTO BY TERRY FLORES)

Published August 29, 2009 | 11:54 p.m.

Summer jobs program honors 280 youths

tflores@kenoshanews.com

They raised roofs, painted playgrounds, repaired swings and slides.

They cleared brush, paved trails and installed solar panels.

And they had fun, gained new friends and made some money while they were at it.

But most of all, the 280 teenagers and young adults who spent their summer vacation beautifying Kenosha County public places learned valuable lessons about what they could expect when on the job in the "real world."

"I hope you have taken pride in what you did," Kenosha County Executive Jim Kreuser told the participants in the Summer Youth Employment Event, during a ceremony Friday at the Southport Beach House. "I appreciate what you did to make our community a better place."

Earlier this summer, the young workers were hired for projects in a variety of locations, from Petrifying Springs County Park to the Spanish Center, a local homeless shelter, a nursing home, the St. Francis Animal Shelter and Project SOARR, Supporting Opportunities in Advancing Renewable Resources, among others.

Funded by a \$300,000 federal grant through the Workforce Investment Act and Kenosha County, the eight-week employment program was for ages 14-24. In addition to the projects, the workers learned job interview skills, resume writing, money management and how to act in the work setting. High school students in the program also earned graduation credit.

On Friday, Kreuser, along with Kenosha Mayor Keith Bosman, presented certificates recognizing the students' efforts, while Wally Graffen executive director of the Boys and Girls Club of Kenosha, recognized local businesses, community agencies and individuals who assisted in training and mentoring youth.

The county's Division of Children and Family Services partnered with the Boys and Girls Club, Community Impact Programs and the Kenosha Unified School District to coordinate workers and provide mentors.

Kreuser said the program's initial goal was to help employ 50 kids, and before long the county was able to hire gang intervention supervisor Donna Rhodes, who has been instrumental in introducing youths to the job program.

Kreuser said supervisors at the many sites praised the workers.

"Every single person I talked to said, 'You made our community better.' And, you do work harder than the mayor," Kreuser said in jest as Bosman chuckled.

Indian Trail Academy students Monique Gordon and Amber Cunado, both 14, said they enjoyed their summer work building picnic shelters at the new county park under development on Highway KD. Their group also installed pillars, and in one instance raised a roof over a shelter.

Monique and Amber worked four hours a day.

"But it felt longer than that," said Amber. "I really feel that the experience made me more mature, and I did feel more mature to have a job.

"To have a job made me more ready for the world," she said. "And we made a lot of friends."

Sana Montgomery, the site supervisor employed with Community Impact Programs, said she could see how the youths matured over the eight-week period.

"I think they did a very good job, especially this being their first job," she said.

Project SOARR workers Gerald and Justin Mullins, both 16, Roy Newman, 17, and Kevin Martinez, 16, installed solar panels on the roof of Somers Fire Station 2, a project they are currently wrapping up. The teenagers will be attending Indian Trail Academy, Bradford and Tremper high schools and Hillcrest School, respectively.

The young men said they learned everything from the concept of heat exchange to the more physical soldering of pipes that go into a solar heating system. The system will use the sun's radiant energy to heat the fire station's bathroom and laundering facilities.

Newman said he liked working on it and believes the project is a good investment.

"I think it's a pretty smart thing to do if you have the money," he said.

Comments:

There is **1 comment on this topic**

► Great Program

Keep It Up 08/30 at 10:05

Young people you rock! You'll never forget this experience. Life will remind you of the subtle lessons you learned here. One of them might be many a true word is spoken in jest. In reference to Donna Rhodes County Executive Krueser said: "Every single person I talked to said, "You made our community better." And, you do work harder than the mayor," Kreuser said in jest as Bosman chuckled.

BOOT CAMP KICKS OFF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY JOB-TRAINING PROGRAM

A-TTEN-TION!

By *Roger Phillips*

August 29, 2009

Record Staff Writer



STOCKTON - Dressed in navy blue army fatigues and black military boots, Brother Al and Brother Lyle yelled commands, offered adages and drilled their sweaty troops as the morning hours slowly passed and the summer heat increased.

"What's the best part of planet Earth?" Brother Lyle barked.

"Your mind, sir," they barked back in unison.

"Are we ready?" Brother Lyle asked.

"We were born ready, sir," they responded.

It was Friday morning in an airless structure at Stockton's former Sea Scout Base across Monte Diablo Avenue from Louis Park. Sixty-four teens and young adults with pasts that include drug dealing, dropping out of school and gang membership were taking their marching orders at the end of a one-week boot camp. Six of the students live at Juvenile Hall.

The so-called mental-toughness camp was held as the kickoff to this year's San Joaquin YouthBuild, a job-training program in the construction trades operated by the county Office of Education to serve at-risk young people who are seeking their high school diplomas or equivalent certificates.

The fatigue-clad trainers, Al Johnson and Lyle Grandison, are co-founders of Miami-based Respect For Life Educational Services.

Brother Al and Brother Lyle, as they call themselves, for years have held boot camps for YouthBuild programs across the United States.

The Stockton camp included physical drills that were conducted on a Louis Park baseball diamond, as well as military discipline, motivational speeches and moments of painful soul-baring that took place inside the Sea Scout hangar.

Nakriesha Ford stood before her classmates wearing pink beads, a pink bandanna and black and pink basketball shoes. She admitted, "I came here hating everybody in the world."

She is 17 and she told the other students she has a mother who doesn't love her. She said she's been in "practically every school in Stockton" and has been to jail "more times than I can count." She said she didn't want to speak to anyone when the boot camp began, but as the days passed, unity developed and she started "hugging and talking."

When she became a little too chatty Friday at a moment when she should have been listening, one of the adults involved in the program questioned her work ethic. Ford broke down and told everyone in the room she was doing her best.

"I'm trying to change," she said.

Brother Lyle took off his hat, opened his arms and gave Ford a hug.

"You are worthy of being loved," he told her. "You are worthy of being supported."

The overriding question at such an event is basic: Can a single week initiate positive transformation for lives that have been battered - in some cases for more than two decades - by neglect, broken homes, poverty and bad decisions?

"You've got people who are masters at singing and athletics," Brother Lyle said when asked that question. "We're masters at human transformation."

Ford said, "They show you the strongest part of your life is your mind. I'm happy to have met them."

Sheilah Goulart, who runs YouthBuild for the county office, said she is a believer. She said her goal in paying \$7,500 to Brothers Al and Lyle for the week was to create a culture that will last the school year and to break down barriers between the students, some of whom once were members of rival gangs.

"It's the best money I've ever spent," she said.

Goulart added that the boot camp also weeded out those who weren't ready to commit themselves to the YouthBuild program. Over the course of the week, 16 of the original participants dropped out, and others will fall out during the year if they fail two of the random drug tests they've agreed to be subjected to in order to take part in the program.

Adam Gonzalez, one of those who survived the boot camp, expressed confidence.

"We've learned self-respect, teamwork, unity," said Gonzalez, 18. "I hope a lot of us take it on for the rest of our lives. Everybody here is getting a second chance at life. We made it through hell week. It was worth it."

Contact reporter Roger Phillips at (209) 546-8299 or rphillips@recordnet.com.

It's all about positive energy in YouthBuild program

August 27, 2009 12:00 AM

NEW BEDFORD — There's been lots of positive energy this summer for a dozen young men and women who are benefitting from “Green” employment and training.

Members of the group, who range in age from 18 to 24, have worked under the auspices of PACE YouthBuild, the Southeastern Environment Education Alliance (SEEAL), and the Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board.

They are part of SEEAL/PACE's YouthBuild Weatherization Team aimed at helping them to better themselves, the city and the environment.

The Weatherization project includes classroom and field experience teaching participants to perform energy audits and weatherization retrofits. By the end of the training, participants will know how to analyze homes for energy usage and provide weatherization tips and retrofits in homes.

The project officially began on July 13 and will end on Sept. 4. Over the past few months, the participants have spent 60 percent of their time in the field with the balance of their time in classroom and workshops.

Weatherization training, greenhouse gas emissions/energy inventories and employer networking has been provided via an agreement with Self-Reliance Corp. of Cape Cod.

When the program wraps up later this week, each participant will receive a weatherization certificate.

They'll also carry with them newly learned job skills and, in cases where they needed tutoring, academic improvement.

SEEAL and PACE YouthBuild also hope participants will become ambassadors for energy conservation in the youth community.

For more information about PACE YouthBuild New Bedford or the Weatherization Project, contact Gloria Williams, director; 508-984-3558.

Developing tomorrow's work force

Alice Oliver | Posted: Saturday, August 29, 2009 6:00 pm

In 2002, the Racine County Economic Development Corp., together with our development partners, completed the Racine County Economic Development Plan. In 2008, based on Challenge 5 of the EDP, community, business and government leaders developed Higher Expectations: A Workforce Strategy for Racine County. This working document outlines goals and strategies to meet the work force needs of area employers, job seekers and residents. It is a blueprint to reach our vision of a vital, dynamic economy characterized by a work force prepared for the world of work.

Today, we focus on the portion of the plan which links qualified Racine County workers with employers and works to attract and retain talented workers. Part of this challenge is to ensure that the available work force has the skills and abilities to meet the needs of area employers. The Racine County Workforce Development Center and its partners have developed several initiatives to accomplish this.

-- Smart Career Restart training programs are designed to meet the educational needs of area residents and prepare them for occupational opportunities. Today, jobs that provide upward mobility without formal training are rare. New knowledge-based jobs require education for entrance and advancement. In partnership with Gateway Technical College, WDC continues to develop short-term training programs (boot camps) that are employer-driven and provide students with skills needed for jobs in today's tough economy in high-demand career areas.

Dan Bidwell completed the first Computer Numerical Control Boot Camp. He described the training "as the best thing that happened to me" because it "gave me the opportunity to support my family without struggling to make ends meet." Dan held his job from June 2005 until February 2009, when his employer completed a substantial downsizing. Now he's returning to the classroom to participate in another Smart Career Restart training program, the CNC Set-up Technician Program, which is funded through the American Recovery Act. Other programs include machine repair, medical receptionist, office skills, logistics, and telecommunications. These intensive programs last between two and 20 weeks, 40 hours a week.

-- The Southeastern Wisconsin Resume Matrix (<http://www.resumematrix.com>) is an electronic job board launched in 2005 to provide area employers with a resource to recruit the best employees, because in business today no competition is tougher than the global race for talent. In every industry, every job sector, and every part of the world, employers are asking the same question: How are we going to find talent and retain the best workers? The matrix, a partnership with Kenosha, Walworth, Waukesha, Ozaukee and Washington Counties, the WDC and Gateway, provides a link to the area's best available talent.

ProTech is a networking group established by the WDC and designed specifically for professional and technical knowledge workers with an associate's degree or higher level of education. Group members routinely explore new strategies for job hunting. Amy Czerniec, a ProTech participant, had this to say about the program: "I feel that ProTech has helped by putting me in touch with fellow job seekers who have supplied me with valuable advice regarding my job search." Linda Glass, a certified management professional and ProTech participant, agrees. She said, "I just cannot say enough about the value of ProTech to myself and other job seekers. The meetings provide a unique opportunity to collectively network with other job seekers and explore resources available to aid in our job search. The guest speakers that have been part of the meetings are knowledgeable in a variety of areas pertinent to our group."

-- A U.S. Department of Labor WIRED grant awarded to the WDC is providing \$200,000 to implement a work skills assessment project that will serve more than 2,100 adult and youth job seekers in southeastern Wisconsin. The project will pilot ACT WorkKeys foundational skills and Learning Resources Inc. soft skills assessment tools as a remediation and work readiness certification program.

Developing tomorrow's talent is the mission of the Racine County Workforce Development Center and its many partner organizations. The aim is to ensure that our work force meets the needs of local, regional and global employers. To learn more about the many services available at the Racine County Workforce Development Center, go to:

<http://www.wdc.racineco.com>

Alice Oliver is a manager at the Racine County Workforce Development Center.

August 29, 2009

44 graduate from summer job camp

By JOSEPH P. SMITH
Staff Writer

VINELAND -- It's a very short summer for Giavonna DeGregorio and family.

No complaints, though.

DeGregorio, mom to two little ones, finished Aug. 14 with a seven-week immersion into multiple fields within the health care industry.

"My sister helped take care of my children," DeGregorio said. "And it was very hard to get out here because of the gas. I was pretty nearly broke all during camp. There were days I went hungry so my children weren't."

On Sept. 2, the 21-year-old Bridgeton resident starts as a student at Cumberland County College. It begins a two- to three-year effort to become a registered nurse.

"Being a nurse, you will always have a job," she said.

That kind of life change seemed beyond reach, and perhaps was, until she was accepted into a county-run, federally funded career camp, which is a small part of the much larger Summer Youth Employment Program.

On Friday, DeGregorio was among 44 young men and women, ages 18 to 24, graduating from the camp.

She also is among at least 20 camp graduates already enrolled for classes this September at the county college or Cumberland County Technical Education Center. At least another 10 may join them, according to Dante Rieti, executive director of the county Office of Employment and Training.

Rieti's office organized the camp after the initiative was announced April 13. Every participant was screened for entry and only one person left before completion, Rieti said.

The program was county Freeholder Director Louis Magazzu's idea, and he was there at the college for the graduation ceremony.

Magazzu, a Democrat, said the program was an example of what President Barack Obama meant by his "Hope and Change" slogan. He told participants they'd been given an opportunity to use for themselves and their county.

"What you need to do is have confidence in yourself," Magazzu said. "Confidence in your colleagues."

The program enrolled another 298 youths as young as 16, giving them one week of orientation and seven weeks of work experience.

The county used \$1.2 million in federal aid. It contracted instructors from the county college and the technical center. Participants worked at various public agencies and nonprofits for 20 to 40 hours a week, according to their age and field, earning at least \$7.25 per hour.

Participants were to be "economically disadvantaged" according to guidelines the county worked out with the New Jersey Department of Labor. The labor department was the channel for the \$1.2 million from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, known as the "stimulus package" passed early in 2009.

In Career Camp, the participants were enrolled in fields such as construction, based at the technical education center, or health care, horticulture and information technology at the college.

A \$4,000 scholarship is available to each Career Camp participant who goes on to train at the college or at the technical education center.

DeGregorio got involved when her grandmother, Barbara, read about it in a newspaper.

Vineland Annette Pacheco, 23, found out while at the county employment office's One-Stop Career Center filling out a job search application. An office employee stepped in and announced the program.

"As he was talking, I was thinking, 'Wow! It sounds like a good opportunity,'" said Pacheco, a mother of three. "I completed the application before he finished talking."

Pacheco said the camp exceeded expectations.

"They took you step-by-step," she said. "They paid you during the program."

Basic skills got attention with an idea participants might go to college or the technical center. Pacheco, too, starts college next week to become a registered nurse.

"I always knew I wanted to be in health care," Pacheco said. She intends to specialize in maternity work.

Vineland Shalanda Chaney, 21, said the camp was "her very last hope." Laid off, she moved three times during the camp.

"I wanted to go college," Chaney said. "I just didn't see it as possible, having a son, having financial aid problems."

Chaney also starts nursing school next week.

"You just have to have the heart and a passion for the job," she said. "I've always had a big heart."

Los Angeles Conservation Corps wins federal job training funds

August 28, 7:42 PM LA Nonprofit Business Examiner Joleen Deatherage

Senator Barbara Boxer today announced some exciting "green" news for Los Angeles youth. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is awarding \$700,000 in funding to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps to provide job training for 160 students to learn the latest environmental technologies and prepare them for green jobs.

The trainees - who must be between the ages of 18-25 years old and reside in the Greater Los Angeles area - will receive extensive training in environmental technologies, hazardous waste health and safety, lead and asbestos abatement, refinery safety, forklift training, and general industry standards. Four certifications will be offered.

According to Senator Boxer, under previous training programs, people who completed the training had a hiring rate of about 86 percent with average salaries of \$18 per hour.

"At a time when many young people are having trouble finding and keeping jobs, this program is offering job training in areas where jobs are likely to expand. I am very pleased that this job training program will be offered in Los Angeles. It will give young people greater opportunities and will help to expand the number of people trained for new, 'green' jobs," said Senator Boxer.

For more info: Contact Denise Haynes, program coordinator for the Los Angeles Conservation Corps at (323) 526-1460 or by email at dhaynes@lacorps.org.



News from New York State Office of Parks & Recreation

For more information contact: Dan Keefe, 518-486-1868

Conservation Corps Puts 200 Youth to Work in New York State Parks

Department of Labor partnership funds \$3.35 million youth job-training program in State Parks; Over 40 Student Conservation Association members removing invasive species, building trails, and restoring habitats in Hudson Valley state parks

ALBANY, NY (08/28/2009)(readMedia)-- The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has established a new State Parks Conservation Corps in the park system this summer, which is bringing green-collar job training to nearly 200 young people and making much-needed improvements at 25 state parks and historic sites - including many in the Hudson Valley. The state Department of Labor is providing \$3.35 million, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, to help create a path to permanent employment for qualified youth ages 16 to 24.

"It's critical that we provide the young people being hit hardest by the economic downturn with a path to a better future," Governor Paterson said. "State Parks Conservation Corps members will become skilled in the jobs our state needs to strengthen both the economy and the environment, all while improving the great state park system that New York families can retreat to in these troubled times."

"From the Civilian Conservation Corps to the Student Conservation Association, New York State Parks has a long tradition of hosting young workers who sharpen their skills and talents in our parks," State Parks Commissioner Carol Ash said. "The State Parks Conservation Corps will build on this proud tradition, training young workers in emerging 'green collar' jobs, helping renew our economy, and making park improvements that our patrons will surely enjoy."

"Youth are the future of this state, but too many are being left behind in the wake of this economic crisis," said State Labor Commissioner M. Patricia Smith. "We need to be aggressive in stemming the tide of unemployment among youth, and no one has done more in this regard than Governor Paterson. Just this summer, he announced the creation of 50,000 youth jobs through a combination of stimulus funding and existing resources. The Conservation Corps will build upon these efforts by enhancing the quality of life for hundreds of our youth, while significantly improving our state's vast park system."

Crews of 8 to 12 members are being fielded and directed by the Student Conservation Association, a national organization that operates youth conservation corps and green collar training programs. The SCA has many decades of experience in community-based programs that link hands-on learning and job training for diverse urban youth, and currently operates a project with State Parks in the Hudson Valley.

"The SCA exists to build conservation leaders, the stewards of tomorrow," stated SCA President Dale Penny. "Through this expanded partnership with New York State Parks, together we will protect our precious natural and cultural resources while preparing a

new generation to prosper in a green economy. These young people are the key to achieving greater sustainability for our parks, our communities, and our future."

Work crews began deployment on July 15. Authorized to work through September 30, 2009, up to 200 youth are working on grounds maintenance, trail work, facility upkeep and invasive species control. In the Hudson Valley, there are four crews with over 40 crew leaders and members. The crews have been working on such projects as trail maintenance at Minnewaska State Park, clearing scenic vistas at Rockland Lake State Park, Tallman Mountain State Park and Olana State Historic Site, and building stairs to a trail at the Taconic Outdoor Education Center.

After September 30, 100 members statewide will continue on for another 16 weeks, receiving both classroom-based and on-the-job training in such trades as carpentry, plumbing, electricity and masonry. They will work on new construction, rehabilitation, energy efficiency, weatherization, trail and other projects at parks and historic sites. These corps members will be eligible to transition to positions at State Parks following the training period.

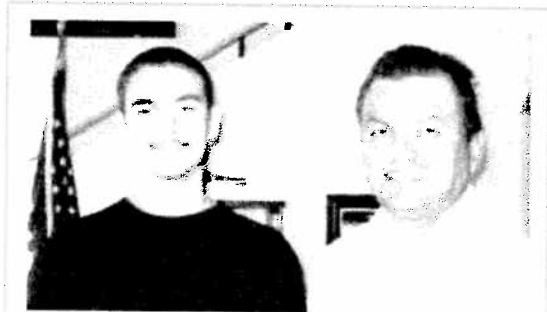
State Parks Conservation Corps work crews have been deployed in seven park regions across the state, including Long Island, New York City, the Taconic and Palisades regions of the Hudson Valley, and the Genesee, Niagara and Allegany regions of western New York.

The Student Conservation Association is a nationwide conservation force of college and high school-aged members who protect and restore America's parks, forests, refuges, seashores and communities. For more than 50 years, the SCA's active, hands-on practice of conservation service has helped to develop a new generation of conservation leaders, inspire lifelong stewardship, and save the planet. SCA, a non-profit organization, is headquartered in Charlestown, NH. For more, logon at thesca.org.

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation oversees 178 state parks and 35 historic sites. For more information on any of these recreation areas, call 518-474-0456 or visit www.nysparks.com.

Stimulus money to put 600 youth to work

By Michelle Knight knight@theacorn.com



FUTURE INVESTMENT—Alex Rivera of Telair International, right,

a Simi Valley-based aerospace manufacturer, is glad to have Anthony Gaber, 18, of Simi Valley on board as a summer hire. Telair will help Gaber gain work experience while federal stimulus money pays Gaber's minimum-wage salary through the summer. The \$850,000 program, run by the nonprofit Pathpoints in Simi Valley, seeks to put disadvantaged youth throughout Ventura County in jobs through Sept. 30.

Anthony Gaber thought he'd have to enter the military after high school to learn job skills.

But before graduating from Simi Valley's Royal High School in June, the 18-year-old learned about a summer youth employment program offered through Moorpark College and PathPoint, a Santa Barbara-based nonprofit that offers employment, residential and support services to more than 2,300 people a year. The services are offered to those with disabilities or disadvantages in five counties, including Ventura.

The program, funded by federal stimulus money, aims to give youth work experience and job skills while they earn money. The employers benefit from the extra hands and from their contribution to the youth's development.

After Gaber attended a free job-readiness workshop at the college, he began working Aug. 3 at a Telair International warehouse in Simi Valley.

Gaber said he thought his first paid job would be more difficult than it is. He enjoys taking inventory for Telair and working in the stocking and receiving departments. He's discovered that he likes working with his hands.

"Now that I went through this experience," Gaber said, "I've been thinking about working in a warehouse."

Alex Rivera, Telair human resources manager, said helping youths gain practical job skills is the socially responsible thing to do.

Telair, an aerospace manufacturer with offices across the country and around the world, employs 130 people at its only California site in Simi Valley.

Rivera said he's hired five youths from the program so far and is open to hiring more.

"I really do believe we need to do more to prepare our youth to enter the work force," said Rivera, who's supported youth employment through other programs and county agencies for several years.

Gaber's employment at Telair was made possible by an \$805,000 grant PathPoint received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. In all, PathPoint and its six partnering agencies, including Moorpark College and the Boys & Girls Club of Camarillo, plan to train and have jobs for 260 disadvantaged youths ages 14 to 24 in Ventura County.

A nonprofit youth club in Oxnard that received a similar grant will serve youths in Oxnard and Port Hueneme.

Marielle DeFazio, PathPoint's director for the Simi Valley office, said both programs are expected to help 660 disadvantaged youths in Ventura County get jobs. The program runs through Sept. 30.

To qualify, the youth must be low-income and either deficient in basic skills or a juvenile offender.

Although PathPoint is the employer on record, the youths work for more than 75 companies around Ventura County in a vari

ety of positions, including maintenance, clerical, child care, retail, hotel and warehouse. For example, the young people work for the cities of Moorpark and Thousand Oaks, the Courtyard by Marriott in Simi Valley and Camarillo, and Target in

Moorpark and Newbury Park.

Yesterday, Telair International and Gaber, representing the employers and youth employees in the program, were expected to be honored for their participation.

For more information, call Kim Whitaker at PathPoint at (805) 520-8744, ext. 113.

Summer job program report

(8/28/09)

Written by David Augustinho

Back in the spring I wrote about funding that was coming to the Cape for a summer job program. Today I want to update you on the results of the program.

The funding source for our program was the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), commonly referred to as the federal stimulus act. Our mandate was to spend the funding as quickly and efficiently as possible. We received about \$750,000 to operate the summer program and the wages paid to the participants were about \$500,000. So we estimate that over one-half million dollars was pumped into the local economy, exactly the intent of the ARRA funding.

Just as a brief background, I do need to point out that the federal government eliminated stand-alone summer youth employment programs beginning with the year 2000. The reasoning is that year-round programming is more effective as a means to remediate at-risk youth. So our challenge was to establish a program even though we had not had a summer youth jobs program in more than eight years.

So, what happened? Well, we had about 550 youths apply for the program, and we were able to place 234 between the ages of 14 and 24 with our six vendors. Our vendors were: Cape Abilities, CIGSYA, YMCA of Cape Cod, Upper Cape Technical High School, Barnstable Public Schools, and the Town of Harwich.

Salaries for the students ranged from \$8 to \$11 per hour, depending on the type of work performed. Higher salaries were paid to participants who were required to work with advanced equipment. We also provided a \$1 per hour bonus for participants who met a 95 percent attendance criterion. Each participant was required to complete a work readiness program called YES (Youth Employability Skills) that was developed by the Workforce Investment Board. The YES program met the federal requirement for the program that each youth attain job-readiness skills.

Sixty percent of our participants met the 95-percent attendance criterion, receiving the \$1 per hour bonus for all of the hours worked during the summer. Nearly 100 percent (232 out of 234) successfully completed the YES curriculum and received a certificate. About 75 percent of our participants were having their skill attainment measured through the use of the Massachusetts Work Based Learning Plan, a document that matches job skills with academic goals.

Our youths worked for six weeks, finishing the program the week of Aug. 17. They worked at some very interesting sites. One student was placed at the NPR station in Falmouth, WCAI. The job site matched his career goal as he will be studying communications at college this fall. He is also anticipating being able to intern at the station next summer.

A group of students was placed at the YMCA, specifically at Camp Lynden. Part of the thinking was that the Y would use the opportunity to identify future counselors for the summer camp, which they did. A number of this year's interns will be full-time camp counselors next year, a great result from our program.

Our program was required to work with at-risk youth. Approximately 80 of our participants came from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Department of Transitional Assistance TANF program.

All in all I am delighted to report that the Cape and Islands WIB and our program partner JTEC were able to operate a very successful summer youth employment program. We exceeded our original goal for the number of participants in our program and provided meaningful workplace experience to the young

people we served.

This program was operated nationwide. In Massachusetts, the numbers are quite impressive. More than \$21 million was invested in the program and more than 10,000 youths were employed.

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments about this or any other program that the WIB operates.

WIS BUSINESS PRESS RELEASES

Dept. of Commerce: Gov. Doyle announces grants to aid statewide community development efforts
8/31/2009

Contacts: Tony Hozeny, Department of Commerce, 608-267-9661
Carla Vigue, Office of the Governor, 608-261-2162

MADISON—Governor Jim Doyle today announced that 25 Wisconsin community-based organizations will share grants totaling \$640,900 from the Community-Based Economic Development (CBED) Program administered by the Department of Commerce (Commerce).

“By investing in our communities, we will grow Wisconsin by creating new economic opportunities and jobs for hardworking families,” Governor Doyle said. “I’m pleased to announce these awards that will leverage \$1,251,035 in additional investment.”

The projects are as follows:

Racine County Economic Development Corporation (RCEDC), Racine, Racine County, \$22,500 grant

RCEDC will receive funding to operate a kitchen incubator on the Racine lakefront, modeled after the successful kitchen incubator in Algoma. The incubator will seek to attract a wide range of entrepreneurs. The ultimate goal is successfully-incubated businesses will select downtown locations for future growth.

The Wisconsin Business Incubator Association (WBIA), Sturtevant, Racine County, \$21,000 grant.

WBIA is a largely volunteer organization made up of statewide incubator managers. Over the past 20 years, Wisconsin incubators have created over 1,000 successful businesses. WBIA will sue the grant for a project that will provide better training for existing incubator managers and create a technical service program for communities starting incubators.

River Alliance of Wisconsin, Racine, Racine County, \$25,000 grant

River Alliance of Wisconsin will use the grant to develop a plan for the Root River Urban Corridor in Racine. The project is a follow-up to a plan done in 2008 entitled “Back to the Root: An Urban Revitalization Plan”. The City of Racine hopes to follow-up the successful redevelopment of its lakefront and downtown with the revitalization of its riverfront.

Institute for Collaborative Health Interventions (ICHI), Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, \$17,890 grant

The institute has played a successful role in providing home health care services to many low-income individuals in Milwaukee. The organization has found that qualified home health care providers could deliver services at a far lower cost than large health care providers. ICHI will use its grant to find home health care providers interested in this market and provide the necessary administrative support to the providers.

Wisconsin Women’s Business Initiative Corp. (WWBIC), Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, \$85,000 grant.

WWBIC will receive funding to continue its many business assistance programs around the state. WWBIC makes nearly 50 loans a year to low-income, women, and minority entrepreneurs. It has continuously expanded services and attracted both federal and foundation funding. The organization has established a successful long-term collaboration with the Department of Commerce.

Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC), Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, \$10,000 grant

MATC will use the grant to perform a feasibility study for a joint incubator run by MATC and UW-Milwaukee. The proposal will focus on technology transfer programs taking place at both institutions and has the support of major economic development organizations in Milwaukee.

Northwest Side Community Development Corporation (NWCDC), Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, \$47,500 grant

NWCDC will use the grant to operate, expand, and develop a marketing plan for its incubator. DRS, a maker of defense equipment, is leasing unused space to NWCDC for an incubator expansion. Successful forms in the incubator include Paradigm Sensors and Universal Housing Systems.

Wisconsin Security Research Consortium (WSRC), Madison, Dane County, \$30,000 grant.

WSRC will use the grant to help Wisconsin companies statewide procure federal contracts, especially in the technology and defense areas.

Forward Community Investments (Forward), Madison, Dane County, \$30,000 grant

Forward will use the grant to help leverage \$2 million in funding from private sources that can be loaned to Wisconsin non-profits statewide. The grant will help Forward develop program criteria and materials, raise funds, market the program, and process 25 loans. Current economic conditions have increased the demand for services from non-profits.

Common Wealth Development Corporation (CWDC), Madison, Dane County, \$10,000 grant

CWDC will use the grant for a feasibility study for a food processing incubator in Madison focusing on locally grown products. Thrive, the regional economic development organization serving southern Wisconsin, and the Agricultural Innovation Center of the UW Extension are partners in the project. The study will include a detailed business plan.

Construction Training Incorporated (CTI), Madison, Dane County, \$15,000 grant.

CTI will receive funding to run a Skilled Trades Apprenticeship Readiness Training (START) program to help low-income minority and women workers pursue jobs in the skilled trades. Trade unions foresee a future shortage of skilled workers in Dane County because many of their members are nearing retirement age.

Door County Economic Development Corporation (DCEDC), Sturgeon Bay, Door County, \$22,500 grant

DCEDC will use the grant in partnership with the Kewaunee County Economic Development Corporation to continue retaining high school graduates in the area workforce. The project matches the skills of youth graduating from regional educational institutions with the needs of local employers. Over the past year, the program has expanded to include both boys and girls.

ADVOCAP, Berlin, Green Lake County, \$100,000 grant.

ADVOCAP will help Thill Logistics staff its new call center in Berlin. The business will create 150 jobs immediately and 350 in the next several years. ADVOCAP will find employees from a rural based workforce in a region where currently few job opportunities exist. The project will rely on the active participation of regional partners including the job center, technical colleges and economic development corporations.

Northwoods Nijii Enterprise Community, Incorporated, Menominee County, \$15,000 grant

Northwoods Nijii Enterprise Community, Incorporated, will operate a program to support entrepreneurial development among Native American youth. The project will recruit ten Native Americans to work as mentors for 100 economically and socially at-risk middle-school students on the Menominee Indian Reservation. The project will focus on financial literacy and will include an entrepreneurship project.

Benton Community Incubator, Benton, Lafayette County, \$13,000 grant

The Village of Benton constructed a small incubator in 2000. Demand on incubator space has recently increased. The grant will help fund operation of the incubator.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC), Spooner, Washburn County, \$30,000 grant.

NWRPC will use the grant to continue to operate the Northwest Enterprise Center Network of five incubators in Northwest Wisconsin. The network of incubators has generated more than 20 successful businesses, many that have been technology related. NWRPC has brought more than \$3 million in federal grants to the region to construct its incubator network. Growing occupancy levels show the entire network achieving a break-even point by 2011.

Wisconsin Ability Network (WAN), Brule, Douglas County, \$20,000 grant.

WAN provides marketing and product development services to statewide work centers for persons with disabilities. There are far more persons with disabilities looking for jobs than there are jobs available at the state's work centers. These centers are non-profit organizations partly funded by counties. WAN seeks to increase the centers' income so they can provide more jobs, increase wages and reduce reliance on government subsidies. The grant will pay for shared marketing efforts, technical assistance and new product development.

Walworth County Economic Development Alliance, Elkhorn, Walworth County, \$10,000 grant

WCEDA will use the grant to perform a feasibility study for an incubator in Walworth County. The county is in a high-growth area, but not currently served by an incubator. The project will be a joint Venture between WCEDA and Gateway Technical College. The venture will study the viability of finding opportunities for displaced workers to start businesses or find employment, and recommend ways Gateway Technical College can expand its business development services beyond its campus.

Western Dairyland Economic Opportunity Council, Inc. (WDEOC), Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, \$45,000 grant

WDEOC will use the grant to develop a business case management support team from area economic development organizations that will offer intensive, online support for the development and expansion of businesses that are believed to have high growth potential. The goal of the project is to create 50 new jobs for entrepreneurs or the employees of expanding small businesses.

Asset Builders of America, Inc., Madison, Dane County, \$20,000 grant.

Asset Builders of America, Inc. will use the grant to teach low-income students in Milwaukee about financial literacy and investing. The project will also help youth produce and begin to implement business plans. In addition, the organization will expand its services to include the Red Cliff Reservation, the Fox River Valley, Wausau and Racine/Kenosha.

Downtown Green Bay Charities, Inc. (DGBCI), Green Bay, Brown County, \$12,500 grant.

DGBCI will use grant to develop a plan for a wholesale retail food cooperative, a commercial kitchen incubator and a facility for education in food production topics. The project seeks to provide entrepreneurial opportunities for small food producers; will have several purposes; provide access to high quality locally grown food to downtown residents; and help revitalize part of the downtown. The project will build on the existing partnership of UW-Green Bay, Downtown Green Bay Charities, the City of Green Bay, Northwest Technical College the UW Center for Cooperatives and the UW-Extension.

New Richmond Area Economic Development Corp. (NRAEC), St. Croix County, \$25,000 grant

NRAEC will use the grant to help develop an incubator in New Richmond. It has already identified several potential clients, and hopes to take advantage of its location within the Twin Cities metropolitan Market.

Stoughton Redevelopment Authority (SRA), Dane County, \$10,000 grant

SRA will use the grant to perform a feasibility study for an incubator offering shared business services. The incubator is the next step in the community's plan to improve its downtown and provide local job opportunities.

La Crosse Area Development Corporation (LCADC), La Crosse, La Crosse County, \$40,000 grant

LCADC will use the grant to help finance a Center for Manufacturing Excellence in La Crosse. The project is a major collaborative effort that will help meet the need for manufacturing jobs in the region. Collaborators include the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, the City of La Crosse, the County of La Crosse, and the La Crosse Industrial Park Corporation.

Wisconsin Business Innovation Corporation (WBIC), Spooner, \$25,000 grant.

Will receive funds to continue a venture capital program to educate and attract investors and small growing businesses about the rural venture capital fund run by WBIC. The fund is made up of government and non-profit organizations who participate in an investment pool. It has achieved great success with some of its investments creating good jobs in Northwestern Wisconsin.

For more information on the CBED program, contact Doug Thurlow, Commerce, 608/266-7942.0

Monday, August 31, 2009

Schwarzenegger launches nation's largest state-sponsored green-job training program

Los Angeles Business from bizjournals



[View Larger](#)

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Monday announced the creation of the Clean Energy Workforce Training Program, the nation's largest state-sponsored green jobs training program.

The program will be funded by \$75 million from stimulus funds, public-private partnerships and state and local funding.

It will train more than 20,000 new or re-skilled clean energy workers to build a workforce capable of performing the jobs necessary to meet the state's goals of renewable energy development, climate change reduction, clean transportation and green building construction.

The program will target unemployed workers, particularly from the construction sector, existing workers requiring re-skilling to prepare for clean energy industry, low-wage workers and youth preparing to enter the workforce.

"By developing a highly trained workforce, ready and capable to perform clean energy jobs, we will be able to expand our clean energy industries and drive a strong green economy in the state. This program is critical because it will target unemployed, underemployed and new members of the workforce at a time when we must do everything possible to help Californians return to work," Schwarzenegger said in a statement.

Hitting Home: Summer Employment

Monday, 08/31/09

Lynne McCrea



VPR/Lynne McCrea

Jeb Partner

(Host) We continue our series about how the recession is "Hitting Home" with a look at summer employment.

The economic downturn has meant that many high school and college students faced a tight job market this season.

But as VPR's Lynne McCrea reports, federal stimulus money provided some young Vermonters with better-than-ever work opportunities.

(McCrea) Jeb Partner is one of a small crew of young people that's been restoring stonework at Hubbard Park in Montpelier.

(Partner) *"I'm just going to put some new mud in here, where these top caps fell off from the pillar..."*

(McCrea) He's been working here since June, after months of looking for a job.

(Partner) *"I've been struggling to find a job for a while until this. It's definitely been helpful, you know."*

(McCrea) Jeb, who is 23, was able to get this summer job through the Vermont Department of Labor. And it's thanks to federal stimulus money.

(Greenwood) *"It's been really great. I think we have put close to a thousand Vermont youth to work."*

(McCrea) Jim Greenwood is Director of Workforce Development at the Department of Labor. He says money from the stimulus package has doubled the funding for Vermont's summer work program - and that means many young people who would not have had summer jobs in the past ... were able to get work this year.

(Greenwood) *"And our criteria for our stimulus money was that we work with youth that are at risk - out of school, dropped out, haven't gotten a high school diploma yet... the goal here and the mission is to get kids interested in a career, and through this work experience we hope it will entice them to go back to school..."*



VPR/Lynne McCrea

Tamira Bushey

(McCrea) That's exactly what's happened for 21-year-old Tamira Bushey, of Barre. She's been working this summer as a dietary aid at a local nursing home ...

("You've got house diets, and DT diets - which is diabetics...")

Her job includes delivering trays of food to the residents, and washing dishes at the end of meals.

(Bushey) "I'd probably still be looking for work if it wasn't for the youth summer program. I was looking for a long time, and if I didn't find this job I'd probably be somewhere I didn't want to work".

(McCrea) More importantly, Tamira's job at the nursing home has inspired her to develop some new skills and explore a career in nursing.

(Bushey) "I like the kitchen-the kitchen is fun. But with the youth summer program, it's expanded my eyes to the whole medical field, being in a medical place. I'm actually going to be going for my LNA starting in September. And maybe I'll even go for my RN someday."

(McCrea) Tamira plans to start classes soon at Community College of Vermont - and she may just be part of a trend. Enrollment at the five state colleges is up 10% over last year.

The Chancellor of the state colleges, Tim Donovan, says a special program for high school students to take CCV courses tripled in use. And overall enrollment was up 15% over last summer - a number that Donovan calls 'significant'.

(Donovan) "There are a number of factors that could have influenced that, but I suspect that the absence of summer jobs - for high school students and young college students - may have been a factor"

(Sounds of stonework at Hubbard Park)

(McCrea) For Jeb Partner, a summer job at Hubbard Park brought some benefits along with a paycheck...

(Partner) "I've learned a lot about carpentry - not necessarily masonry because I've done this before - but I mean it's been a great experience to do some real work... and, I think I look a little more healthy, little more muscle tone, things like that..."

(McCrea) But in an economy that continues to be sluggish, what are the long term prospects for these summer employees?

Jim Greenwood of the Labor Department acknowledges it's not an easy job market.

(Greenwood) "Certainly that's a challenge. But yes, in certain sectors there are jobs - carpentry, if you look into the green industry, weatherization programs, etc. - and there is stimulus money to create jobs IN those arenas. Another one would be healthcare so, it has been very successful".

(McCrea) And that's what some of the participants in the youth work program hope for.

(Bushey) "It's been a great summer - working, learning, meeting friends. And now it's expanding on my education."

(McCrea) Like so many other young Vermonters, Tamira Bushey wants to build on her summer work experience and eventually move into a career that will offer stable, long term employment in the years ahead.

For VPR News, I'm Lynne McCrea.



September 2, 2009

More than just a summer job

*By Quest Lakes
Special to Dayton Courier*

There weren't many dry eyes at the awards dinner for about 40 Dayton area teens who recently completed the Comstock Youth Works summer job skills training, service learning, and internship program. The dinner ceremony, catered by Sierra Joe's, took about 2 hours because program coordinators Freida Carbery, Lavurne Jeffreys and Diane Kotik took time to share the achievements of each and every student with those attending the event. It was obvious from the hugs and words of encouragement that the adults and teens in the program had truly become allies in achieving the goals of the program over the summer. Carbery explained that those goals were to do quality work while in school, to gain work experience, to learn work readiness skills and to contribute to the life of the community.

Those 40 teen job-seekers dodged the unemployment bullet this summer when they earned entrance to an innovative job skills and summer employment program called Comstock Youth Works. The work was especially welcome since U.S. youths had less than a 30 percent chance of finding work this summer due to the recession.

Each teen applicant went through a program application process followed by several weeks of job skills classes on proper attire, punctuality, teamwork, resume writing and interview tips before going on to interviews with local businesses. Wendy Madson of Community Roots, one of the business owners who employed teens from the program, said, "The hard part about being young is that few want to hire you when you have no experience. This program breaks that cycle."

Dayton area communities responded warmly and made the most of stimulus funds for teen job skills and training this summer. As a result, local business owners have asked many of the teens to stay on beyond their paid summer internships for after school jobs in law, insurance, and medical offices and landscaping and restaurant businesses. Others have gone on to community college and other opportunities that they seized during the in-depth summer job skills training.

The federal stimulus funds became available in the spring of 2009 through NevadaWorks, but the catch was that it needed to be implemented immediately and with great efficiency and meticulous paperwork. Luckily, the Dayton area had two nonprofit agencies with stellar reputations both for working well with youths and for managing complex grants: Community Chest and Healthy Communities Coalition. In the Lyon region, Community Chest's Erik Schoen oversaw programs from Yerington to Silver City that not only trained and employed 100 youths in area businesses, but also guided them on community improvement projects such as creating and maintaining community gardens in Dayton and four other towns, and in the hard but rewarding physical labor of clearing dozens of senior citizen's yards, public parks, and nonprofit organization locations of possible fire hazards such as weeds and debris with help from Community Roots Landscaping staff.

Staff from the two nonprofit agencies worked long hours making sure the program not only complied with federal guidelines, but went above and beyond expectations with creative solutions to seemingly insurmountable problems. For example, many of the Dayton teens didn't have a way to get to their jobs.

Solution: local individuals and clubs donated used bikes; the teens repaired them and pedaled their way to work.

In another seemingly unsolvable situation, it seemed as if Silver City wouldn't be able to participate since it's a very small town with no businesses where youths could train. However, youths partnered with local adult volunteers who guided them through the process of taking a bare, rocky lot and transforming it into a thriving community garden. The teens then used the fresh vegetables from the community garden to help supplement culinary arts classes at the local community center with volunteer chef Cashion Callaway who taught them to create healthy gourmet meals with ingredients like with tofu, kaffir lime leaves, lemon grass, clams, ginger, and capers. As part of their culinary arts training, they learned how to shop on a budget, how to operate all the equipment in an industrial kitchen, how to serve meals in a professional manner at community events, and how to transform a utilitarian space at the community center into an inviting dining area with suitable lighting, presentation, and linens during community salad dinners.

Dayton business owners took a chance on not only hiring youths, but on actively training them and involving them in their businesses this summer. In return, the program paid the youth wages and continued to train the young people with classes such as conflict resolution, money management, and business etiquette. One of the speakers during the graduation ceremony was Dayton Chevron owner Ed Bernard who said, "We had an opportunity handed to us, although we were reluctant at first because we didn't know anything about the program. I'd like to tell business owners that this is a great program and a great way to reach out to youth in our community. We are proud of the work Elica (Moreno) did. She did everything we asked of her and more, and we've offered her a position at Chevron."

River Wrangler's Linda Conlin was also enthusiastic in her praise for her summer intern, Cora Jeffreys. Jeffreys developed a blog documenting her work helping to bring science concepts about river conservation and watersheds to the area through school field trips to the Carson River, Stillwater, and community events including the Environmental Festival at Fuji Park. Her blog can be found at <http://riverwranglers.blogspot.com>

CEO of NevadaWorks Tom Fitzgerald said he and his staff have been touched and impressed with the work they observed in all 23 programs throughout Nevada that trained 462 teens with similar job skills and internship programs this summer through NevadaWorks and stimulus funding. Fitzgerald said, "I congratulate each of you and look forward to hearing great things about all of you in the years to come."

It's clear that the young people's pay will go straight back into the economy. Many expressed a desire to help their families financially. Christy McGill of Healthy Communities Coalition commended this motive, noting that historically teens were much more involved in their communities and their families' lives, helping on farms and ranches and contributing to the family well-being through work and care for younger siblings and elders. She said, "We do a disservice to young people when we underestimate what they're capable of."



Provided to the Reno Gazette-Journal
Dayton Comstock Youth Works Coordinator Freida Carbery and recent program graduate Richard Marquez pause together during the program's recent end of summer celebration. During the summer Marquex interned at RiverVista Fitness, as well as completing a number of projects to enhance his community including the Dayton Community Garden

Other Voices: Stimulus dollars provide training, jobs for young adults

At a time when local government, schools and nonprofits are faced with multiple demands, the Summer Youth Employment Program has provided welcomed assistance. Federal stimulus money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was allocated to Nevada County to provide summer paid work experience. Stimulus funds allowed 60 young people between the ages of 16 and 24 to work in a variety of entry-level jobs throughout the county for 12 weeks.

Summer Youth connects young people to education and training programs that will assist them in entering and advancing in the workforce. The assigned worksites are responsible for introducing them to the rigors, rewards, and consequences associated with holding a job.

Bill Finley, Executive Director of the Private Industry Council, operates Nevada County's One-Stop Business and Career Center and runs the Summer Youth Employment Program in partnership with the Department of Social Services. "The real benefit of the program is to provide a service to the community while providing young people with real-world labor expectations," Finley says.

Participants work a 30 to 40 hour workweek and are paid \$8 to \$14 per hour. They work at 14 worksites throughout western and eastern county. Participating agencies include City of Grass Valley, Nevada County Library, Nevada County Building and Grounds, Nevada County Fairgrounds, 49er ROP Masonry Program, City of Nevada City, Union Hill School District, Chicago Park School District, Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce, Nevada County Human Resources, Truckee Donner Parks and Recreation District, and Nevada County Food Bank.

The results of the Summer Youth Employment Program can be seen throughout the County. Visit Pioneer Park and you will see new stone benches, retaining walls and planters that were built by instructor/contractor Ted McTighe and his crew of nine youth. The trainees spent weeks honing their skills through hands on instruction before putting their skills to work on city projects.

The materials were donated by Mason Contractors Association of America with the goal of fostering a new generation of masons.

Tomas is in his early 20s and worked for Nevada City since early summer. He moved to Nevada County several months ago with his wife and two young children to be closer to family. He has struggled to find employment locally, often visiting the One-Stop Business and Career Center seeking job leads. He has been working in the parks and enjoying every aspect of the job. When asked what he enjoys most about his summer work, he said "having responsibility."

City manager of Nevada City, Gene Albaugh said, "The Summer Youth Employment Program has been a godsend to the city. The young people have been excellent employees. They are reliable, smart and have been so helpful and go right to work on every assignment."

While the agencies and the public benefit from the skills of the participants, participants increase their awareness of services offered by local agencies. The program also provides opportunities for career instruction and social growth.

At age 18, Donald has been working on a crew for Nevada County Buildings and Grounds. He shows up every day on time and ready to work. His supervisor describes him as energized, hard working, and a

strong team player.

Donald is currently homeless and “couch surfing” at the homes of friends. He is hoping the Summer Youth Employment Program will provide him the experience he needs to find permanent employment.

He shared with his case worker the challenges of finding stable employment and the difficulty of finding a job when you do not have the education or employment history. The program reenergized Donald to go back to school while searching for a job.

Robin Gauldin, case manager for Private Industry Council, is responsible for overseeing the program for Nevada County. Robin observed that for some participants the work experience gave them the encouragement and confidence they needed to enroll in college or set career goals they never thought were possible.

Robin shared, “It is exciting to see young people who find their passion and a career path that they would never have been introduced to otherwise. Summer Youth has been successful on multiple levels.”

For more information on Summer Youth or other employment and training programs in Nevada County, please contact Nevada County One-Stop Business and Career Center at (530) 265-7088 or www.nevadacountyonestop.org.

Alison Lehman is director of social services for Nevada County.

<http://www.theunion.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090902/OPINION/909019957/1024/NONE&template=printart>

Workforce development program leaders celebrate first participants

By Matt Hawkins
Marion Daily Republican
Tue Sep 01, 2009, 08:41 AM CDT

Carterville, Ill. -

Community members and representatives of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity celebrated the first group of students to finish workforce development training through the federal Workforce Investment Act portion of the federal stimulus plan.

Baker and Sons Plumbing employee Bob Gravatt mentored Otto Welch, who completed an associate's degree in auto mechanics at John A. Logan College. Welch will stay with the business as a full-time employee while looking to his future.

"It was one of the best jobs I've had," Welch said. "They were nice people and very understanding."

Gravatt looked forward to Welch's future.

"He can use the experience with us as a stepping stone to further his career studies," Gravatt said.

Welch said he wanted to eventually work for an auto dealership.

The summer work program, administered through Man-Tra-Con in the region, matched 274 students in its first session with nearly 200 more to place in the second six to eight-week session.

More than 90 work sites hosted workers in the five-county region Man-Tra-Con serves.

"There's tremendous need (for this)," said Man-Tra-Con Youth Services Manager Roxanne Brewer-Coffey. "Because of the economic status of Southern Illinois, often the jobs youth are able to secure like Wal-Mart are taken by dislocated workers."

Students aged 16-24 were eligible to participate.

DCEO director Warren Ribley visited Monday's celebration at Kindling Spirits in Carterville. He also visited John A. Logan College and Man-Tra-Con in Marion.

Summer program integrated academics and work

Published 08/31/2009 - 5:38 p.m. CDT



West Orange – Stark High School student Evander Guillory speaking in the MCM Elegante' Ballroom about his summer work experience.

Thirty-five West Orange – Cove 21st Century Community Learning Center students attended the Workforce Solutions Southeast Texas and Powerzone Summer Celebration "Growing Our Own Destiny." They received a \$100 bonus, as well as a tee-shirt and MP3 player.

The event, held at the MCM Elegante' Hotel Ballroom in Beaumont, recognized achievements of 500 students, aged 14 – 21, served by the program. Through summer placement, students worked at 127 employers throughout the Golden Triangle.

The students learned job skills such as interviewing, completing applications, dressing for success, and also customer service /telephone techniques at employers which included Anderson Elementary, Farmers Insurance, nursing homes, Lamar State College, Texas Southern University, University of Houston and SHAPE Cultural Center.

Some students also served as mentors to younger students.

Evander Guillory and Jeran King, both West Orange – Stark High School students, were two of six student speakers who shared how the summer experience helped improve their work force preparedness.

Workforce Solutions also recognized the WO-C 21st Century CLC program for their partnership with the program.

Deborah Mitchell, Director of the 21st Century said, "This was a great opportunity for our students. They earned money and participated in college and career readiness activities. We would like to extend a special thank you to the Orange Workforce Solutions staff for including us in this program."

WOS Middle School and High School students, who qualified for Workforce Solutions, participated.

latimes.com/news/local/la-me-clean-work1-2009sep01,0,7261883.story

latimes.com

Gov. unveils new green job training program

The \$75-million plan would train workers for green-sector jobs, and is being aided with stimulus money.

By Phil Willon

September 1, 2009

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger came to Los Angeles on Monday to announce a new \$75-million "clean energy workforce training program," which he said would help train more than 20,000 workers for green-sector jobs.

The program is intended to train young workers and the unemployed to become solar installers, green-building designers and weatherization installers.

The state received \$20 million for the job-training effort from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The rest will come from the California Energy Commission, as well as community groups and educational institutions.

The announcement was made at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College.

phil.willon@latimes.com

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Stimulus funds employ 913 youth in Hampton Roads

By [Staff Report](#) | Suffolk News-Herald

Published Thursday, September 3, 2009

As Hampton Roads youth return to school, 913 of them will be able to say they worked hard over the summer, learned a lot and earned a paycheck.

Across the region, the young people, ages 14-24, received work training and employment this summer thanks to Opportunity Inc., Hampton Roads Workforce Development Board and federal stimulus funds.

Recognized by the U.S. Department of labor, the program funneled over \$1.5 million into the local economy, according to local officials.

Through a partnership among Opportunity Inc, its constituent localities and existing Youth Program contractor, the Summer Work Experience Program provided eight-week, 35-hours-per-week jobs with local government, non-profit and for-profit businesses. The Opportunity Inc. program was the largest of its kind in Virginia.

Participants worked in areas as diverse as education, information technology, finance, public works, fire, law enforcement, automotive maintenance, libraries, parks and recreation, gardens, community services boards, public housing, planning and real estate.

In Suffolk, 77 young people worked with various city departments, assisting city employees in their day-to-day duties.

In addition to job-specific skills — using a computer, helping an electrician, fixing a car, and the like — participants learned workplace readiness or “soft” skills through regular, formal instruction. These skills included, among other things, how to prepare a resume, job interview techniques and managing a personal budget.

Overall, the program was a huge success, according to Robert Sharak of Opportunity Inc. Young people earned \$1.5 million in salary to help stimulate the economy. In the process, they learned valuable work and life skills that they will take with them back to school this fall or, for those already out of school, directly into the workplace, he added.

Further, the OppInc One-Stop Workforce Center is assisting out-of-school youth in finding permanent jobs, thereby providing a seamless transition from the summer program into unsubsidized employment.

Opportunity Inc. is the staff organization for the Hampton Roads Workforce Development Board, serving eight localities in South and Western Hampton Roads. OppInc One-Stop Workforce Centers, a consortium managed by Opportunity Inc, operates three One Stop Workforce Centers in Norfolk, Franklin and Suffolk.

The organization serves the need of businesses for trained and qualified workers by supporting initiatives that develop the skills of adults and youth to meet the needs of today's and tomorrow's economy.

September 4, 2009

WORK ONE: Workforce Acceleration Grants can boost education

By *TRACY DISHMAN*

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development and Indiana Commission for Higher Education announced a new program to help Hoosiers pay the tuition of a two year college program, books and fees. The program, called the Workforce Acceleration Grant, or WAG, uses federal stimulus funds to pay up to \$3,000 per year for a student's expected family contribution, unfunded tuition costs, books and fees in an associate degree or vocational training program.

"In the past many students would be faced with thousands of dollars in unpaid tuition bills, even after Pell, SSACI and other scholarships," said Teresa Voors, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. "Gov. [Mitch] Daniels insisted Indiana make the best possible use of these one-time funds and nothing compares to helping Hoosiers acquire the college education or training they need to excel in the 21st Century workplace."

Workforce Acceleration Grant recipients can pursue areas of study at more than 50 colleges and universities in Indiana that provide occupational training leading toward an associate degree or certificate program. General studies, liberal arts, baccalaureate and graduate programs are not covered. A complete list of eligible schools can be found at www.Work-One.org.

Workforce Acceleration Grants are open to Hoosiers, aged 18 or older, who have a legal right to work in the United States and meet one of the below criteria:

- Low-Income participant
- Family receives federal, state, or local public assistance or total family income at or below federal poverty level (\$23,239 for family of four)
- Worker unemployed through no fault of their own or received notice of impending layoff or spouse of dislocated worker (earning less than 50 percent of family income) or self-employed, but business closed as a result of economic conditions.

Hoosiers interested in applying for a Workforce Acceleration Grant should visit their local WorkOne Center to determine their eligibility. Approximately 9,000 current students may qualify for a Workforce Acceleration Grant. Hoosiers can find their nearest WorkOne Center by visiting www.WorkOneWorks.com.

Many thanks to Marc Lotter, DWD media contact.

Tracy Dishman is the marketing director for WorkOne and Eastern Indiana Regional Workforce Board (EIRWB). Readers may write to Dishman at P.O. Box 1856, Muncie, Indiana 47308-1856 or tdishman@work-one.org.

Summer job program helps Idaho in recession

Thursday, September 3rd, 2009

By Roger B. Madsen

The last two years have tested our economic resilience, but Idaho is meeting the challenge. Even as our state moved from one of the nation's lowest unemployment and highest job creation rates to record unemployment and unprecedented job loss, over 800 young people received solid experience this summer that will go far in preparing them for their working careers as our economy rebounds.

In just three short months, a \$2.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor's share of the federal stimulus program was converted into eight-week summer jobs for 840 Idahoans between the ages of 14 and 24.

Beginning in June, government agencies and nonprofit organizations provided jobs for the department's Summer Youth Employment Program at 130 sites across Idaho for these young people, most of them from low-income families. They worked in offices, museums, libraries, parks, schools and maintenance operations.

More than three dozen youth crews of five each fanned out across Idaho's forests and range lands, building and maintaining trails, helping crews reduce fuel loads that can aggravate fire, enhancing wildlife habitat and restoring damaged ecosystems as part of the Idaho Youth Conservation Corps.

Working under supervisors eager to help them succeed, these young people learned new skills and received a real-life work experience that will help them make decisions down the road about their futures. Just as importantly, they learned how important it is to show up for work on time, develop relationships, cooperate with others, show initiative, work safely and get the job done. These are things that will serve them well no matter what future path they choose.

While the federal government provided the money to make this program a reality in 2009, we are investigating partnerships with nonprofit groups and others that will allow Idaho to continue offering this kind of work experience to hundreds more young people in summers to come. Governor Butch Otter recently said he sees the potential for partnerships with the private sector in coming years.

The work ethic that this experience can establish has been the foundation of Idaho's economy for more than a century. It is what makes Idaho workers one of our state's most effective incentives for existing businesses to expand and new businesses to open or relocate from elsewhere in the United States.

Some of the young people in this summer's employment program and the Idaho Youth Conservation Corps found regular jobs as a result of their involvement and are already part of the expanding labor pool that Idaho businesses will be tapping as the economy begins expanding again.

The Idaho Department of Labor is working with employers to maintain their payrolls now, and the Workforce Development Training Fund is ready to reimburse them for the cost of training workers for new jobs during the expansion.

Our economic foundation in Idaho is solid. The 840 young people who were part of this summer's employment and conservation corps initiatives show it. That's why our economy did not crumble during what has been the worst recession since World War II. We have learned a lot since the dark days of the early 1980's recessions about diversity and investment and the importance of human capital.

The quality of Idaho's work force — from the most experienced to its newest entrants — the commitment of our business leaders and the confidence of every Idahoan is responsible for our state navigating this economic downturn and being prepared to take full advantage of the opportunities that the future holds — especially for our young people.

That is what we celebrate this Labor Day.

- Roger B. Madsen is the director of the Idaho Department of Labor and a former state senator from southwestern Ada County.

September 6, 2009

Central Wisconsin puts focus on 'green' energy

*By Nathaniel Shuda
Central Wisconsin Sunday*

With renewable energy becoming an increasingly popular topic across the country, central Wisconsin leaders hope to be on the cutting edge as demand grows.

Mid-State Technical College classes have begun for two new renewable energy programs, and three others already were in place. Demand is fueling the need for a sustainable/renewable energy training center at the school's Wisconsin Rapids campus, officials said.

"This is a really solid start," Mid-State President John Clark said Monday during a meeting with U.S. Rep. Dave Obey, D-Wausau. "We're hoping (others) will be using this as a pattern for future projects."

Leaders hope to use a \$428,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, which Obey earmarked within President Barack Obama's \$410 billion budget bill earlier this year, to purchase solar panels, wind turbines and other lab equipment.

Mid-State also is working with leaders at Energy Composites Corp. in Wisconsin Rapids and the North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board to develop a first-of-its-kind curriculum for wind-energy and composites training, an endeavor for which the board recently garnered a \$100,000 grant from the state Department of Workforce Development.

Energy Composites continues its efforts to obtain LEED Platinum certification for its planned 350,000-square-foot manufacturing plant that will produce blades for industrial wind turbines in Wisconsin Rapids, President Jamie Mancl said.

"We're trying to put everything together," Mancl said Tuesday, after a closed session meeting with the Wisconsin Rapids Common Council to discuss the company developer's agreement with the city. "It's going to take some time, but we're still on schedule."

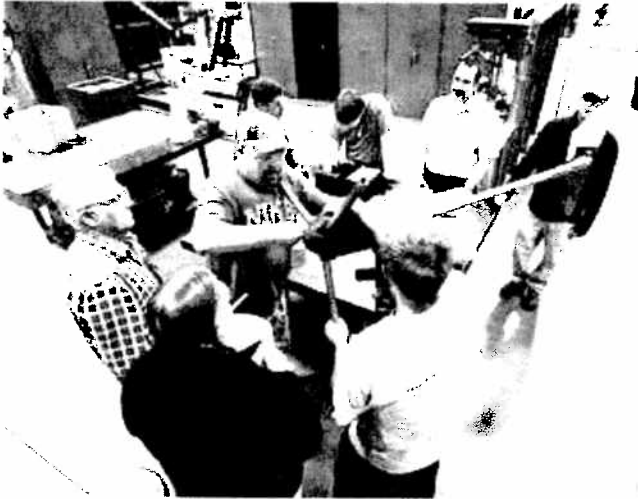
Energy Composites isn't the only company that has been working on such a certification.

The Mead Wildlife Area Education & Visitor Center, near Milladore, announced Wednesday it received LEED Platinum Green Building Certification status, the highest level of sustainable design.

Central Wisconsin municipalities also are part of the trend, as the Marshfield, Wisconsin Rapids and Stevens Point city councils passed resolutions in support of the state's "25x25" initiative to increase the use of renewable energy 25 percent by 2025.

It is that statewide goal that has, in part, led officials to pursue any and all opportunities that appear viable in the renewable energy sector, said Al Javoroski, dean of Mid-State's Technical & Industrial Division.

"If you go back a couple years when they started talking about this, we have taken a proactive approach," Javoroski said. "Renewable energy is a part of everything we do."



Students at Mid-State Technical College assemble a wind turbine system in class. The wind installation program is a new class offered in the electrical technician program at the college. (Tom Loucks/Central Wisconsin Sunday)

Stimulus money used to clean up park

Thursday, September 03, 2009 | 7:58 PM



By Karina Rusk

SAN LEANDRO, CA (KGO) -- This week it will be 200 days since President Barack Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, a massive federal program to create jobs by infusing cash into local communities. Some of that stimulus money is being used to clean up an environmental hazard in the Bay Area.

The buzz of activity on a two acre lot in San Leandro is federal stimulus money at work.

"I'm glad to be out here, glad to be working," construction worker Robert Short said.

The \$120,000 contract went to O.C. Jones and Sons out of Berkeley. The company did not hire any new employees for the job but is managing to avoid layoffs in a recession.

"We're bidding on every job we can get our hands on right now, trying to stay busy, and we're doing a pretty good job getting our share," project manager Darren Hiatt said.

For more than a decade, a former oil storage facility sat vacant, too contaminated for redevelopment.

Now, the Environmental Protection Agency is doling out a total of \$200 million nationwide for these very specific shovel ready projects. California's share is nearly \$16 million.

"They wouldn't be on the job today if it wasn't for the stimulus money," EPA spokesperson Steven Linder said.

There are about 150 sites across California where no one is taking responsibility for the cleanup, where the smell the gas in the dirt is in the air.

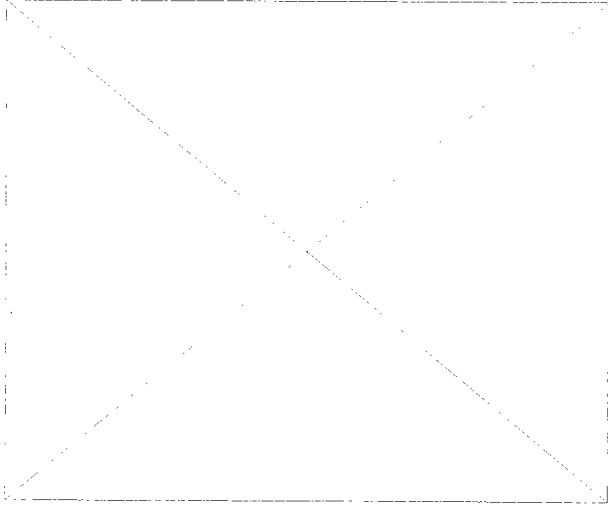
The stimulus money is aimed at creating or saving jobs and at the same time cleaning up the environment. The San Leandro site is the first of its kind in the state to benefit from the recovery act.

"We expect to start seeing, probably actually start seeing, work out in the field another dozen projects in the next 30 days so it's starting to move, it's moving," State Water Resources Control Board spokesperson Judy Reid said.

The short term economic stimulus is just the beginning. The lot will become a park and youth center, creating construction jobs and even more employment down the line.

"Once the center is up and running, we will employ youth to provide services to youth and community-based organizations to provide services to youth," youth center supporter Darryl Stewart said.

The park portion of the project will be ready next year, the youth center is scheduled to open in 2012.



State Commerce Director congratulates area youth workers, local labor

09/04/2009, 12:16 am

[Comment on this story](#)

Steve Stout, steves@mywebtimes.com 815-431-4082

Warren Ribley, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity director, visited Buffalo Rock State Park Thursday to review the completed carpentry work of area youths and local labor professionals involved in the state's Summer Youth Program.

Speaking before a gathering of local dignitaries and union officials, Ribley said, "The objective of the Summer Youth Program was to provide young people with real-world work experience, skills to make them employable and exposure to growth sectors. Their work will literally stand as a testament to this early experience in their career."

The director said the statewide program was funded by federal stimulus dollars provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. He told the group, in Illinois, almost 10,000 youths ages 14 to 24 were placed in jobs that provided benefits for communities and parks.

Locally, 135 youths were given summer work throughout La Salle County in the recently completed program, which partnered the DCEO with the Department of Natural Resources and Business Employment Skills Team — the local Workforce Investment Act program administrator, which helped to arrange the local projects.

At the Buffalo Rock and other work sites, those agencies in turn worked with local unions, Carpenters Local 195 and Cement Masons Local 11, to provide labor professionals with the experience to guide four young people in woodworking and concrete construction.

Norman Perona and Garry "Steve" Leckmuhl from Local 195 and Ron Eisert from Local 11 supervised the inexperienced crew through their first jobs of their lives. Together, they built 56 park benches, 12 flower pots, 72 picnic tables, two bird feeders and one wishing well. Cement slab walkways were poured at Buffalo Rock to hold some of the new construction pieces.

"We were very pleased to be able to offer this opportunity to our crew and really appreciated the cooperation of the two unions," said Pam Furlan, executive director of BEST.



Photo: The Times/Steve Stout

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Director Warren Ribley (left) congratulates Tony Lebeau of Ottawa for his carpentry skills in building a wishing well at Buffalo Rock State Park as part of a job provided by the state's Summer Youth Program. The 18-year-old was one of four local young men who toiled with local union members to build various benches and tables for area cities and parks. In all, almost 135 La Salle County youths were employed in the program.

Gary Grabowski, Local 195 business agent, praised the program.

"These kids had never had a job before and never been exposed to a work ethic. Our instructors taught them everything from how to estimate materials and costs using a pattern to (actual) construction," he said.

"Taking the project from plan to completion was a good life skills lesson," Grabowski concluded.


Ribley agreed. Pointing to 18-year-old Tony Lebeau of Ottawa, one of the local workers, the director said, "Because of this program, young men like Tony can acquire skills for a productive future."

The new tables and benches have been delivered to communities and parks throughout the area, including Streator, Marseilles and Earlville.

Work gives lives direction after prison

By FELICIA THOMAS-LYNN

Posted: Sept. 5, 2009

 [enlarge photo](#)



Rick Wood

Tony Garcia (second from left) talks with participants in the Task Force on Work Reform for Men of Color about paving equipment. Gathered Tuesday along N. 51st St., south of W. Capitol Drive were Kevin Frazier (left), Jason Latimore, Termaine Smith, Kelvin Moore and Derrick Hawkins.

Wisconsin Community Services

- **Mission:** To advocate for justice and community safety, providing innovative opportunities for individuals to overcome adversity.
- **Address:** 3732 W. Wisconsin Ave., Suite 200, Milwaukee, WI 53208
- **Phone:** (414) 290-0400

For the first time in a long time, Termaine Smith's life has purpose.

Instead of being ruled by the dictates of the streets - selling drugs and serving time - Smith wakes up every day with a productive agenda before him.

He is one of the first men to be tapped to participate in a new, intensive prison-release program that places former inmates into jobs or paid training, essentially redirecting their paths as soon as they set foot outside the prison gates.

"This is a perfect opportunity. Everything is coming back together," said Smith, who has been gaining critical work skills in the construction trade as part of the Task Force on Work Reform for Men of Color. The unemployment rate is particularly high among black men.

So far, 22 men are enrolled in the program, which began in July, with the hope of reaching 140 in the next year. It is part of a major collaborative effort being led by Wisconsin Community Services.

For decades the agency has been on the forefront of helping offenders and ex-offenders find and keep jobs by offering education, vocational and job-readiness training, case management and job placement services.

"The incarcerated population is usually viewed as a forgotten society," said Gregory Williams, assistant executive director of the agency. "For many of them, this is the first time someone has given them a chance to look at themselves and address their abilities to keep a job and do well."

In addition to the Men of Color program, which is funded partially through a \$125,000 county grant, the agency also has programs in place at the County Correctional Facility-South, formerly the House of Correction; the Community Justice Resource Center; and at two community-based employment and training centers.

"What's important is that people need second chances," said Nicole Angresano, vice president for community impact for the United Way of Greater Milwaukee, which has provided \$400,000 in grants to the agency over the past four years.

"This is a tough climate anyway for jobs, and people with barriers have more of a difficult time."

On average, 95% of Wisconsin Community Services participants successfully complete their education and training classes, said Douglas M. Bartz, the agency's case management supervisor.

From 2004 through 2008, an average of 83% of participants who worked with the agency to find employment were successful in reaching that goal, he said.

Williams said the need for such prison-release services has never been greater. "The number of people who are coming out of prison is staggering," he said. "A job is a catalyst for most folks to return to their community and have the impetus to do better and become more responsible."

Smith is a prime example. He and four other men are in the beginning of a paid 12-week job training program at Eaton's Asphalt Service Inc., the program's first business partner.

"It has worked out perfectly," said Karen Eaton, whose company is giving the men hands-on paving experience and the necessary training to obtain their commercial driving license and Occupational Safety and Health Administration certification.

"They really have good attitudes and work ethic," she said. "They appreciate someone having faith, confidence and trust in them."

One of the men, Jason Latimore, has already passed the exam to become a construction apprentice.

"Now that I've passed it, I'm going to take advantage of that and keep going forward on a better path," Latimore said. "My advice to other black men is not to ever think that something is out of your range. Get a plan and stick with it."

Faces of Hope focuses on Milwaukee-area people who need a hand and the organizations that are helping them. Starting this Sunday for the next several weeks, the feature will highlight United Way-funded nonprofit organizations in Milwaukee and Waukesha counties during the fund-raising campaign.

cdispatch.com original URL: <http://www.cdispatch.com/news/article.asp?aid=2808>

Job training prepares students for the future

SEPTEMBER 6, 2009 6:24:00 PM

KRISTIN MAMRACK

Employers showing confidence in Columbus High School students are being rewarded with motivated, dependable and cost-effective employees.

And the students gain valuable work experience.

In its second year of operation, a cooperative education program at CHS is preparing students for successful careers by helping them acquire skills through vocational programs at CHS' McKellar Technology Center, then placing them in professional positions, through a network of cooperative industries and employers, allowing them to utilize their skills.

Currently, 20 students are in the cooperative program, working at various job sites, including, the Columbus Air Force Base Commissary, Sonic Drive-In, Taco Bell, Malco theater, Waffle House, McAllister's Deli, Waters Truck and Tractor, Auto Spa, Southern Family Market, Pizza Hut, Columbus Light and Water, JR's Restaurant and Texaco, Sunflower, Wendy's, Elm Lake Clinic and Sports Specialty.

Of the 20 students in the program, seven are working in the Golden Triangle Industrial Park at job sites, including Stark Aerospace and American Eurocopter.

A senior at CHS, Graham Young, 17, Tuesday will begin working at American Eurocopter, where he'll likely help with tracking spare parts and certification documents, and record-keeping, while observing the skills required of the company's aircraft mechanics.

"I am really excited, because it's going to give me skills and experience I'll need later on in life for college and other jobs," he said.

The general manager of the Columbus American Eurocopter plant and senior director of the facilities, Bruce Riekels, was instrumental in helping get the cooperative program off the ground, Columbus Municipal School District officials said.

After a tour of the McKellar Technology Center, Riekels invited all 22 businesses in the industrial park for a meeting, with lunch provided by American Eurocopter, to discuss the program.

"I was shocked by how neat the facilities were and how big the program at McKellar was," he recalled." It was most astounding to find out bunches of students were qualified, but they had no transportation to the industrial park."

CMSD Superintendent Dr. Del Phillips agreed to provide a school bus for transportation for the students to and from their job sites at the industrial park.

"It was a real godsend," Riekels said, noting most of the cooperative businesses will employ the students for the entire school year and the summer.

The student employees are treated like regular, full-time employees and, additionally, will receive training in effective interviewing techniques and developing resumes.

Each students' supervisor will be required to sign the student's report cards and will be encouraged to mentor the student.

"We're anxious to get over this (economic downturn), so we can expand the program," Riekels said. "It's American Eurocopter's goal to include West Point and Clay County, Starkville and Oktibbeha County. We feel strongly about that, because we've got employees who live in all those areas. As the industrial park grows, there will be more opportunity out here.

"We feel there's more to economic development than buildings," he continued, noting American Eurocopter employees were challenged to "find ways to support the community." "It's our responsibility to help the community develop the workforce. We grow our people in Columbus."

Employing CHS cooperative program students helps the company accomplish its goal, Riekels said.

"We get a motivated employee at a low price," he explained, noting the students are paid minimum wage. "We'll be partnering with the community, developing a long-term workforce. It gets the news out about what we do here and hopefully, these students will go back and spread the word American Eurocopter encourages students to pursue higher education and to develop additional skills to put some purpose to their educational experience."

To participate in the cooperative program, students must maintain grades higher than a C average, have a 95 percent or better attendance record and a clear discipline record.

Each participating student also is required to sign a code of ethics, promising to report for work on time and remain as scheduled, be honest in all dealings with work, supervisors and employers, wear proper attire and be well groomed, not receive visitors on the job, comply with company and school policies and act in a manner positively reflecting CHS, fellow classmates, the cooperative education program and the student.

Kristin Mamrack is a staff reporter for The Commercial Dispatch.

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September 6, 2009

Work & Learn

Think it's hard to find a job? Try being young and inexperienced. A summer program helped these teens

By Sam Craig
of The Chronicle

Trying to find work in this recession is tough enough, but being young and in need of a job can be an almost impossible proposition.

The Mid-Columbia Council of Governments spent the summer helping people in their teens and early twenties find work and, through classes and seminars, taught them skills they'll need to advance in their future careers.

MCCOG's Summer Career and Technical Training Program isn't aimed at just getting young people employed; they're focused on future success. Shelly Rabinowitz, MCCOG advisor and instructor, said the program's curriculum is aimed at giving a leg up to those who are just entering the workforce.

"We cater to youths ages 14 to 24, just for the summer period, who would like to gain on-the-job work experience," Rabinowitz said. "Within this program, they go through work readiness training. That consists of going through career exploration, work ethics, what it takes to be a good employee, interviewing, cover letter writing, resume writing, filling out applications—all those things that make a well-rounded, successful person on the job."

The Summer Career and Technical Training Program also offered employment experience at multiple places around the area. Home at Last animal shelter, the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, Habitat for Humanity, the Oregon Veterans Home and Mid-Columbia Medical Center all opened their doors to young people looking to get work experience. That has been key, Rabinowitz said, in helping them to find work in the future.

"People come from all walks of life," she said. We have kids who come in who have never had a job before; kids who are high school graduates and are attending college; some who are trying to complete their GED; we have some who are homeless — some couch surfers — that may be out there wandering and looking for a purpose. Our goal is to help all of them to find a purpose and gain these skills where they can be transferable to other jobs, and maybe even be hired on by these organizations after the summer."

Finding employers willing to hire people with little or no experience was fairly easy, Rabinowitz said. They're happy to have workers, and the kids are happy to have jobs, if only for the summer. Sometimes those jobs work into a paid staff position, as in the case of Cassandra Wood, who worked through the program at the Discovery Center.

Wood worked in the café, the gift shop and did other tasks related a retail position before being hired on by supervisor Karen Austin. Impressed with her skills, Austin thought Wood would make an excellent addition to the staff, and is looking for more people with the skills she needs for next year.

"It's been a win-win situation for us to have someone here with skills and [we] can add to their skills to make them more employable, and it doesn't cost us money to do that," Austin said.

MCCOG offers multiple other work programs for adults, but this is the first year they've had a young adult program. Through a federal stimulus grant, the program was able to offer job training to people who otherwise might not have had an inside look at how industry works. The program has inspired some to go on with their education.

"We have had some kids who have had a very successful experience," Rabinowitz said. "At the Oregon Veterans Home, we have two gals working there who are interested in possibly pursuing their education and becoming Certified Nursing Assistants."

Students with disabilities were able to partake in the program as well. Students from the North Wasco County Transitional Learning Center got janitorial jobs at MCMC. Using rags, cleaning products and dusters, TLC students, some with severe mental handicaps to the point where they couldn't speak, were able to perform their tasks and impressed hospital staff at the same time.

"The students are particularly impressed with the good feeling of having a job and helping others," TLC Coordinator Lynn Stephens said. "The MCMC staff has been very appreciative of their contributions, which makes them very proud and excited. The students have the days marked on their calendars at

home and know when it is their day and time to go. They are so excited to get to go to work, that they can hardly wait. They also want to dress properly and are willing to have improved behavior everywhere to be able to go.”

Students get ID badges, MCMC volunteer aprons and cleaning supplies, and after a parent signs a permission slip they get to work dusting, polishing and wiping down tables, windows, chairs and keeping the hospital spotless. After working, TLC students are given a coupon that lets them grab a snack at the hospital cafeteria.

There has been carryover at home for this real-world work, too, Stephens said.

“One young woman went to the garage, got the wheel barrow, pushed it out to the pine cones in the back yard and began loading up the wheel barrow,” Stephens said. “This has been her job for a long time, but it was the first time she did it on her own. She was delighted when her mom paid her \$5 at the end of the day for doing such a fabulous job.”

Rabinowitz’s says involvement in the program has grown on her, getting her more directly involved with workers than she thought she might be.

“It’s been a really rewarding experience,” Rabinowitz said. “We have a lot of kids working over at Home at Last. That’s worked out great. I ended up fostering two kittens because of them. The things you get into.”

Youth group ends summer on high note

Posted By [GCNT](#) On September 7, 2009 @ 4:54 pm In [Faith](#) | [No Comments](#)

By Patricia Lait
Citizen Journalist

As fall classes begin for students, many are left with fond memories of summer break: working part-time jobs, hanging out with friends, spending time at the pool, taking family vacations and attending summer camps.



Newcastle, England. JAYNA DUCKENFIELD, CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

For a group of local teens, however, their memories also include a special trip abroad to England.

Wake Christian Academy junior Jayna Duckenfield joined her youth group from Calvary Chapel of Cary in traveling across the Atlantic to Newcastle, England, and partnering with a sister church for the purpose of ministering to the kids of that town.

The youth group spent many hours at The Green, an area in the center of the city used as a popular hangout and meeting place for teens. There they met the locals and spent time getting to know them. Many of these young people were invited to The Basement, a coffee shop affiliated with the church in Newcastle where they could talk openly about their faith.

"They were all very nice and very open about their beliefs," Duckenfield said. "They also thought it was very cool that Americans came to Newcastle just to get to know them."

The 10-day trip also involved service work for the Newcastle church where the teens helped with cleaning and painting projects. Time was also reserved for sightseeing and visiting Wesley Square, the spot where Methodist church founder John Wesley delivered many of his celebrated sermons.

Duckenfield said that, given the opportunity, she would like to go back to England. She said she enjoyed talking to other kids her own age about Jesus.

"I guess the biggest thing that I really got out of the trip is letting God work through me," she said. "As a Christian, that is something that I should do daily, but it was neat going overseas and being able

to interact with others and genuinely listen to their beliefs and get to know where they come from and then be able to share the light with them.”

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Program sponsors training for 30 nurses

Posted: 2009 Sep 04 - 00:48



By Samantha Joseph

Staff writer

MARTIN COUNTY - Stephanie Reynolds, a sophomore at Indian River State College, feels she's discovered a secret.

The 19-year-old nursing student returned to class about two weeks ago, gifted with a scholarship that covers the full cost of tuition, plus lab fees, uniforms or scrubs, books, and equipment, such as a blood pressure cuff and stethoscope.

The money came from Workforce Solutions, a private nonprofit that aids jobseekers and businesses.

It is part of a \$340,430 grant the group secured from Workforce Florida as part of an effort to increase the number of healthcare workers in the state.

"Workforce Solutions is definitely the best-kept secret, because I had no idea of what they were and what they could do for me," Ms. Reynolds said. "I really couldn't believe it when they told me what they what they had to offer. They pretty much covered the cost of everything."

Workforce Solutions' grant allows Indian River State College to train up to 30 registered nurses, and covers part of the cost for certifying 10 clinicians to work in critical care, said Gwenda Thompson, the group's chief executive officer.

It will mean more nurses for local hospitals and other healthcare providers on the Treasure Coast, she added.

"They're in great demand, and all around, this is a really great opportunity," said Odaly Victorio, Workforce Solutions' communications coordinator.

For the college, the program offered a chance to respond to a public need.

"The grant will enable IRSC to expand training opportunities, helping to combat the nursing shortage in our area," said Jane Cebelak, dean of health science.

For students such as Ms. Reynolds, it's lifted a financial burden and enabled her to register for additional classes.

"Without the program, I wouldn't have been able to start until January, so this helps a lot," she said.

The Washington Post

As Summer Jobs Program Grows, Fenty Requests Funding Increase

By Nikita Stewart
Washington Post Staff Writer
Sunday, April 26, 2009

D.C. Mayor Adrian M. Fenty said the city needs \$45 million to operate its annual summer youth jobs program, which is shaping up to have its largest number of participants since the 1980s as young people seek work to provide for their families.

The request to the D.C. Council will be more than double the \$21 million originally budgeted to accommodate an expected 15,000 applicants. As of last week, more than 20,000 youths had registered online -- an indication that the number will surpass that of last year, when the city hired more than 21,000 young people. The registration deadline is Friday.

Last year's program was mired in mismanagement and cost overruns. Fenty's administration is trying to prevent a recurrence by reducing the number of contractors that will employ youths and by keeping better track of participants and their paychecks.

Fenty (D) and city officials used a Southeast neighborhood as a backdrop for a news conference last week. They said young people need to earn money for more than school clothes this year: They will be breadwinners.

"They're really providing income for their whole family because of the economic condition right now," Joseph P. Walsh Jr., acting director of the Department of Employment Services, said in an interview.

Fenty spoke on the front lawn of the East of the River Clergy-Police-Community Partnership, a nonprofit entity where 23 summer jobs participants will work. Before the event, he wandered over to a small group of young men standing across the street.

"My man Fenty jumped out of the hybrid and came over here. Never too big to say what's happening," said Julio Perez, 25, referring to the mayor's Smart car. "I'm too old [for the program]. He told me about an apprenticeship program. . . . I don't want a job. I need to have a skill. I have too many mouths to feed."

Pointing to two youths standing beside him, he added: "They're young enough. Mayor Fenty came over here and leaned on them a little bit."

The young men said they would register by Friday because they cannot find other jobs.

District residents must be between 14 and 21 years old for the program, which begins June 18 and runs just over nine weeks.

Fenty said he will ask the council to tap the Community Benefit Fund, a revenue fund created when the city approved the construction of Nationals Park. By law, the fund is supposed to be used for recreation centers, libraries, small-business development, job training and readiness programs and other "community benefits."

The mayor said he wanted to take about \$24 million from the fund for the jobs program. The fund has \$23.4 million available, said David Umansky, a spokesman for the office of the chief financial officer.

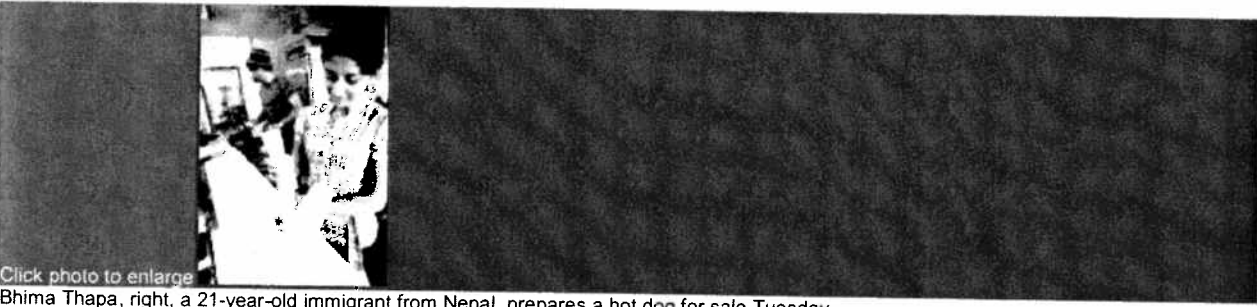
Last year, some council members balked at the mayor's request to use the fund for earmarks for various organizations, eventually settling on some of his choices and more council choices.

The fund is "available for pressing community needs," Fenty said. "It's the administration's position that it fits."

With summer over, 3,400 East Bay youths employed by a jobs program a little bit richer

By [Matt O'Brien and Katy Murphy](#)
[Bay Area News Group](#)

Posted: 09/07/2009 01:37:20 PM PDT
Updated: 09/09/2009 08:49:57 AM PDT



Click photo to enlarge
Bhima Thapa, right, a 21-year-old immigrant from Nepal, prepares a hot dog for sale Tuesday,...



As summer comes to a close, hundreds of East Bay students have returned to school with tales of working for something big — the nation's economic recovery — alongside scientists, crime scene investigators, maintenance crews and short-order cooks.

A summer jobs program funded by the federal economic stimulus employed about 3,400 disadvantaged teens and young adults throughout the East Bay and put more than \$3 million in their wallets.

Some of the jobs were mundane, others illuminating, but they were all jobs that employers didn't have to pay for. Organizers say they want to work through the glitches and try it again next year.

"Youth were literally helping their parents this summer with groceries," said Rosario Flores, of Alameda County's Workforce Investment Board.

Flores calls it "the fast and the furious program" because of the short timeline. But with so many people out of work, she said, it was important to have in place.

Martin Pena, 20, a San Leandro High School graduate, updated Geographic Information Systems maps for the East Bay Municipal Utility District, which was replacing pipes and adding water hydrants this summer. Pena is taking welding courses at Chabot College in Hayward, and he said the internship gave him valuable insight into the planning and detail that go into such large-scale projects.

"It gave me a whole new perspective about what engineering is," he said.

This sort of opportunity isn't easy to come by, Pena said. If it weren't for the program, he'd still likely have a job — at a retail outlet warehouse — but not one that would help him build skills or advance his career, he said.

Learning how to cook gourmet hot dogs and operate a cash register was not one of the skills that Oakland resident Bhima Thapa, 21, planned on acquiring when she arrived in the United States in April.

But that's what the refugee from Bhutan did through the jobs program this summer, and the work was illuminating in its own way.

"They had never seen a hot dog in their lives or know what relish is," said Amin Soleimani, who employed Thapa and two other Bhutanese refugees at his O My Dawg restaurant in Jack London Square.

Thapa was one of several new immigrants, many of whom struggle with English and have no American work experience, who found temporary jobs at the restaurant and a cluster of nearby businesses.

"(The program) paid for the labor," Soleimani said. "In return, I trained them and tried to basically use total immersion, in terms of the English language and conversation."

In Contra Costa County, Leonard Gonzales said the program hired many youths who were in foster care, who were pregnant or parents or who had been juvenile offenders.

"For a good number of them, this was probably the first time they had ever been in a work environment," Gonzales said.

A biotech company in Concord had about nine youths working at the quality control laboratory or helping with shipping, receiving and accounting. The employees left at the end of the summer with rave reviews, and one has been hired full-time.

"We wouldn't have known about them (without the program)," said Carla Cayson, a human resources coordinator for BioCare Medical. "We wouldn't have known where to go find them."

California was slated to get \$188 million of the \$1.2 billion programmed nationwide for youth work programs through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. About \$5 million went to the workforce development boards of Alameda and Contra Costa counties, and another \$2.7 million to Oakland and \$742,000 to Richmond, which ran their own city programs.

For most agencies, this was the first subsidized jobs program for local youth since 1999. Richmond, however, had a locally funded project in place for four years but was able to hire an extra 160 youths through the federal grant — making the city's program the biggest per capita in the state.

"Richmond has actually become a go-to program," said program coordinator Jay Leonhardy. "We were fielding calls from all over the country all summer long."

Some of the new programs hit snags. In July, more than 100 people working in the Peralta Foundation's Oakland Green Civic Program weren't paid on time, and they came to the Oakland Private Industry Council office, demanding to know why.

Pedro Toledo, director of program oversight for the industry council, said many of the youth in question lacked the proper paperwork, but they were paid shortly after the demonstration. Participants nationwide had to provide tax forms, letters documenting public assistance, birth certificates and other documents to prove that they were legally permitted to work inside the United States, that their family income was below the given threshold, and that they were between the ages of 14 and 24.

"The eligibility requirement is quite heavy," Toledo said.

Still, Toledo said that the program has been a success so far, considering that 10 of the 13 organizations responsible for handling the paperwork and placing kids in jobs were going through the process for the first time.

Summer jobs for East Bay youth

Oakland: 1,029 youths employed

Grant: \$2.73 million

Paid to youth: \$1.5 million (\$877,000 paid so far)

Lead agency: Oakland Private Industry Council / Oakland Workforce Investment Board

Contra Costa County (other than Richmond): 997 youths employed

Grant: \$2.5 million

Paid to youth: \$1 million

Lead agency: Contra Costa [Youth@Work](#) / Contra Costa Workforce Development Board

Alameda County (other than Oakland): 743 youths employed

Grant: \$2.15 million
Paid to youth: \$1.1 million
Lead agency: Alameda County Workforce Investment Board

Richmond: more than 700 youths employed
Grant: \$742,000
Local money: \$500,000 (from city and businesses)
Paid to youth: \$600,000
Lead agency: Richmond YouthWORKS

Sources: Alameda, Contra Costa, Oakland and Richmond workforce development boards. Some agencies measured youth payroll differently from the others by including taxes. The program continues through Sept. 30.

Local Youths Earn Experience, Paychecks



Ernst Peters | The Ledger

Buy photo

Michael Floyd, a Webber International University business student, pulls employee pay stubs recently at Spherion Workforce Architects in Lakeland.

By Kyle Kennedy

THE LEDGER

Published: Sunday, September 6, 2009 at 8:56 p.m.

Last Modified: Monday, September 7, 2009 at 12:43 a.m.

LAKELAND | At 22 and not yet out of college, Michael Floyd felt lucky to have a job.



[Click to enlarge](#)

Laila Pace, 18, works at Debron Distribution in Lakeland recently. Debron is one of the several local companies that hosted young workers this summer.

[Buy photo](#)

Scott Wheeler | The Ledger

LABOR DAY

Measuring the change in U.S. employment statistics during the recession.

9.7 percent

Current unemployment rate, up from 4.7 percent when the recession began.

33.1 hours

The average workweek as employers cut hours, near the lowest level in records dating to 1964.

6.9 million

Number of jobs lost since the recession started in December 2007.

57 percent

The share of workers between ages 16 and 24 who are in the labor market, down from 66 percent in 2000. Many are waiting out the downturn by going to school.

40 percent

Of workers over age 55 who have a job or are seeking a job, the highest level since it was 40.8 percent in 1961, according to a recent Pew Research Center survey.

STAT BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE LEDGER

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It's not just because Floyd was one of 325 local youths who earned a coveted spot in a new, government-funded program that placed them in summer jobs to build experience.

Floyd's assignment was in a Lakeland office of the Spherion staffing agency. In addition to picking up some clerical skills, he got a up-close view of what it means to be unemployed at a time when opportunities are scarce.

On this Labor Day in Polk County, a growing number of people find themselves in that very situation.

"I've witnessed people who were working at the same job for 15 to 20 years, and then they're let go because of cutbacks," said Floyd, a senior at Webber International University in Babson Park. "It made me realize that you can't take a job for granted ... It made me work harder."

The Summer Youth Employment Program was implemented in communities across the nation this summer using federal stimulus dollars. Polk Works said it received about 1,700 applicants locally, and spent approximately \$1.2 million on the effort, which concludes at the end of the month.

The program was open to youths ages 16-24 (with eligibility determined by income and other factors) and required them to work up to 30 hours per week at \$8 per hour, paid by Polk Works. The young workers were hosted by 70 local employers, ranging from city governments and colleges to private firms.

"It's actual work experience, hands-on," said Greg Robinson, Polk Works' vice president of operations. "They work in settings where they're developing interpersonal skills and their work ethic."

Younger students still in high school were also required to take classes that included lessons on workplace "soft skills," like interviewing.

Though Polk Works operates a youth employment program year-round, the participants are unpaid, Robinson said. By contrast, the stimulus-funded program gave youths a chance to earn paychecks, if for only a six-week stint.

Some participants were even hired on by their hosts at the end of the term.

WORKING AND LEARNING

For Floyd, the experience at Spherion was his first working in an office, where he manned the phones, filed paperwork, and performed data entry and other tasks.

"In the past, I've been more accustomed to working with customers in retail, and tourists when I worked at Cypress Gardens," said the Winter Haven resident, who is majoring in business. "This is definitely something I could see myself doing. Things clicked for me here."

Floyd's supervisor, Laurie Sandoval, gave him high marks for having a professional attitude and being a quick learner. He has since returned to classes at Webber and has thought of eventually starting his own business.

At Debron Distribution, 18-year-old Laila Pace is wrapping up her duties as office assistant for the Lakeland-based trucking firm. Debron hosted three youths this summer and has already hired one, and officials say they want to offer Pace a job if budget permits.

"I think I know what I want to do now: office work," said Pace, who last worked at a skating rink about three years ago. "I caught on fast ... I didn't know my brain could move that fast and memorize all this stuff."

Pace, who is being home-schooled and is raising a 2-month-old son, said the job at Debron has inspired her to pursue a college education.

"I got here and thought, well, I should go ahead and go learn a trade," the Lakeland resident said. "It made me feel good about myself to get up and know I have a job. I'm making money, not just sitting at home."

'SINK OR SWIM'

Economist Gordon Kettle said this is an especially difficult time for young job hunters. Polk County's unemployment rate for July, 12.3 percent, was the highest in nearly two decades, with more than 33,000 people out of work.

Nationwide, the current jobless rate for teens is about 26 percent, the highest figure in Bureau of Labor Statistics data spanning to 1948.

"The severity of the current recession has unemployed many adult workers and consequently squeezed the employment opportunities for younger workers as their older, more experienced, skilled counterparts compete for many of the same jobs," said Kettle, an economic consultant for the county and professor at Polk State College.

Floyd said he endured a futile job search before being accepted to the summer employment program. He said he was fortunate to get the opportunity, and is more confident about his post-college prospects after faring well at Spherion.

"Going back to my first day here, they threw me right in. It was sink or swim," Floyd said recently, on his final day at work. "As far as I understand, I'm still afloat."

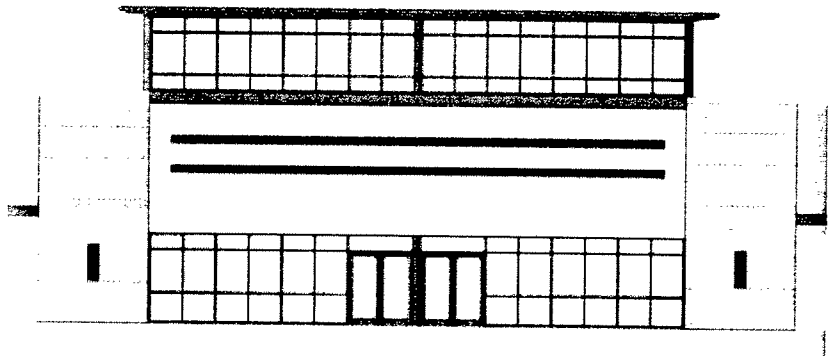
[Kyle Kennedy can be reached at kyle.kennedy@theledger.com or 863-802-7584.]

Education, training opportunities expected to abound at center

*Last Updated on Thursday, 03 September 2009
20:45 Written by Elizabeth Barrett Thursday, 03
September 2009 20:34*

**Former Wal-Mart building in Lexington
will house offices, classrooms, lab and
industrial space, more.**

The former Wal-Mart building in
Lexington will soon bustle with another
kind of energy.



College, high school, preschool and
technical training classes are planned in the
64,000 square-foot structure nestled along
Plum Creek Parkway in Lexington. Joint
space for computer and industrial labs, conference rooms and more is also in the blueprint.

Called "The Dawson County Opportunity Center," Jen Wolf describes the venture as an opportunity to increase skilled labor in Dawson County.

"It opens up the doors for more skilled labor with the space to be able to design training specific for our business and industry in the county," said Wolf, director of Dawson Area Development (DAD) which is partnering with the City of Lexington and others in planning the center. "We now have all the players and the space."

The City of Lexington owns the building.

Wolf said a \$512,200 neighborhood stabilization grant the agency recently received from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development will help renovate 9,354 square feet of joint space for such things as computer and industrial labs, rooms for heavy equipment and conference rooms for teleconferencing.

Renovation of office and other space will be funded by the City of Lexington and other entities involved in the project.

Lease arrangements will be worked out with the City of Lexington, she said.

So far, Lexington Public Schools will have room for a preschool and an alternative education program while Central Community College will relocate in the center from a downtown location and offer courses.

A workforce development office, now located across the street from Lexington High School, will move into the center as well as a satellite office for DAD to manage its county career Web site.

In addition, the Lexington Chamber of Commerce will move its office there.

Wolf said they are also working with the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Tyson Fresh Meats, the Dawson County Sheriff's Office and more businesses and services to have offerings in the center.

"We didn't want to be a college campus but wanted a place where people knew they could register for a job or hire people or do training," Wolf explained. "It will be a one-stop shop."

Another exciting part of the opportunity center, she said, will be incubator space for a start-up business or other type of entrepreneurial venture.

"Maybe it's a business that needs to wait for a patent," she said.

Wolf said the importance of entrepreneurial space came about from focus meetings with different groups while planning the opportunity center.

In addition to entrepreneurs, she said educators, health-care providers, agricultural producers and workforce development people met to discuss what they would like to see included in the opportunity center.

Special needs such as sinks for nursing classes or specific power requirements for manufacturing classes have also been considered.

OPPORTUNITY CENTER

Vision: To support economic and community development in Dawson County through workforce training and consolidation of services and pooling of resources.

Goals:

- Creating a one-stop service center offering quality education and training for area residents.

- Providing information and services to assist job seekers through development of career paths.

- Expanding opportunities for non-degree programs relating to technical skills, apprenticeship and certifications.

- Providing space for existing county programs.

- Offering new programs and innovative services.

- Providing meeting and classroom facilities to serve the county.

"It's a whole list and how they will all mesh together," Wolf said. "And knowing everyone's needs."

For example, she pointed to Tyson Fresh Meats in Lexington.

With up to 2,700 employees, Wolf said the packing plant operates like a small town and needs skilled labor like plumbers, electricians and nurses.

"They can train people to work on the floor but it's hard to find other people for skilled jobs," she explained.

Another aspect of the center is the potential for use of joint space.

Wolf said the county has a high percentage of manufacturing jobs with similar and different needs—the latter which involves on-the-job training at the specific business.

However similar needs, such as how to be safe around heavy equipment, can be taught at the center.

Special rooms could also be used to accommodate large groups like teachers throughout the county who might gather for a joint in-service.

Although community colleges have been around for a long time, Wolf described the opportunity center as unique and a challenge to create.

“We send so many people away to college who don’t come back,” she said. “People can take college classes at the opportunity center and don’t have to go away.

“Maybe all they need is a trade or certificate or introduction classes for job training.”

Bids for the renovation of space for Lexington Public Schools will be received Sept. 4, Wolf said.

Officials hope to start remodeling joint space with help from grant money in February or March of 2010 with completion six months later.

Although most of the work will be inside—on a prioritized basis because of cost—she said they plan to change the outside appearance of the building.

“It’s been real exciting working with people on a county-wide basis,” Wolf said. “It’s not a Lex project because it will benefit the whole county.”

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American Youthworks wins training grant for green jobs

COMPILED FROM STAFF REPORTS

Friday, September 04, 2009

NONPROFITS

Austin job group gets grant for green training

American Youthworks, an Austin-based job-training organization, won a \$750,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The grant will allow the nonprofit to build a training center for workers entering the "green-collar" work force, which includes job sectors such as renewable energy.

The center "will provide workers with the skills needed to compete for higher-skilled, higher-wage 'green' industry job opportunities," said Sandra Walters, an executive for the department's Economic Development Administration.

American Youthworks assists young adults and teens through educational and job-training efforts.

COMPUTER MAKERS

Dell keeps steady pace on storage system sales

Dell Inc.'s shipments of disk data storage systems held up better in the second quarter than its top competitors, according to market research firm IDC.

Dell shipped \$769 million worth of disk systems in the quarter, down 3.6 percent from a year ago. That compared with a decline of nearly 19 percent for all suppliers.

Round Rock-based Dell had a 13.6 percent market share, fourth behind IBM Corp., Hewlett-Packard Co., and EMC Corp. The systems are typically sold to large businesses and government customers that need to store a lot of information.

Dell's results include sales by storage systems vendor EqualLogic, which it acquired in early 2008.

Analyst Liz Conner said the enterprise storage systems market fell to \$5.7 billion, a drop of 18.7 percent from a year ago, its third straight quarterly decline amid a sagging global economy.

Web Posted: 09/08/2009 7:48 CDT

Young workers given a chance

David Hendricks - David Hendricks

For about 1,300 area unskilled young people from low-income backgrounds, the summer of 2009 was their lucky season.

Two hundred sixty-five employers were even luckier.

The employers, trying to work through the economic slump, happily absorbed the new workers because the wages were paid by the federal government's stimulus spending program.

Even before the \$5 million employment program administered by Workforce Solutions Alamo runs its course through Sept. 30, reports are piling up of employers hiring their new workers permanently.

Broadway Bank so far has converted six of the 17 workers placed at the bank this summer, five from the first group of 10 in May and one of the seven who began in July.

The workers, ages 19 to 24, were trained and performed jobs as tellers, financial service representatives, telephone service representatives, switchboard operators, research clerks, human resources receptionist and file vault/loan support clerk.

"We're very pleased," said Mona Hardin, Broadway Bank assistant vice president and senior recruiting officer. "We wanted to give them a positive experience."

FlighTime Business Jets on Wetmore Road took in three workers ranging in age from 21 to 24 and used them like interns, in aircraft maintenance, marketing and aviation management. General Manager Steve Guzek said he would like to retain one intern permanently.

The program helped so much, Guzek said, he plans to start an internship program without federal assistance, working with the University of Texas at San Antonio and the University of the Incarnate Word.

The state agency placed three with the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce.

They worked in the economic development, communications and membership departments. All three are students, but chamber Vice President Marcel Johnson said one student likely will continue working at the chamber on a seasonal basis.

The federal program paid wages of workers, ages 16 to 24, for six- to 12-week stints in positions of 25 to 40 hours per week. The Greater San Antonio the San Antonio Hispanic chambers of commerce spread the word on the program to locate the companies and to place the workers.

Workforce Solutions Alamo determined the industry categories eligible for the workers: advanced manufacturing, aerospace, health care, construction, financial services, information technology and telecommunications. Jobs with “green” aspects were given a high priority.

The younger workers, those still in high school, were selected through school districts in Workforce Solutions Alamo’s 12-county area. Older workers were pulled from the agency’s files of people seeking work. The criteria used were low-income households and low skill levels, including recently discharged military personnel.

This summer job program was a one-time economic shot in the arm. “We do not expect it again,” said Eva Esquivel of Workforce Solutions Alamo. If the area program had beneficial results for both workers and companies here, then similar stories should be unfolding throughout the nation.

Usually, workers and companies need no help to find each other. This year was hardly a normal time. For some of those facing the brunt of the recession, the federal program turned the year into an unusual and unexpected chance.

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Career technical academy is still priority for school leaders

By Deneesha Edwards
The Dispatch

Published: Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at 9:14 p.m.

Last Modified: Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at 9:14 p.m.

Plans for the Davidson County Career Academy High School have some major initiatives happening this week.

Ben Ross, executive director of Davidson Vision, and Barry Sink, chairman of the Business Education Partnership, gave the Davidson County Board of Education an update on Tuesday at its meeting.

Ross and Sink will travel to Yadkinville on Wednesday to talk with members of the Northwest Piedmont Workforce Development Board to introduce them to the concept and hopefully bring them on board. There will also be a meeting Thursday with all the school systems involved to discuss further ideas.

“It has really been a lot of fun to watch the momentum,” Sink said. “It’s been an exciting process.”

The idea behind a comprehensive technical high school is to produce skilled students to work in a global marketplace. Ross told the board how the idea for the school came about nearly three years ago.

“We determined there is a paradigm shift for career technical education,” Ross said.

The CTE Education Roundtable’s vision is to develop a world-class academy in Davidson County in collaboration with other school systems, higher education and business and industry that will address present and future workforce needs of the county and regional business community in a global economy.

Initial plans included the academy being designed around these job clusters — health care, logistics and distribution, advanced manufacturing, teaching, creative enterprises/arts and entrepreneurship.

“They are the industries that are going to grow and need people,” Ross said. “For this to be fully functional, it had to be bigger than Davidson County.”

Local school officials were first presented with ideas for establishing a county technical high school in March from the Davidson County Career and Technical Education Roundtable and the education committee of DavidsonWorks.

“This prepares our students for the jobs they will have upon entering the workforce and post education,” Sink said, a member of the education committee and CTE Roundtable. “Not only are we building a future for our students. We’re building our community to the future.”

Sink noted how the development of the school started with the three school systems in Davidson County and has now expanded to five other systems including two community colleges in four counties — Surry, Yadkin, Davie and Davidson counties.

“The model we’re incorporating is a school with eight school systems and four counties,” he said. “This is the first time something like this has been done in North Carolina.”

At the end of June, the board voted to request that the Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) project, through Piedmont Triad Partnership, provide \$75,000 to prepare a grant for securing a career academy high school.

Dr. Fred Mock, superintendent for Davidson County Schools, told the board that they received the grant, and that is the money they have to start with.

Sink said they want to be in a position to apply for some of the federal stimulus money.

“It will be very critical where we go from here,” Sink said. “It’s an opportunity our region desperately needs, our future needs and it’s an opportunity for our community and students.”

In other news, the board:

- Heard the hiring statistics for the start of the school year. Dr. Tony Peele, assistant superintendent of human resources for the system, said there have been nearly 300 different position changes since last school year, mainly due to employees moving to different positions.

The system eliminated 55 classroom positions — 20 at the elementary schools, 10 at the middle schools and 25 at the high schools, which accounts for \$3.1 million in savings. The system also hired 58 new teachers, six part-time and 22 temporary workers.

Deneesha Edwards can be reached at 249-3981, ext. 213, or at deneesha.edwards@the-dispatch.com.

Program to steer San Mateo County youth into 'green' jobs

n Federal stimulus funds will be used to help pave new paths for teens, young adults

By Neil Gonzales

[San Mateo County Times](#)

Posted: 09/07/2009 03:59:15 PM PDT

Updated: 09/07/2009 08:18:42 PM PDT

A pilot effort funded by the federal economic stimulus package seeks to turn San Mateo County teens and young adults on to "green" careers.

The county recently received a \$936,429 grant to provide job training and community service opportunities to underprivileged 16- to 24-year-olds in the arena of clean environment and alternative energy.

"We are building a brand-new program to serve 150 youth throughout the county," said Fred Slone, county work force development manager. "The program will include environmental and green literacy training and education."

The local funding is part of statewide grants of nearly \$10 million from the federal recovery plan that target California's emerging "green" economy.

The federal money is being matched with more than \$10 million in local resources, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's office said in a news release.

"Using recovery funds and public-private partnerships, the California Green Jobs Corps will help 1,500 at-risk young adults realize a brighter future while stimulating our economy and working toward a greener California," Schwarzenegger said.

The 11 regional programs across the state will engage participants in projects involving energy efficiency, environmentally-friendly construction, solar power and other related areas, the governor's office said.

Skyline College in San Bruno is a partner in the local program.

Skyline will offer math and English courses built

Advertisement

around energy concepts, said Mike Williamson, dean of science at the college.

For instance, participants will use a utility bill to learn how to calculate the energy used, Williamson said.

Community-service activities include having participants help residents make their home energy efficient, Slone said.

Neil Gonzales covers education. Reach him at 650-348-4338.

JOBS: State conservation corps benefits parks, kids

By Don Glynn
Lockport Union-Sun & Journal

September 07, 2009 08:06 pm

— As part of the newly formed State Parks Conservation Corps, some 200 area youths have been working this summer in five regional parks in Niagara and Erie counties.

State Parks Commissioner Carol Ash said the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation established the program to bring green-collar job training to young people and make long overdue improvements at state parks and historic sites.

The state Department of Labor also provided \$3.3 million, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, to help create a path to permanent employment for qualified youths, ages 16 to 24.

“From the Civilian Conservation Corps to the Student Conservation Association, the state parks has a long tradition of hosting young workers who sharpen their skills and talents in our parks system,” Ash said.

State Labor Commissioner M. Patrick Smith said: “Youth are the future of this state, but too many are being left behind in the wake of this economic crisis. We need to be aggressive in stemming the tide of unemployment among youth, and no one has done more in this regard than Gov. Paterson.”

Earlier this year, Paterson announced that 50,000 youth jobs had been created through a combination of stimulus funding and existing resources.

Crews of eight to 12 members have been working under the direction of the Student Conservation Association, a national organization that operates conservation corps and green-collar training programs. The SCA has many decades of experience in community-based programs that link hands-on learning and job training for diverse urban youth.

“Through an expanded partnership with the state parks, together we will protect our precious natural and cultural resources while preparing a new generation to prosper in a green economy,” said SCA President Dale Penny.

The crews have been authorized to work through Sept. 30. Their projects have included trail clearing and maintenance along the Niagara Gorge, beach cleanup, work at Knox Farm, East Aurora, and Beaver Island and Buckhorn State Park on Grand Island.

Other crews are working at Allegany State Park in Cattaraugus County and at Letchworth State Park in the Genesee Park Region.

State parks spokesperson Eileen Larrabee said that work crews also have been deployed in several regions across the state including Long Island, New York City, and the Taconic and Palisades areas of the Hudson Valley.

Contact reporter Don Glynn at 282-2311, Ext. 2246.

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Solar Energy Initiatives, Inc. Partners with Jacksonville Job Programs to Train Displaced Workers for Solar Industry

Tue Sep 8, 2009 8:30am EDT

Federal Stimulus Money Officially Kicks-Off RENEW THE NATION Campaign
JACKSONVILLE, Fla.--(Business Wire)--

Solar Energy Initiatives, Inc. [OTCBB: SNRY] today announced a partnership with three Jacksonville job training and placement agencies to train displaced workers as solar energy installation and maintenance technicians.

This new partnership is a first step in Solar Energy's Renew the Nation campaign intended to promote job growth and economic development nationwide by providing a trained workforce to enter the fast growing renewable energy industry. The program, pending final approval by the Jacksonville City Council, is being funded in part by \$396,000 in federal stimulus dollars provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Joining Solar Energy in this job training collaborative is Community Rehabilitation Center (CRC), Northeast Community Action Agency (NFCAA) and WorkSource. Solar Energy is providing the training curriculum and materials, while CRC will manage the program and NFCAA and WorkSource will supply the trainees.

The training facility, to be called CRC Institute, will be located at Pearl Plaza at the corner of North Pearl and 44th streets. The first class is anticipated to begin in late October.

"CRC is proud to join forces with Solar Energy, WorkSource and NFCAA," said Reginald Gaffney, CRC's Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer. "This collaborative program will help train people who have lost their jobs due to the downturn in economy and prepare them for the new green economy."

Added Solar Energy's Chief Executive Officer, David Fann, "The rapidly growing solar market requires a knowledgeable workforce with expertise in both construction and installation practices. Through this partnership, we will be preparing trained and valued workers for the solar industry."

Solar Energy's business model focuses on three fronts:

- * Solar Parks. Development of large utility-scale photovoltaic (PV) installations bringing together landowners, utilities and corporate resources to build and operate.
- * Solar Power Purchase Agreements (SPPA). Placing solar systems on or adjacent to commercial or municipal buildings and selling the energy output to the owner(s).
- * Solar Dealers. One of the fastest growing independent dealer networks that sells and installs solar systems to homeowners and commercial customers.

Last week Solar Energy announced Letters of Intent for \$17 million in commercial Projects that will utilize approximately 20,000 solar panels producing up to 4 megawatts of solar electricity and projected to reduce hazardous carbon dioxide emissions by 6,000 tons, annually. Solar Energy also recently completed training its 78th solar dealer and signed a contract securing land for the development of a 300 megawatt solar park in west Texas.

The Company's dealer network of solar energy installers has access to BP Solar (NYSE:BP) and GE Solar (NYSE:GE) and Suntech (NYSE:STP) via its distribution agreements. While Solar Energy Initiatives is not a solar franchise, and the company does not compete directly with industry giants such as First Solar (NASDAQ:FSLR), Kyocera (NYSE:KYO), or Sanyo (OTC:SANYY) as a system integrator, it provides exciting and practical solutions to businesses, governments, municipalities and individuals worldwide that understand the value of solar power.

Solar Energy Initiatives, Inc., Ponte Vedra Beach
David Fann, CEO, 904-644-6090
david.fann@solarenergy.com
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Recovery Act Funds Providing Additional Job Placement and Job Training Services

Posted on September 11, 2009 – Governor's Press Office

Florida's 24 regional workforce boards invite Floridians seeking work to utilize a variety of new or expanded services funded by the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The programs include additional job training, individual counseling, enhanced assistance for local businesses and outreach services to assist more Floridians.

The programs will vary by local workforce board, and are expected to have a positive impact on Florida's economy.

These workforce programs are made available statewide through \$165 million in federal Recovery dollars over three years. Local workforce boards are using these dollars to fund the programs for eligible participants.

Details for Job Seekers and Employers

For details on each regional workforce board's program, please contact the workforce board in your area. For contact information, please visit:

<http://www.workforceflorida.com/boards/index.htm>.

At this time the following details are available:

Region 1 – Workforce Escarosa (Escambia, Santa Rosa)

Career Exploration through Increased Counseling

Funding received through the Recovery Act is providing Workforce Escarosa the opportunity to provide additional one-on-one services to customers seeking employment. Workforce Escarosa has expanded its Career Counseling capabilities by hiring professional counselors to assist customers seeking employment through self-directed job search activities.

In addition, Workforce Escarosa has hired a counselor to work specifically with ex-offenders seeking employment. These counselors provide guidance in assessing existing skill sets and

expanding them to other businesses. Through assessments and one-on-one counseling, customers can make a more informed decision regarding employment opportunities and additional training that may be required.

Individual Training Accounts

With the help of funding received under the Recovery Act, Workforce Escarosa has increased Individual Training Account amounts to \$7,500 per participant annually for postsecondary education. If a customer also receives a federal PELL Grant, he/she can now use PELL funding to assist with day-to-day living expenses while attending school rather than being required to apply PELL funds to tuition costs. Workforce Escarosa is also utilizing Recovery Act funding to assist individuals attending school with support services such as child care and transportation.

Businesses and job seekers interested in the programs above should contact Kathy Karshna at (850) 607-8748 or kkarshna@escarosa.org. For more information, visit www.workforceescarosa.com.

Region 2 – The Workforce Development Board of Okaloosa and Walton

For information, visit www.jobsplusonestop.com.

Region 3 – Chipola Regional Workforce Planning Board (Calhoun, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, Washington)

Expanded Training Opportunities

Recovery Act funding has allowed the Chipola Regional Workforce Development Board to expand training programs as well as start an on-the-job training program targeted toward adults ages 24 and older.

For more information, visit www.onestopahead.com.

Region 4 – Gulf Coast Workforce Development Board (Bay, Franklin, Gulf)

Career Management, Training

As a result of Recovery Act funding, the Gulf Coast Workforce Board is providing additional workforce services to meet the changing needs of workers and employers. The workforce center is offering intensive one-on-one career management services and short-term training opportunities to help unemployed and underemployed workers achieve higher earnings. Training is also being provided to employed workers to help them retain/advance in their jobs as well as help their employer be more competitive.

For more information, visit www.workforcecenter.org.

Region 5 - WORKFORCE plus (Gadsden, Leon, Wakulla)

Recovery Services to Unemployment Compensation Beneficiaries

Unemployment claims customers are eligible to receive Recovery Act-funded intensive job search services designed to get them reemployed more quickly. Each customer has the opportunity to create a job search plan that meets his or her individual needs based on an assessment of current skills, the local labor market and the job seeker's interests. This program will be accessible through June 30, 2010 as long as funds are available.

Businesses and job seekers interested in the program should contact (850) 922-0023, (866) WFP-JOB1 toll-free, or visit www.reinvestlocal.com.

Recovery Services to Adults and Dislocated Workers

Recovery Act funding is providing WORKFORCE plus the opportunity to identify job seekers to receive targeted services such as occupational skills training, paid work experience and intensive career counseling. In order to be eligible for these services, participants must be age 18 or older, selective service registered, economically disadvantaged, and be receiving or have exhausted unemployment compensation benefits. This program is scheduled to be available October 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010.

Businesses and job seekers interested in the program should contact (850) 875-4040 in Gadsden County, (850) 922-0023 in Leon County, or (850) 926-0980 in Wakulla County; dial (866) WFP-JOB1 toll-free or visit www.reinvestlocal.com.

Employed Worker Training Grant

This employer-based training project is designed for current employees of a company, including new hires in need of skills training. The training is for job-specific skills or industry-specific skills necessary to help employees keep their jobs and/or advance in the company while meeting the employer's need to be more competitive in the marketplace. Employers located within the three counties of the WORKFORCE plus service area, Gadsden, Leon and Wakulla, are eligible to apply for grants not to exceed \$5,000.

Businesses and job seekers interested in the program should contact WORKFORCE plus at (850) 414-6085 and ask to speak with a Business Consultant or visit www.reinvestlocal.com.

On-the-Job Training

This reimbursement program for employers provides up to 50 percent of salary costs for up to eight weeks. The employee must be a new hire, and the employer must agree to train the individual to maximize the potential of the new hire. On-the-Job Training is generally conducted on-site at the place of business, but it can also be done in conjunction with classroom training at educational institutions.

Businesses and job seekers interested in the program should contact WORKFORCE plus at (850) 414-6085 and ask to speak with a Business Consultant or visit www.reinvestlocal.com.

Healthcare Resurgence Grant

WORKFORCE plus has been awarded a grant by Workforce Florida Inc. to assist the following target groups: jobseekers, current college students, current healthcare workers and healthcare providers & employers.

Jobseekers - Training is being provided by educational partners in the following areas: CAN, medical assisting and home health aide.

College Students – Assistance in pursuing certifications and/or degrees in a healthcare related field.

Employers and Employees – Encouraging employee participation in Continuing Education Units (CEU) or training in OSHA, HIPPA, IV Therapy and CAN.

Anyone interested should contact their local WORKFORCE plus office and apply at (866) WFP-JOB1.

Operation Reemployment

Operation Reemployment is a training program designed to create “green” employment opportunities.” This new initiative provides an opportunity to learn how to make homes more energy efficient and create long term cost savings.

To be eligible to participate, an applicant must be unemployed or underemployed and/or meet income eligibility and criteria set as a requirement of the grant.

If you meet one of the above criteria, contact your local WORKFORCE plus office and apply at (866) WFP-JOB1.

Region 6 – North Florida Workforce Development Board (Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor)

For information, visit www.NFWorkforce.org.

Region 7 - Florida Crown Workforce Board (Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Union)

For information, visit www.floridacrown.org.

Region 8 – WorkSource (Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns)

Learn Return & Earn

WorkSource is using Recovery Act funding to offer Learn, Return & Earn, a program that provides information and access to training scholarships for unemployed people across Northeast Florida. Individuals who have lost their jobs during the current recession, regardless of industry, may qualify for a scholarship to train for a new job in a high-demand industry. For more information, visit www.learnreturnearn.org.

WorkSource Mobile Access Points

WorkSource is deploying vans with more than 100 wireless-enabled laptops to provide career information, workshops and employment leads in community facilities throughout the region. Services are being provided to neighborhoods most in need to expand outreach beyond the One-Stop Career Centers located in each county on the First Coast.

For more information, visit www.worksourcefl.com.

Region 9 – Alachua/Bradford FloridaWorks

For information, visit www.floridaworksonline.com.

Region 10 – Citrus Levy Marion Regional Workforce Development Board

West Ocala Green Jobs Project

Workforce Connection brought together education, economic development and community leaders in West Ocala to collaborate on utilizing green jobs training and small business development to create a better economy and quality of life. The area has been faced with higher unemployment than many other areas of Marion County. The group, formed in May, has experienced positive results. With assistance from a community donation, 29 business and community members from West Ocala received scholarships to the recent CFCC Green Business Summit.

A pilot training program for up to 30 people, funded by Workforce Connection, will launch to train unemployed individuals from West Ocala in core green building practices, weatherization, building retrofitting and solar installation.

One-Stop Grand Opening

In response to the needs of displaced workers in Ocala, Workforce Connection opened a new location, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, to provide services to job candidates and employers. Open since June 23, 2009, the office is located at Workforce Connection Paddock Park, 3300 SW 34th Ave., Suite 148, Ocala. The direct phone number for the new location is (352) 291-9555.

Green Job Videos

Workforce Connection has produced a total of eight videos for the Green Business Summit, highlighting green jobs such as energy auditing, light-emitting diode lighting, water meters, organic farming, paper recycling and hybrid cars. All videos were photographed with a compact digital video camera and produced by Workforce Connection staff and may be viewed at http://www.clmworkforce.com/board_videos.asp.

DZ Atlantic Recruiting

Four orientation sessions related to a nuclear construction opportunity were hosted by Workforce Connection in Citrus and Levy counties in June 2009. The 242 job candidates in attendance included laid-off construction and manufacturing workers. The recruitment, screening and training project assisted DZ Atlantic, a Day & Zimmermann company based in Norfolk, Virginia, and a contractor with Progress Energy, to identify and train qualified candidates for Progress Energy's outage scheduled for this fall.

Journeymen in the crafts of electricians, structural fitters, iron workers, pipe welders, pipe fitters mechanical helpers and firewatch were recruited. Qualified candidates received online NANTEL nuclear power training prior to their interviewing with the company.

For more information, visit www.clmworkforce.com.

Region 11 - Center for Business Excellence (Flagler, Volusia)

For information, visit www.onestops.com.

Region 12 - Workforce Central Florida (Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Lake, Sumter)

Training, scholarships and work experience opportunities

Workforce Central Florida is utilizing Recovery Act funds to add and expand several opportunities for businesses and job seekers.

Job seekers can benefit from 1,300 additional training scholarships of \$2,500 to \$5,000; paid work experience opportunities for 700 job seekers; additional training slots for healthcare and green industry training; special projects in digital media, optics/photonics and new & emerging

occupations within the healthcare industry; and an Entrepreneurial Training Initiative, among other programs.

Additional training opportunities are available to employers through seminars, library materials, and the conversion of some seminars to web-based delivery to improve the programs' efficiency and reach.

For more information, visit www.workforcecentralflorida.com.

Region 13 – Brevard Workforce Development Board

For information, visit www.brevardjoblink.org.

Region 14 – WorkNet Pinellas

Industry Career Camps

Young adults and students age 17 to 24 can earn up to \$600 in performance incentives in three career camps focusing on culinary arts, information technology and hospitality. Each program provides young adults with the opportunity to earn industry recognized credentials, career exploration activities, job shadowing and job placement assistance. Businesses and job seekers interested in the program should contact Robyn Poppick at rpoppick@worknetpinellas.org or (727) 507-4300 x 3012.

Employed/Incumbent Worker Training Program

WorkNet Pinellas has entered into an agreement with Solar Source to train 25 electricians, roofers and other licensed contractors as Photovoltaics Installers. The Installer 1 Certificate is a program with two components, the first being an introduction to photovoltaics, and the second being more focused on hands-on lab work, site analysis, and project management. Businesses and job seekers interested in the program should contact Kristin Dailey at kdailey@worknetpinellas.org or 727-504-4300 x3004.

For more information, visit www.worknetpinellas.org.

Region 15 – Tampa Bay Workforce Alliance (Hillsborough)

For information, visit www.workforcetampa.com.

Region 16 - Pasco Hernando Workforce Board

For information, visit www.careercentral.jobs.

Region 17 – Polk County Workforce Development Board

For information, visit www.polkworks.org.

Region 18 – Suncoast Workforce Board (Manatee, Sarasota)

For information, visit www.swdb.org.

Region 19 – Heartland Workforce (DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands)

Heartland Workforce has received approximately \$1.2 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. About \$500,000 is being used for youth, \$385,000 targeted for adults and \$379,512 for dislocated workers.

Programs for Youth

Heartland Workforce has partnered with local educational institutions to provide education, training, and work experience opportunities for the youth within our region. The focus is on developing skills to secure employment. Career focus includes green occupations in alternative energy, recycling, wastewater treatment, and power plants. Also included are health-related professions, manufacturing, and careers within the broadcasting industry. With an emphasis on safety and in preparation for work, many students will receive Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) certification training. Businesses and job seekers interested in the program should contact Laura Griffin, Special Projects Coordinator, at (863) 385-3672, ext. 292 or lgriffin@heartland-workforce.org. For more information, please visit www.heartland-workforce.org.

Adult and Dislocated Workers

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides a focus on hard-to-serve populations and places a priority on serving people meeting low-income guidelines. To meet those requirements, Heartland Workforce issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on June 26, 2009. The expected goal is employment for all enrolled participants. The following programs are now under way:

- Heartland Workforce is in the process of final negotiations with Tri-County Human Services to coordinate and provide transitional services to offenders/ex-offenders. Services will include transitional housing, transitional transportation to job interviews and work, job development and training coordination, and ongoing counseling/soft skills training to assist with job retention once employed.
- A partnership among Heartland Workforce, Avon Park Housing Authority, and South Florida Community College (SFCC) is in place to provide combined hands-on and classroom training programs for homeless and low-income individuals. The training will result in the skills and certifications needed for employment in a “green” construction-related industry.
- In response to the request to address initiatives related to economic development, curriculum development, senior populations, green jobs training and science and technology, Heartland Workforce will be funding a position to work with the economic development organizations in the three counties to enhance business growth and retention.
- Working with SFCC, a contract is in place to develop and implement curriculum for short-term phlebotomy training. The initial pilot is for ten unemployed and under-employed individuals seeking to enter or upgrade their skills in the health services field.
- Unable to negotiate a contract for services to individuals with disabilities, Heartland Workforce is in the process of hiring an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded WIA career counselor to provide information and training to individuals with disabilities. The counselor will work with tri-county agency partners to coordinate assistance in an effort to maximize service delivery while avoiding duplication of service.

Interested businesses and job seekers should contact Ann Martin, special projects coordinator at (863) 385-3672, ext. 292, or amartin@heartland-workforce.org. For more information, please visit www.heartland-workforce.org.

Region 20 – Workforce Solutions (Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, St. Lucie)

Enhanced Partnership

In looking for ways to better serve the community with federal Recovery Act funding, Workforce Solutions, through an enhanced partnership with Indian River State College (IRSC), will place career planners at each IRSC campus in the counties served by Workforce Solutions. This strategic placement will allow for better identification and expedited service of potential clients in need of training and support. This partnership will also significantly increase the clients served by allowing for cross-training of Workforce Solutions Career Planners and IRSC's staff to better identify potential clients at multiple access points for services available from either partner.

Businesses and job seekers interested in the program should contact Glenda Matesic at (772) 335-3030, ext. 427 or gmatesic@tcjobs.org.

Request for Proposals – Occupational Skills Training

Workforce Solutions has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for class-size occupational skills training for one or more of the occupations in demand and/or occupations targeted by the Recovery Act in the area served by Workforce Solutions. The classes will be filled exclusively with Workforce Solutions' referred customers, age 16 and older, who meet eligibility criteria. The preference is for training in high-skill, high-wage occupations that match industries targeted by our local economic development partners. These industries include bio-technology, bio-medical research, bio-fuels, healthcare, other life sciences, advanced manufacturing (marine, aviation/aerospace, and exports), digital media, software development, warehousing and distribution, corporate headquarters, agri-science and other professional/technical services.

Occupations tied to environmental/green industries, energy conservation (including weatherization and green construction), alternative and renewable energy development, healthcare, and information technology (broadband communications) are targeted by the Recovery Act. The RFP calls for short-term, comprehensive training that qualifies students for an industry-recognized certification or apprenticeship.

Businesses interested in the program should contact Glenda Matesic at 772.335.3030 x427 or gmatesic@tcjobs.org. For more information, visit www.tcjobs.org.

Region 21 – Workforce Alliance (Palm Beach)

For information, visit www.pbcalliance.com.

Region 22 – WorkForce One (Broward)

Surviving the Recession Seminars

WorkForce One has held six *Surviving the Recession* seminars cosponsored by the Chambers or the Broward Alliance for businesses to provide information about WorkForce One's free recruitment services, the Short-Time Compensation Program and loan opportunities available through the Small Business Administration. WorkForce One has additional seminars planned to assist businesses with layoff aversion.

WorkForce One is also teaching "*How to Use Social Networking to Uncover the Hidden Job Market*" in its professional placement network, and conducted a half-day seminar on "*How to Get Government Contracts*" for companies wishing to expand their business market. Members of the marine industry were targeted to provide tips on getting manufacturing contracts that use the skill set of the marine industry even if the contracts themselves are not marine-related. A similar seminar is planned in the future.

Green Training

WorkForce One has funded a training program for "Green IT" which looks at energy conservation in the design and execution of computer network administration. Workforce Florida Board member Andy Perez is providing the training.

For more information, please visit www.wflbroward.com.

Region 23 - South Florida Workforce Board (Miami-Dade, Monroe)

For information, visit www.southfloridaworkforce.com.

Region 24 – Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board (Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee)

Rapid Recovery

The Rapid Recovery program is an outgrowth of collaborations between Edison State College, area CEOs and the Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board. Rapid Recovery courses

include training for work in industries including health care, information technology, finance, Internet services and many others. Many courses can be completed in 90 days or less and carry national certifications. With funding through the Recovery Act, more than 150 students are enrolled in the program during the current summer session and at least 75 more students are scheduled to start this fall. Ongoing increases in enrollment are planned.

Recovery Services to Adults and Dislocated Workers

The Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board, through Recovery Act funds, has enrolled more than 500 people in Adult and Dislocated Worker training programs through its network of more than 20 eligible training providers. These job training programs will help distribute an estimated \$559,000 to adults and \$2.5 million to dislocated workers.

Businesses and job seekers interested in these programs should contact Tracy Lansberry, programs director, at (239) 225-2500, ext. 15238 or tlansberry@sfwdb.org. For more information, visit www.CareerAndServiceCenter.org.

Around Annapolis: Old windows get new life in job training program

By DIANE M. REY, For The Capital

Published 09/11/09

The windows at the 70-year-old pump house in Back Creek Nature Park had seen better days.



Diane M. Rey — For The Capital Irvin Crowdy, of Glen Burnie, primes 70-year-old windows for repainting at the pump house at Back Creek Nature Park. He hopes to use the skills he learned at a hands-on job training program sponsored by the city of Annapolis to start his own home improvement business.

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WARNING - Acai Side Effects -Health Reporter Discovers the Shocking Truth. Read this Warning

Many were broken, rotted and dirty until recently when a city-sponsored job training program gave the old windows a new lease on life.

About 10 students signed on for the city's first "Wooden Window Restoration College" which ran from Aug. 24 to 28 at a former city water treatment plant. It's located on the grounds of what is now a 15-acre waterfront park crisscrossed with nature trails off Edgewood Road.

The city paid \$8,250 to bring in an expert to train students in all aspects of window restoration, including sash and lead-safe paint and glass removal, wood repair, putty and epoxy application, weather stripping and sash installation.

Two of the students were city maintenance employees who can apply their new skills to other city-owned properties. Others hope to start their own small businesses or took the class to gain new skills to help them find work in a tight job market. The group restored six out of 15 windows on the pump house during the training.

Bob Yapp, president of Preservation Resources, Inc., taught the hands-on workshop. A nationally recognized expert in window restoration, he has restored over 5,000 windows in his 35-year career, according to a city press release.

"These are the worst-case scenarios that students will ever see," Bob remarked as the class broke for lunch midway through a hot first day of working outside.

A radio and television personality on restoration topics, Bob said window restoration fits right in with the current trend toward green living.

"We had 12 million old-growth window sashes ending up in our landfills. How is that being green?" he asked.

If properly restored, old windows can meet current energy efficiency standards and last longer than their modern-day vinyl counterparts, which have a maximum life expectancy of 18 years, he said.

"When we're done, they'll last another 100 years," Bob said, as the men got back to stripping cracked and peeling paint off the old windows. He bought his first fixer-upper when he was 17 and is currently restoring an 1859 home where he lives in Hannibal, Mo.

Craig Wilson, of Parole, found a shady spot inside the pump house to scrape window panes clean with a razor. He said he hopes to get a job using the skills he was learning.

"It's hard work, but it's work that needs to be done," he remarked.

Several of the students involved were also part of a job training partnership between the city and the Sherwin Williams paint company earlier this summer.

"The windows and the painting go hand in hand," said Tony Spencer, director of the city Office of Youth and Community Affairs which coordinated both programs.

Patricia Blick, chief of historic preservation for the city of Annapolis, is a former student of Bob's. When it comes to old windows, she said Maryland's Colonial-era capital offers an ample supply. Her records show there are 1,600 historic buildings in the Annapolis historic district, each with anywhere from four to 30 windows.

As for the pump house, built in 1939, it is being repurposed as an educational center for environmental stewardship, said LeeAnn Plumer, director of the City of Annapolis Recreation and Parks Department. A green roof was recently added to a portion of the building.

The fourth annual Cruise for Compassion, a fundraiser to benefit the Animal Legal Defense Fund, will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. Sept. 18, departing from City Dock.

Bring your favorite four-legged friend onboard the Harbor Queen to help stop animal abuse.

Tickets are \$55 per person and well-behaved pooches are welcome for free. For tickets, stop by Paws Pet Boutique at 64 State Circle, call 410-263-8683, or reserve online at www.pawspetboutique.com.

Shipboard fun includes a silent auction and live band. The top-prize raffle winner will receive two VIP tickets to a live performance of "Dancing with the Stars" and a two-night stay in Los Angeles.

Guest commentary: ‘Out of the ordinary’ summer job at Cambridge Police



policdept.jpg

By Michaela Peterson

Wicked Local Cambridge

Posted Sep 09, 2009 @ 08:05 AM

Cambridge —

Cambridge teens now have an opportunity to join the police force. This year was the first for CYPA, the Cambridge Youth Police Academy, which is now one of the job opportunities offered through MSYEP, the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program.

Employees at the Cambridge Youth Police Academy get paid \$8 an hour to give tours of the Police Station, get in shape, and learn what police work is really like. Want a more detailed description of what my co-workers and I did at CYPA? Keep reading.

On our first day we met our supervisor Holly Bernier, the police department's neighborhood coordinator, as well as many of the officers who we'd be working with later. Most of CYPA's first week was spent teaching the employees about policing in the community, which is basically working with residents and other city departments to solve problems. We were given different scenarios to turn into skits in which we showed conflicts being resolved.

Also in our first week we got the grand tour of the police station, officially known as the "Robert W. Healey Public Safety Facility." On the tour I learned that appropriately for Cambridge, the public safety facility has a

very environmentally friendly design. If you're wondering when I'll get to something that's actually work, a few of us took notes during the tour, which were later typed up for other members of the group to use while giving a tour of the police station to a group of small children.

During our second week at the CYPA we went to Brookline's public safety facility to use their use of lethal force training stimulator. Maybe you're thinking that taking a bunch of kids to practice using guns isn't the best idea, even if the guns are fake. But using the stimulator made it easier to understand how police officers can sometimes make mistakes. You never know if the person on the video screen is going to shoot you or not until they start shooting, and shooting back accurately is a lot harder than it looks on TV.

Another day we practiced public speaking. This involved writing a five-paragraph essay based on a random prompts, an activity which triggered numerous complaints but was probably good practice for when school starts up again. The public speaking part of this was reading our essays aloud to Holly and each other. While reading we focused on speaking loud and clear, making eye contact, and not saying "um".

Our third week was all CSI. We learned how to take fingerprints and collect evidence. Then we used that knowledge to solve mock crimes involving mannequins and fake blood. We used the actual crime lab to analyze our evidence for fingerprints (belonging to the police officers who were our suspects), which we used to solve the crimes.

Week four was mostly health related. We spent one whole day learning CPR. At the end of that day all of us were certified to perform infant, child and adult CPR with and without an AED.

The rest of the week we learned about driving associated dangers. One of the really fun things at CYPA was wearing the goggles that make everything look like it would if you were drunk. A few different speakers came in that week, like a woman from the New England Brain Injury Association. The hands down most serious part of CYPA was listening to a man who had spent over 30 years in jail after stabbing someone in a gang fight, and another man who was mostly paralyzed from the neck down after falling asleep while driving late at night.

National Night Out took place in the middle of our fifth week. So that Tuesday we each had one of four different shifts manning the various events. We did jobs like overseeing the rides, and handing out food, our exact task depending on which shift we had.

In addition to working at National Night Out we listened to presentations by members of various units at the police department and worked on semi-independent projects. One presentation was made by the head of the Cyber Crimes Unit, who talked about what the different types of crimes there are involving technology. The other was made by a detective from the Investigative Unit, who told exciting stories about sting operations. The projects we worked on in small groups or in pairs were things like creating posters for the police department's new text-a-tip program, and writing this article.

Apart from what we did week to week, there was also activities we did throughout the program. A big part of CYPA was the fitness. At the beginning and end of the program we went to the MIT tracks to see how fast we could run a mile. About every other day we went up to the gym in the police station to work out.

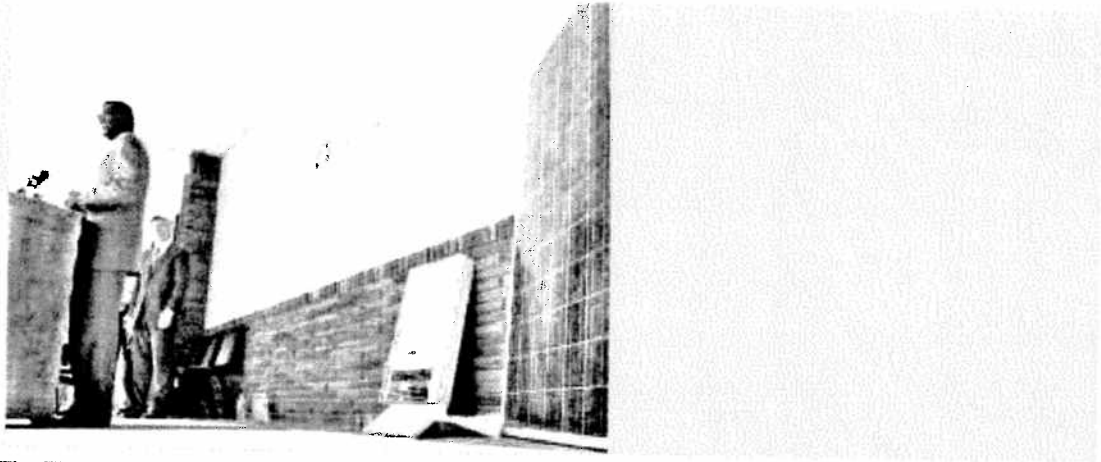
Scattered throughout the program were a couple of workshops with our MSYEP counselor, Tori. These workshops were on job searches and networking. A workshop would last for about an hour, and during that hour we would learn about the subject of the workshop through a variety of games.

If CYPA sounds like an interesting program to you then you should recommend it to any teens you know between the ages of 14 and 18. If they're looking for a job that's out of the ordinary then it's the place for them.

Michaela Peterson was a CYPA participant.

Stimulus money brings 'green' job training to Jacksonville

- **BY ADAM AASEN**
- STORY UPDATED AT 6:51 AM ON WEDNESDAY, SEP. 9, 2009



- Buzz up!
WILL DICKEY/The Times-Union
State Sen. Tony Hill, D-Jacksonville, talks Tuesday about Solar Energy Initiatives Inc. and its partnership with job training and placement agencies to train workers to install solar energy panels.

Go Green Video Reports

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With the economy hanging over people's heads like a dark storm cloud, Solar Energy Initiatives is hoping to bring a little sunshine to Jacksonville's Northside.

The company announced today its partnership with three Jacksonville job training and placement agencies to help train unemployed workers to get "green" jobs.

The program is funded with \$387,000 in federal stimulus money provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The funding is pending final approval by the Jacksonville City Council.

The training facility, which will be called the Community Rehabilitation Center Institute, will be located at Pearl Plaza, at the corner of North Pearl and 44th streets, not far from the Gateway Shopping Center.

Reggie Gaffney, executive director of the Community Rehabilitation Center, said the trainees will learn how to install and maintain solar energy panels, which is a growing field. He said there's plenty of demand for skilled workers in this trade, but not enough people have the proper training. Initially, he said the hope is that 40 workers will be trained for jobs that will pay on average \$10 to \$15 an hour.

WorkSource and the Northeast Community Action Agency will provide the qualified trainees for the program.

Local politicians representing this part of Jacksonville were excited about adding job training to the area.

City Councilman Johnny Gaffney, of District 7, said it's important to create jobs that are in demand for the foreseeable future, such as "green" jobs.

City Councilman Reggie Brown, of District 10, said he thinks Florida is far behind where it should be in solar technology, even though he thinks there is a growing demand for solar panels.

"Florida is a sunshine state, what better place to lead the nation in solar energy," he said. "We shouldn't be behind the curve."

State Sen. Tony Hill, D-Jacksonville, said he believes this stimulus money should have a big impact on an area that really needs it.

"We like to talk about stimulus money being shovel ready," he said. "Well this is gut ready. It's stomach ready. We're hungry. Ready for some jobs in Jacksonville."

Stimulus money affects Cerritos campus

By Joey Berumen

[Print this article](#)
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Published: Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Updated: Tuesday, September 15, 2009

As a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, more than \$265,000 were awarded to the Southeast Los Angeles County Workforce investment board.

Some of these funds were distributed to the Pathway program department at Cerritos College.

The Pathway program is an on-campus program committed to helping students create a strong career pathway.

One of the ways the program has been able to aid students is through its summer work program.

Nearly 100 Cerritos College students got to take advantage of this over the summer.

As part of the summer work program, participants received the opportunity to take part in a work-readiness training course.

From there, they were placed into different on and off-campus jobs.

The math, counseling, physical education and career services department were just some of the on-campus departments that benefited from the program.

Obaldo Bautista, proctor and clerk typist of career/assessment services, said, "During the summer, we had a lot of graduated high school students here to take the assessment test.

"The student workers helped keep everything organized and took on a lot of responsibility, it definitely ran smoother than recent years."

Program participants were all paid through the Workforce Investment Act, which is part of the recent stimulus package.

This enabled companies to hire at no cost to them.

"Since the program was totally grant funded, the grant was essential to running the program," said Carla Yorke, the pathway programs facilitator.



For many, this was the very first job experience that they have ever had.

Not only did they get very valuable work experience, that during these rough economic times seems essential, but they got work experience that for most, directly corresponded with their future occupational interest.

Perhaps the most direct benefit was that they also earned a paycheck.

Some of the companies that took part in the programs include Mobile gas stations, R&D Steel Company and Christian Dior.

Riverside Supervisors approve over \$1 million for worker retraining

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Special to the Valley News

Tuesday, September 15th, 2009.
Issue 38, Volume 9.

RIVERSIDE - The Riverside County Board of Supervisors today approved allocating more than \$1 million in federal stimulus funds for worker retraining programs, including a "boot camp" to help make unemployed residents more competitive in the job market.

The county Economic Development Agency will apply \$540,000 in American Recovery & Reinvestment Act funds to hire a career management firm to help retrain jobless residents and \$498,000 to assist high school dropouts obtain degrees, and assist Spanish-speakers in learning English.

According to EDA documents, the San Francisco-based Graceland Center for Professional Development was selected by the agency to introduce a series of training programs for workers -- particularly those with long employment histories -- trying to adapt to new skills while re-entering the work force.

Graceland will provide weekly four-day courses focused on job seekers transitioning into new work environments.

The so-called "Boot Camp sessions" will outline steps to reduce stress during a job search, develop action plans for locating prospective employment opportunities, resume writing, interviewing, computer basics and study methods.

Graceland personnel will also coach county Workforce Development Center staff on how to conduct future boot camps. The contract lasts 90 days.

Under the EDA proposals, stimulus funds will also be used to provide classes for high school dropouts interested in earning their general equivalency degree, as well as pay for more English-as-a-Second-Language programs to aid Spanish-speakers in acquiring bilingual skills.

According to EDA, four institutions have been selected to host the classes: Coachella Valley Adult School, Corona-Norco Adult School, Hemet Adult School and Riverside Adult School.

Governor lauds new workforce center in Roanoke

By Duncan Adams

Gov. Tim Kaine today described the new Roanoke Valley Workforce Center as Virginia's first fully comprehensive "one stop" workforce center.

The new center, located near Kmart at Crossroads Mall, opened July 22 but its ribbon cutting ceremony occurred this morning.

It replaces a workforce center sited near Valley View Mall that most people associated primarily with the Virginia Employment Commission.

At the new center, the VEC is one partner among many.

Thus, in addition to filing for unemployment insurance benefits and performing job searches, a visitor can tap a host of resources at the "one-stop" center — with resources ranging from information about housing assistance to details about job training, earning a GED or seeking post-secondary education.

These days, said Kaine, businesses considering a Virginia location ask "more than anything else" about an available, qualified workforce.

"Talent is the most precious commodity in the world," he said.

Not everyone has gotten the lowdown on the new digs.

Many people have gone first to the previous workforce center on Valley View Boulevard.

The new space is actually smaller by about 10,000 square feet than the former center. The state holds the lease but several "permanent partners" pitch in to help pay the rent.

Goodwill Industries of the Valleys has the contract to operate the center.

Linda Matthews is a regional vice president of workforce development for Goodwill. She said the new space might ideally be bigger but that the "partners really came together and made the best" of the available square footage.

Clay Stein, a senior director of workforce services for Goodwill, agreed.

"Whatever the shortcomings of the building we have made up for it with the integration of services," he said.

The federal Workforce Investment Act mandates that all federally funded workforce programs cluster in a “one-stop” setting, said Doloris Vest, president of the Western Virginia Workforce Development Board.

The new workforce center includes several partner organizations, ranging from the VEC to Total Action Against Poverty. And it is adjacent to two state agencies, the Virginia Department of Social Services and the Department for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Extra: Stimulus money flows into Minnesota

Updated: 9/17/2009 11:51:49 AM

[Click here](#) for more KARE 11 News *Extras*

ST. PAUL, Minn. -- Scholars and political operatives will spend years debating the true value and impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, but one thing is undeniable - federal money is flowing to Minnesota by the billions and being put to use in myriad ways.

On a recent day a carpenter drilled holes in a home in North Saint Paul for insulation, a dentist drilled out cavities in a neighborhood clinic in North Minneapolis, a teenager supervised children at a summer camp in Saint Paul and a construction worker poured concrete on a stretch of Interstate 35 in Chisago County.

They're connected by the \$787 billion stimulus President Barack Obama signed into law in February. In fact, at least \$4.6 billion will flow into Minnesota by the summer of 2011. It's already showing up in transportation, health care, education, public safety and university research.

Tracking the Cash

The stated goal of the cash infusion is to create, or save, 3.5 million jobs nationwide over the next two years. The largest single chunk of stimulus money, \$288 billion or 36 percent, will have an untraceable impact because it's going directly to Americans in the form of payroll tax cuts and other tax credits.

But the money flowing to states through government channels not only can be tracked, but has to be. Agencies must account for the money, and, in an unprecedented level of scrutiny, must file periodic reports detailing how many jobs were created as a direct result.

Virtually every unit of government, beginning with [the main White House stimulus site](#), has posted information explaining where the money's headed and how to apply for it. [The U.S. Department of Agriculture's interactive map page](#) lists how the dollars are being spent in each geographic area, as well as naming the contractors hired to do the work.

The [Minnesota Office of Management and Budget](#) is the central hub for stimulus dollars, which forced Commissioner Tom Hanson to become an expert and stimulus point man overnight. The first \$2.6 billion in A.R.R.A. money were used to prop up the state's sagging coffers, because tax receipts took a major hit in the economic downturn.

"We received what's called counter cyclical money," Hanson told KARE, "Which is a fancy term for the federal government giving states money to help them with their budget problems."

At least \$1.8 billion went to health care for lower income Minnesotans, with the federal government's share of the medical assistance program increasing to ease a severe budget pinch. An additional \$800 million of bailout money is headed to Minnesota classrooms, as state aid to schools detailed on the [Minnesota Department of Education stimulus site](#).

"Had we not received that, we would've had a deficit," Hanson explained, "After our February forecast with four months left in a two-year fiscal period we would've had to find some fairly significant budget cuts."

Roads and Bridges

The second large category of A.R.R.A. funding headed to Minnesota, roughly \$2 billion, is for construction and expansion of targeted services. At least \$500 million will go to transportation, mostly to projects that were already in the pipeline and ready to be placed up for bids as soon as the money arrived.

The work ranges from high profile projects such as the Highway 610 extension in Maple Grove and Brooklyn Park, to relatively routine shoulder and median work. Many of the jobs are listed on the [Minnesota Department of Transportation's recovery page](#).

"It takes projects that are already ready to go and just pushes them out into the system," Hanson remarked, "That's why we have been successful with our highway money in getting it out fairly quickly."

The Lowry Bridge implosion was a fairly spectacular example of stimulus money moving an item from the to-do list to current reality. The \$10 million in Recovery Act dollars going to the Lowry is part of [Hennepin County's strategic plan](#) for putting the A.R.R.A. money to use.

Another span across the Mississippi, the Camden Bridge, is being renovated as part of the [City of Minneapolis stimulus plan](#). The city estimates the Camden project will generate 90 construction jobs and extend the life of the bridge by 35 years.

Weatherization

Energy conservation is another major objective of the construction money coming down the pipeline. At least \$132 million will go to weatherizing homes, schools, public hospitals and government buildings.

On a recent morning a crew from [Community Action Partnership](#) of Washington and Ramsey county was hard at work pumping insulation into an 1887 single family home in North Saint Paul. The agency typically provides energy assistance and weatherization to lower income families, but never before to this extent.

"Normally in a given year we'll do 340 houses give or take," production manager Kyle Hartman told KARE, "This year we're mandated to do 1,700 units, which is about four years worth of production for us."

The weatherization unit has been bulked up from 17 to 35 already, but Hartman says it's an investment that's going to pay off in the long run in reduced utility bills for clients as well as energy conserved for the planet.

"This is permanent," he said, "It's not an ongoing band-aid fix. What we do really does help the environment."

Health Access

Recovery Act signs, already familiar large highway projects, can also be found on the walls of neighborhood medical clinics. They're competing for, and receiving, stimulus grants.

The **NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center** in North Minneapolis, for example, applied through Hennepin County for targeted health and human services grants. Dr. Deirdre Golden, the head of behavior health at the clinic, told KARE demand is rising for all services especially mental health.

"I think that's a direct result of the economic downturn," Dr. Golden said, "So many families are stressed, not only with the unemployment figures, but the losing of the housing. People need support."

The \$1.3 million Northpoint has been awarded will enable the clinic to hire 12 new staff and to upgrade some equipment. Northpoint's existing analog film mammogram machine will be replaced with one that captures digital images. It should double the number of women tested, and also increase turn around time for getting those mammogram results.

Take Saint Paul, for instance

Cities will be putting the stimulus money to uses in a wide variety of ways. The **City of Saint Paul**, for instance, is using \$1.6 million to use to accelerate the clean-up and redevelopment of the old Minnehaha Lanes bowling alley site. It was built on an old landfill, which drew the attention of the E.P.A.

The Capital City is also set to receive \$6 million in public safety grants from **the C.O.P.S. program**, which will allow the city to hire 28 new police officers and return the department's roster to 610. Another \$15 million in stimulus bond money will help finance the new combined fire station and headquarters on West 7th Street.

Saint Paul is also spending \$100,000 in Recovery Act money on the Youth Job Corps program, which puts teens to work around the city during the summertime and provides job-seeking skills training. Some of those youth workers staffed summer day camps in the parks department, doing things like leading classes and serving lunches to the younger children.

"It's like exercise every day, and fun," teen Darrius Watson said of the program at Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center, "The kids are fun and funny most of the time. So that's why I come."

A fellow youth worker, Teng Yang, was responsible for making sure the children arrived at the rec center safely. He worked as a monitor and attendance checker on the circulator buses that bring the kids to the camp.

"If I didn't get this job I'd probably be at the lake fishing," Yang laughed, "And I'd also be looking for new jobs but the economy this year's not too bright or good right now, so it's harder to get a job."

Stimulus package provided opportunity

Valyncia Danielle Alexander

Published Wednesday, September 16, 2009

During the months of June and July, I was afforded the opportunity to be employed with the City of Natchez by way of the stimulus package's Summer Youth Work Program. The experience I had will be beneficial to me the rest of my life.

I specifically worked for the Natchez Visitor Reception Center and the City of Natchez's Planning Department. All of the employees in these departments along with Mayor Middleton and his staff, Temple and Danessa, had an impact on my life. They help provide me with skills and instructions that I can use in my future work endeavors.

I also had the opportunity to meet people from all across the United States and from other countries on the days I worked at the visitors' center. I was very happy to provide them with information on our beautiful city, and I learned a lot from them about their homes.

Working with the city planner and his staff of the planning department helped me understand one of the many facets of how city government operates. Furthermore, I got a chance to meet many Natchez residents that had planning issues, and I was able to be involved in the process of helping to extricate some of those issues.

Finally, I again thank President Obama and Congress on providing the young people across the country with an opportunity to work this summer that I believe impacted many lives. Thanks to the state of Mississippi for receiving the funding for this program. Thanks to the employees at the WIN Job Center for their hard work of administering the program. Thanks to the mayor and board of aldermen for having me work for the city. Thanks to all my employers and co-workers for your mentoring and the experiences you provided, that will facilitate me through my life. God Bless you all.

Valyncia Danielle Alexander

Natchez resident

Investment in workers builds better future

Norwich Bulletin

Posted Sep 19, 2009 @ 07:44 PM

As program director for Norwich Youth & Family Services/Norwich Human Services, I'd like to extend sincere thanks to city department heads, the towns of Sprague, Griswold and Colchester and numerous agencies and businesses that provided students in our community with jobs for the Summer Youth Employment Program. Without their collaboration, the program would not have had such winning success.

This year, Norwich Youth & Family Services had 57 job sites and employed 124 students in our communities. Students earned minimum wage and worked up to 25 hours per week for six weeks. They learned to be good employees and developed job skills that will better prepare them for future careers. Jobs included health career internships, childcare internships, clerical, maintenance and special projects. The income the students earned this summer strengthened our local economy and helped their families meet basic needs.

With the support of federal stimulus dollars, Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board and EASTCONN, the Summer Youth Employment Program helps us build our work force of tomorrow. Thank you again to all of our collaborators — together we can and do great things.

PATRICIA DIXE

Norwich

Patricia Dixe is program coordinator of Norwich's Youth & Family Services.

SNCAT Corner: Student is face of federal stimulus package

BY KRISTIN LARSEN • SEPTEMBER 18, 2009

If anyone is looking to put a face to President Obama's stimulus package, 23-year-old Justin Richardson embodies it. He's a Truckee Meadows Community College student, who is wrapping up his stint with Sierra Nevada Community Access Television (SNCAT) as part of the stimulus' Summer Youth Employment Program.

Community Services Agency placed Richardson and recent Reed High graduate Eric Fries with SNCAT using stimulus money from Nevadaworks to provide summer employment for area youth. The program, designed to prevent a seasonal swelling of unemployment ranks, allowed eligible agencies to partner with local organizations and businesses to provide meaningful and productive employment.

Richardson and Fries arrived in early July and began going out on video shoots, helping cover meetings and aiding SNCAT volunteer producers. As his time with the Summer Youth Employment Program draws to a close, Richardson plans on continuing to work with SNCAT as a volunteer.

"Justin Richardson is a remarkable young man by any standard," said Les Smith, SNCAT executive director. "He is working hard toward a promising future. I've seen very few young people, over the years, which have the dedication and work ethic that Justin displays."

As the summer youth employment program wraps up, SNCAT has selected 10 participants in the Dislocated Workers Retraining Program, another federal stimulus program through Nevadaworks. During the next three weeks, program participants will be trained in video production in the studio, field video production and Web site development, using HTML and CSS.

SNCAT is looking for companies and organizations that need video production, interactive media and Web site development to partner with and provide valuable work experience and meaningful projects for program participants during their training. Call 775-828-1211 or e-mail Kim@sncat.org.

"Many local companies and organizations can't afford to hire full-time staff with these skills or pay production companies, freelance producers and developers," Smith said. "But, they still need these services. Partnering with SNCAT would get companies the skills and services they need, at an affordable rate and provide a real-world training experience for the program participants."

The stimulus money is enabling SNCAT to expand training opportunities to more individuals. In turn, we hope these skills will help recipients achieve higher wage jobs and lure more business opportunities to Nevada. The recent upheaval in our economy demonstrates its connection to the fortunes of individuals.

At SNCAT, we believe by helping individuals like Justin Richardson succeed, we will aid our economy to recovery.

Kristin Larsen is the web director for SNCAT. Contact her at 775-828-1211 or www.sncat.org.

Youth work experiences wrapping up for the summer

Sep 18 2009 5:22AM
Associated Press

Eds: APNewsNow.

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) South Dakota Labor Secretary Pam Roberts says her agency's summer youth work experience program, which ends on Sept. 30, was a "huge success with significant results." In a release, she says the department created 803 work experiences and internships with help from \$3.3 million in economic stimulus funds.

She says Labor Department workers matched participants to employers who could provide them real-world work experience.

The jobs were for people ages 14 through 24. The department paid the prevailing hourly wage for each position, which averaged \$9.24.

Some participants returned to school, while others were hired by the work site. The program started May 1.

On the Net: www.sdjobs.org (Copyright 2009 by The Associated Press. All Rights Reserved.)
APNP 09-18-09 0515CDT

WLS Learning Ambassador Program

POSTED BY WESTCHESTER.COM

THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2009



Tarrytown, NY - Teens often do not have high expectations for summer employment. A job offers something to do, a few new skills, and maybe a bit of spending money.

For 12th grader Jalen Bridges, her summer job at the Croton Free Library gave her so much more. As one of 28 Westchester Library System (WLS) Learning Ambassadors, Jalen learned to work hands-on with a diverse group of library-goers in her community. Her supervisor noticed her transformation from a shy teen to a more outgoing young woman. While it is not unusual for teens to work in libraries as pages, where their primary duty is to shelve, organize, and maintain books and materials, it is unusual for them to be trained to interact directly with children and adults who visit their local library.

Program benefits libraries, patrons, and teens

Traditionally, the summer months are a busy time for libraries, even more so in this year of economic challenges as parents seek out low-cost services for their children. At the same time, budget cuts have left libraries with fewer staff members to accommodate their growing patronage. Imagine the benefit to libraries when teens are trained and available to work with children as well as adults. Their extra hands help libraries deliver programs and services to their patrons.

Learning Ambassadors also enhanced the summertime library experience for library visitors. Children were offered personalized help and attention from someone to look up to – a teen. The Ambassadors were available to play games, provide computer assistance, read aloud and discuss books, work on craft projects, and much more. Through their involvement in summer reading initiatives, they also helped enrich library academic services.

The direct benefits to Learning Ambassadors go far beyond the average summer employment. Zahra Baird, Head of Teen Services at the Chappaqua Public Library, points out that the program promotes community building. "Area teens have a chance to work, have fun, and make a difference in their community. Everything starts locally – at home and in our own backyard."

Baird continues, "Participants learn how to get along with people, deal with different personalities, organize their time, and prioritize. They discover that their input is valid and that they're a contributing member of our community. It's really important for other teens to see their peers in these roles."

Learning Ambassadors are mentored by members of the library staff, treated as equals by library employees, and valued for their assistance in other services areas, including their work with adult patrons as computer aides. This process helps program participants gain both confidence and self-assurance.

Comprehensive training is a program hallmark

A week of pre-service training was just the start of a summer of learning for the Ambassadors. Initial training included not only the "how to" of assisting with children's programming and services -- reading to children, helping kids select appropriate books, being an active listener, engaging a child while reading together, telling stories to very young kids, story crafts -- but also desirable workplace skills and behaviors.

Trainers included specialists from county libraries and WLS staff. A workshop covering money and financial literacy was offered by Community Capital Resources, a Westchester nonprofit community development organization. Each presenter provided resource material to be part of a work binder. "If a Learning

Ambassador was asked to do an activity, he or she could refer to the appropriate section in the manual," explains Francine Vernon, WLS Youth Connections Coordinator. "The binder is theirs to keep for future jobs working with children." Training continued at the libraries with site supervisors as coaches and facilitators of on-the-job learning.

Dominique Ames, a Learning Ambassador from Mamaroneck, was able to transfer the skills she learned in pre-service training to a new setting. She requested work at a local day care center that was interested in library outreach services. Using her work binder as a reference, Dominique was able provide the day care center with similar services to those in the children's room of a library.

Library and sponsor support ensures the program's success

Over a third of the 38 WLS member libraries participated in this year's program through lending staff for training or serving as host worksites. The fourteen libraries plus two branches span Westchester County. They included the Chappaqua Public Library, Croton Free Library, Field Library (Peekskill), Grinton I. Will Library (Yonkers), Harrison Public Library, Hendrick Hudson Free Library (Montrose), Huguenot Children's Library (New Rochelle), Larchmont Public Library, Mount Kisco Public Library, Mount Vernon Public Library, New Rochelle Public Library, Town of Pelham Public Library, Port Chester-Rye Brook Public Library, Riverfront Library (Yonkers), Warner Library (Tarrytown), and the White Plains Public Library. The I.T.I. Day Care Center in Mamaroneck also participated.

The 2009 sponsors of the Learning Ambassadors program represent the county's diverse communities. Sponsors included the Westchester County Youth Bureau's Scholars Program, Westchester Community Opportunity Program (WestCOP), Junior League of Westchester on the Sound, Junior League of Pelham, Great Potential Program of SUNY Purchase, as well as the Chappaqua Public Library, Town of Pelham Public Library, Port Chester Carver Center, Friends of the Harrison Public Library, and Friends of the Mount Kisco Public Library.

"The program would have been even bigger but was limited by library resources," explains Vernon. "We look forward to improvements in the economic climate that will enable us to expand the program in 2010."

The Westchester Library System is located at 540 White Plains Road, Suite 200, Tarrytown, NY 10591. For a complete list of programs and events throughout the Westchester Library System, visit the WLS website at www.westchesterlibraries.org.

About the Westchester Library System

The Westchester Library System (WLS) includes 38 member public libraries located throughout the County and is one of New York State's 23 public library systems. WLS and its member libraries have a total collection of 5.4 million items, including 3.7 million books, as well as audio recordings, videocassettes, DVDs, print serials, and other materials. The mission of the Westchester Library System is to ensure that all residents have seamless access to excellent library service throughout Westchester County. The Westchester Library System serves as a center of innovation for the Westchester County library community. WLS provides model programs, affordable and easy-to-use information technology, and support services that enable libraries to continuously improve service to their communities.

9-16-09

\$17M stimulus money helped thousands have youth summer jobs

by Kathy Chaney

DEFENDER STAFF WRITER

More than 19,000 youths worked this summer, thanks to the City of Chicago's summer job program for youths, Youth Ready Chicago, city officials said.

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For students and young adults, ages 14 to 24, the city made available 19,100 summer jobs with various public and private agencies throughout Chicago. Nearly \$43 million from federal, state and private funds were made available to pay the workers for summer employment.

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Federal stimulus funds - \$17.3 million - afforded the city to add 7,300 additional spots to the program, and a special \$500,000 grant from the state allowed for youths to tap into the gardening market and video documentation of the summer program, the director of Youth Ready Chicago told the Defender.

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"The stimulus money allowed us to provide more jobs for the summer and our goal was to make sure that the youths worked at least six weeks during the program," said Mary Ellen Messner, director of YRC.

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She added that the average wage for the summer employees was \$8.00 per hour.

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The Miami Herald

Posted on Wed, Sep. 16, 2009

Job training program a victory for students at Hialeah High School

BY JENNA FARMER

ifarmer@MiamiHerald.com



DANIEL BOCK / FOR THE MIAMI HERALD

September 14, 2009 – Hialeah Senior High twelfth grader Anthony Castellon shreds paper at Hialeah City Hall, Monday, September 14. He participates in Project Victory, a dual enrollment employment training program that gives students experience through work in city offices.

After listening to growing requests from the city's residents to annex additional special education programs into the school system, Hialeah Mayor Julio Robaina took action and requested Project Victory be brought to City Hall.

Project Victory is a training program that helps high school juniors and seniors with learning disabilities acquire basic employability skills. Created by Miami-Dade Public Schools in 1986, the program works with students in all public high schools.

The training program helps students with intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, learning and emotional/behavioral disabilities, orthopedic, language, and visual impairments, and hearing disorders, said Jill Brookner, supervisor of Project Victory and the school district's special education division.

Robaina knew it was crucial to bring the program to Hialeah, based on requests by residents who wanted more education programs for students with disabilities. The city was first municipality to seek out the program.

“In this program, the students develop skills they will use in the future, and it helps create habits that are crucial in finding a job,” Robaina said.

The program launched in Hialeah in August, and currently serves students enrolled at Hialeah High School during the morning session, held at City Hall. After classes, students go to work sites at offices, local restaurants or department stores.

“It’s just like a job,” said Hialeah Project Victory teacher Janet Marrero. “The students apply to participate in the program, and we check their grades and previous records and then go through the interview process.”

Osney Rodriguez, a junior at Hialeah High, said he applied for the program so he could learn new things.

“It’s fun, it teaches me to get along with co-workers, and we have the best teachers in the world,” Rodriguez said.

“We have a variety of things we do here such as scanning, shredding and basic clerical work, but academically, the students have to be up to par because they also do filing and sequencing of numbers,” Marrero said.

Students involved in the program in 2008 were employed at sites such as Publix, Winn-Dixie, McDonald's, Big Lots, Land Shark Stadium, Taco Bell, KFC, Cold Stone Creamery, hospitals, car washes and gas stations, Brookner said.

The program does not just keep the students busy during their school hours, however. At the end of 2008, out of the 33 students who were employed through Project Victory, 25 were employed after high school, Brookner said.

Although it will be hard to estimate the success rate of employment for the current students because of the current economy, the teachers and participants remain optimistic.

“Although employment is our ultimate goal, we also measure the students' success in terms of growth and attainment of skills,” Brookner said.

Robaina expressed his high hopes for the program as well.

“I hope this acts as a model for other cities to open their doors so these young men and women can be productive members of their community, in the public and private sector,” he said.

As School Year Begins, Teens Celebrate Work Helping Seniors

by Brooklyn Eagle (edit@brooklyneagle.net), published online 09-21-2009

COBBLE HILL — Teens participating in Cobble Hill Health Center's Summer Youth Employment Program recently posed for their annual end-of-year photo shoot.

The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) provides New York City youth between the ages of 14 and 24 with summer employment and educational opportunities. Participants work in a variety of entry-level jobs at government agencies, hospitals, summer camps, nonprofits, small businesses, law firms, museums, sports enterprises and retail organizations.

The program strives to emphasize real-world labor expectations, increase awareness of services offered by local community-based organizations, and provide opportunities for career instruction, financial literacy training, academic improvement and social growth.

Students were strictly supervised by Cobble Hill personnel as they helped transport the elderly in wheelchairs to therapy sessions, help at mealtimes, change linen and generally act as assistants to the nursing assistants. This year's group was the largest ever with almost 100 participants.

The program is directed by Karen White, Cobble Hill's director of volunteers, who has been the recipient on past occasion of several other awards for her outstanding volunteer work with local high school students.

Ms. White has been Cobble Hill's director of volunteers since 2003 and has successfully expanded the general volunteer program to include 135 teenagers and 60 adults throughout the year. After the photo shoot, the students held a fashion show, to the delight of residents.



Teen student volunteers outside the
Cobble Hill Health Center on Henry
Street.

Pennsylvania Earns National Recognition for Excellence in Workforce Development

HARRISBURG, Pa., Sept. 23 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Governor Edward G. Rendell today lauded the Department of Labor & Industry and Secretary Sandi Vito for earning awards from the National Association of State Workforce Agencies, or NASWA, during its annual conference this week.

"Under Secretary Vito's leadership we have transformed Pennsylvania's workforce development system," Governor Rendell said. "We continue to work hard to do what is right for Pennsylvania businesses and workers. It is an incredible honor to have our workforce development efforts recognized for excellence on the national stage."

Pennsylvania received two of the five national awards that recognize contributions to the success of the nation's public workforce system in five different categories.

Vito received The Eagle Award for her contributions to workforce development and related services and her efforts to serve employers and workers. During her time as secretary, and earlier as deputy secretary for workforce development, she led the transformation of Pennsylvania's workforce system into a more demand-driven system that creates industry-led training strategies, promotes clearly defined career pathways, increases opportunities for residents, prepares youth for the careers of tomorrow and holds participants to rigorous accountability standards.

Pennsylvania also earned the State Excellence Award for Leadership for its Regional Career Education Partnerships for Youth, or RCEPs, initiative. RCEPs connect businesses, education and communities to prepare future workers. Pennsylvania's 22 RCEPs provide more than 323,000 students better opportunities to learn skills and work-based knowledge critical for success in college and careers.

"I am honored to accept these awards on behalf of the men and women who work tirelessly each day to strengthen Pennsylvania's workforce development system and help us continue to find new and better solutions to our most pressing workforce issues," Vito said. "In Pennsylvania, private and public partners are committed to developing the most highly skilled workforce in the nation, and to connecting employers with skilled workers."

For more information on workforce development in Pennsylvania, visit: www.paworkforce.state.pa.us.

The Rendell administration is committed to creating a first-rate public education system, protecting our most vulnerable citizens and continuing economic investment to support our communities and businesses. To find out more about Governor Rendell's initiatives and to sign up for his newsletter, visit: www.governor.state.pa.us.

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SOURCE Pennsylvania Office of the Governor

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More than 500 Union County youths benefit from Summer Jobs Program

STAFF REPORT • SEPTEMBER 29, 2009

ELIZABETH — More than 500 young Union County residents gained valuable on-the-job experience this summer, thanks to federal- and state-funded programs administered by the Union County Department of Human Services.

The programs focused on helping young people develop resume-ready work skills, along with learning the basics of personal finance and banking.

The two programs include the Summer Youth Employment Program and Help Employ Area Teens. Together, they are designed to improve long-term career prospects for persons age 14 to 25 who have dropped out of school, are at risk of dropping out of school or are disadvantaged.

To match summer employment participants with employers, the Union County One-Stop Career Centers provided pre-screening services for UPS, Fed-Ex, Great Adventure Six Flags, the Jersey Gardens Mall and Newark Liberty International Airport.

Small retail stores, public schools and physicians' offices also participated in the program, as well as the Elizabethport Presbyterian Center, the Rahway public works department, Jefferson Park Ministries, Union Township Action Organization, Rahway Community Action Organization and the Urban League of Greater Union County.

Union County's One-Stop Career Centers in Elizabeth and Plainfield offer a wide variety of services, free of charge, to job seekers of all ages, along with services for employers and entrepreneurs. The Elizabeth One-Stop Career Center, at 921 Elizabeth Ave., serves residents of Elizabeth, Hillside, Kenilworth, Linden, Roselle, Roselle Park, Springfield, Union and Winfield. For information, call 908-558-8000.

The Plainfield One-Stop Career Center, at 200 W. Second St., serves residents of Berkeley Heights, Clark, Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, New Providence, Plainfield, Rahway, Scotch Plains, Summit and Westfield. For information, call 908-757-9090.

Home > Salsa Verde > Archives > 2009 > September > 28 > Entry

New green jobs center for youth opens in Austin

By Asher Price | Monday, September 28, 2009, 05:24 PM

American YouthWorks unveiled its new Green Jobs Training Center on Monday.

The South Austin facility, which houses a charter school for at-risk youth, has already gone through an energy efficiency retrofit paid for by a \$1.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce. U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin, who helped secure the money, was the keynote speaker at a ribbon-cutting.

The money paid for the installation of an energy efficient HVAC system and new ducts. Solar panels top the facility. The Austin affiliate of the Building Owners and Managers Association and Austin Association of Facility Maintenance Engineers also contributed time and expertise to the project, which is located at 1901 E. Ben White Blvd.

One of the American YouthWorks programs is Casa Verde Builders, which builds single-family, energy efficient, affordable homes.

"When you focus on a foundation for a home, you're really working on a foundation for a young person to have a role in the community," Doggett said at the event.

Posted on Tue, Sep. 29, 2009

Federal stimulus money boosts job training efforts in KC

By RANDOLPH HEASTER
The Kansas City Star

“Where did the stimulus money go?”

That’s been a common question among Americans, who hear and read frequently about the bailouts and loans received by Wall Street firms, banks and auto manufacturers, not to mention executive bonuses. But many wonder if any funding has helped the average unemployed Joe on Main Street.

The nearly \$800 billion that Congress approved in February in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has been funneled through various channels, from tax cuts to extended jobless benefits to infrastructure improvements. But if there’s one place the stimulus money’s impact is seen, it’s in the job-training sector.

Through the spring and summer, local organizations like the Full Employment Council on the Missouri side and the Workforce Partnership on the Kansas side have helped thousands of area residents receive training, as well as employment opportunities that otherwise wouldn’t exist.

And though the funding was a one-time allotment, job-training experts believe long term benefits will be realized as the economy bounces back and more employers have a pool of qualified and trained workers from which to hire.

For Clyde McQueen, chief executive of the Full Employment Council, the stimulus funding was a godsend. McQueen has been in the job-placement business a long time, as far back as the early 1980s — the last time the nation’s unemployment rate hovered around 10 percent.

McQueen’s experience and knowledge even took him to Capitol Hill this past summer as he urged a Senate committee to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act, a national job-training program that continues to receive some funding annually without a new bill being passed.

But McQueen, who has headed the Kansas City-based organization for more than 20 years, said the scope of the people laid off in this downturn has been unprecedented in his professional lifetime.

“You have everyone from waiters and waitresses to top executives to middle management to professional staff losing jobs,” he said in a recent interview. “Couple that with the lack of credit available to most of the unemployed and the rate at which these jobs were lost and you have an economic downturn much more complicated than in the past.”

But that’s where Full Employment Council steps in, providing the unemployed and underemployed with jobless benefits services, job placement and training assistance.

With four area one-stop career centers and four other locations, the council serves Jackson, Cass, Clay, Platte and Ray counties.

McQueen said the onslaught of displaced workers began arriving at the council’s area Missouri Career Centers last year, and by October the agency was depleted of training funds. So the nearly \$8 million that arrived in March through the federal stimulus bill (the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) along with state assistance was crucial.

“There was this pent-up demand. People were waiting for the funding to be able to get the training,” he said.

The urgency of the situation, with more people continuing to leave the payrolls and looking for new jobs that were scarce, pushed the agency to act quickly and creatively, McQueen said.

The agency took a three-pronged approach, directing the stimulus money to economically disadvantaged adults, dislocated workers and youth summer jobs.

Stimulus focus

The youth summer jobs program, which had been scaled down the past 10 years for lack of federal funding, was expanded this year with the stimulus funds. Normally for 16- to 21-year olds, the program was widened to include adults up to 24 years old.

In recent years, most of the youths in the summer jobs program were placed at nonprofit agencies. But the stimulus money allowed more private-sector employers to participate once again, according to McQueen. The aim was to direct the youths toward jobs that they could make into a career with further education and training.

About 1,200 area youths and adults participated, working for \$8 an hour for 32 hours a week over two months. The program ended this month. While such an endeavor did not get the attention that Cash for Clunkers did, McQueen said the effect was similar when considering that the funding made summer jobs available around the country.

“It really provided a direct benefit, with young people receiving a paycheck that allows them to spend money, as well as save for their future education,” he said.

For those successfully completing the job, the program also made available \$1,000 scholarships for community colleges and vocational schools and \$500 book scholarships for those attending a four-year college.

“The objective was making this not just a one-shot program, but leveraging opportunities to enroll in postsecondary education,” McQueen said.

The stimulus money also funded two other programs at the Full Employment Council, one for economically disadvantaged adults seeking jobs and the other for laid-off workers affected by structural changes in the economy.

In addition to providing training assistance and job-placement services, the stimulus money allowed those receiving training to take on internships at their potential employer and work during an evaluation process.

“The employer is able to try that person out while we pay them,” McQueen said. “Given the huge pool of unemployed workers, we were looking for ways to increase the hiring rate of people going through the career centers.”

Those two programs combined to train about 575 people this summer for new careers. Many of those are still going to classes or their internships at this point, according to McQueen.

Green partnerships

Stimulus funds also allowed the council to work with schools to create training programs for green or environmentally friendly jobs. McQueen said the agency has worked with the Workforce Central program at the University of Central Missouri, as well as Metropolitan Community College.

McQueen said most of the green-collar jobs are of an entry-level nature, such as “weatherization technicians” for home-improvement companies doing things like caulking, weather-stripping and installing installation for residences.

But other programs have offered training for some of the newer and more sophisticated green companies that are surfacing.

McQueen said the agency worked with Central Missouri to create a course on solar-panel installation, which were the type of employees Pave Guard Technologies was looking to hire.

Pave Guard is a Lee’s Summit-based startup that has devised a way to use solar power to prevent ice and snow from forming on pavement, bridges and parking lots. The company has secured a contract with the Missouri Department of Transportation to begin projects on various roads and bridges later this year.

Pave Guard contacted the Full Employment Council, which sought Central Missouri to run the program, said Corey McDonald, co-owner of the company.

Eleven of the 15 people who started the training program completed it and are now employed by Pave Guard, including six solar-panel installers.

“Right now, they’re the only certified solar-panel installers in the state of Missouri,” McDonald said.

Pave Guard quickly went from having about a half-dozen employees to now having 18. State projects are forthcoming, including installing the company’s system on a bridge in Excelsior Springs next month, according to McDonald.

“Through the training course, we were able to hire dislocated workers from a whole range of industries, including construction,” he said. “Our company hits every component of the stimulus bill, from using green technology to improving the infrastructure.”

McQueen noted that the council will be working with other green companies that are expanding in the area, such as Kokam America’s battery plant in Lee’s Summit and Smith Electric Vehicles, which plans to produce electric commercial vans in the Northland.

“The green type of jobs exist, but you have to train for them,” he said. “... The good thing about our region is we have the beginning infrastructure in place for these green technologies.”

Not only does the council have to train people for the types of jobs that will be available in the future, but the courses also have to be formed and offered as soon as possible so employers with openings can hire them right away.

“More of the courses are moving out of being semester-based,” McQueen said. “If a company is hiring in September, we can’t wait till September to start training them. With the right type of planning and notice, we can develop just-in-time and on-demand training.”

Metropolitan Community College has focused training on industries with job openings, such as health care, green technology and information technology, said Margaret Boyd, executive director of workforce development for MCC Business & Learning Solutions.

But community colleges also are flexible as they partner with groups like the Full Employment Council.

“A lot of what’s coming out of the Obama administration is the idea that we can’t just have course catalogs any longer,” Boyd said. “We have to customize around the students’ needs for a particular job, including in basic areas like reading and math. Also, the stimulus money has accelerated everything. We’re trying to complete training in several weeks instead of a few months.”

In position

Now that the training and employment money has been spent, the people in the business of finding jobs for the unemployed believe the stimulus is working. But it’s not a cure-all and end-all.

“The stimulus is short term, something to get you over the hump,” McQueen said. “But our objective is to position the people and companies we’re working with on a long-term basis. Because when the economy comes back, the communities that will get the new plants and offices will be the ones with the workers who have the skills to do those new jobs.”

Pave Guard’s McDonald said jobs at his company have average annual salaries of more than \$40,000.

“We’re not in business for the short term,” he said. “We plan to be here a long time.”

As an economic development official who has worked through every business cycle since the late 1970s, McQueen understands what’s around the corner.

“When we come out of this recession, we’re all going to be in a global race to reap the benefits of a booming economy,” he said. “We have to start doing the things necessary to position ourselves so we’re up near the starting line, not in the middle or back of the pack.”

Employment assistance IN KANSAS

The Workforce Partnership, which serves Johnson, Wyandotte and Leavenworth counties in Kansas, received \$4 million in federal stimulus funds. About \$2.3 million was parceled out for the summer jobs program for about 800 teenagers and young adults. The rest went to training and skills programs for adult and dislocated workers.

For more information and the locations of Workforce Partnership centers, go to www.workforcepartnership.com.

IN MISSOURI There are four Missouri Career Resource Centers in the metropolitan area, including the Full Employment Council office at 1740 the Paseo. Other centers are in the Northland, south Kansas City and Independence. The Full Employment Council also has offices in Platte County and Ray County, and in Belton and Harrisonville in Cass County.

Learn more at www.feckc.org or www.missouricareersource.com.

Trainees graduate from green jobs program

By GREG MENZA/ gmenza@c-dh.net

An innovative jobs training program initiated as a result of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has allowed eight of its graduates to be certified as home energy auditors.

The Honeywell HEAT, Home Energy Auditor Training, program completed its debut training run this month in Maury County. For the past few weeks, the HEAT trainees have been studying green technologies and other energy saving measures that can help reduce residential utility bills.

The group will conduct home energy audits during October at each of the Columbia Housing Authority's 293 public housing units. The energy audits will consist of a guided walk-through to assess areas where tenants could be more energy efficient. At the conclusion of the walk-through, the tenant will receive an itemized report detailing problem areas and offering specific low cost energy-saving recommendations.

The Honeywell HEAT Program is a collaborative venture of the Columbia Housing Authority, Honeywell International Inc., and the South Central Tennessee Workforce Alliance. The eight trainees, who range in age from 19 to 24, were selected from a pool of young people who were participants in the Hire Youth! Summer Jobs Program.

"The program with the Columbia Housing Authority is one of the first of its kind in the state, and we are really excited about that," said Tonja Garrett, Summer Youth Program coordinator. "We're also pleased that the Honeywell HEAT program will allow these young people to continue working beyond the original Sept. 30 cut-off date for the Summer Youth Program."

Garrett said plans are under discussion to extend the Honeywell HEAT program to Marshall and Lewis Counties once the Maury County project is completed.

Dibri Beavers is Honeywell's resident training program manager for the project.

"Part of Honeywell's mission is to provide employment opportunities for residents who are our public housing customers," she said. "When CHA Director Trent Ogilvie asked about the possibility of developing a green jobs program we came upon the idea of teaching them what our engineers do at the front end of an energy performance contract evaluation."

The graduates of the inaugural program agreed the idea was a good one.

"This program was a good opportunity to learn something new and show the people of this community we care about them," said Keventris Webster, a Spring Hill High School graduate. "It also allowed me to get more familiar with opportunities in energy conservation and community service, which are careers I'm interested in pursuing."

The young men and women who comprise the inaugural graduating class of the Honeywell HEAT Program are Quentin Armstrong, 23; Shardae Green, 23; Tige Kennedy Jr, 20; Delandris Moore, 19; Michael Mulldune, 22; Janelle Sparks, 24; Keventris Webster, 20; and Brandon Zeigler, 24. A ceremony acknowledging their accomplishment took place Friday, before a gallery of friends and family at the Columbia Housing Authority.



The first class of graduates from the Honeywell Energy Auditor Training program gather at the Columbia Housing Authority office prior to a ceremony held Friday to recognize their accomplishment. Staff photo by Greg Menza

Story created Sep 28, 2009 - 14:36:54 EDT.

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Guest's view: Youth employment program transforms lives

By DAVID MATHIS

Observer-Dispatch

Posted Oct 03, 2009 @ 10:27 PM

Transformation is at the core of everything we at the Oneida County Office of Workforce Development do with the youth who work in our Summer Youth Employment Program.

This summer, the Recovery Act gave us additional funding. We used this money to create additional work opportunities to help youth from ages 14 through 24 learn new skills so they are more focused on careers, if they are still in high school, or more employable if they are out of school.

This summer's accomplishments:

772 youth were served in our programs, including 242 youth who were funded by the Recovery Act.

At work sites sampled by the General Accounting Office, 100 percent of youth achieved work readiness.

570 youth were from Utica, including minority and refugee populations whose only hope for summer employment was this program.

Oneida County has always been aggressive about our Summer Youth Employment Program. This year, as in past years, programs have included creative activities such as these:

Students learned construction skills through building a barn that would be used at the Utica Zoo.

Youth learned civil engineering skills through site visits and hands-on activities regarding bridge safety.

Teens learned about principles of wind and other sources of renewable energy, and how that translates into a career.

Waterville-area young people learned about media technology and production.

A partnership between Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare and the School and Business Alliance gave young people hands-on experience in health care.

High school students in programs such as Upward Bound and Young Scholars learned valuable career planning lessons to help them set high goals.

Rome youth made a major impact by helping community-based organizations with maintenance and operations.

But this summer, due to the Recovery Act, we were able to create new programs that focused on the highest-needs population of our region – older youth neither in education or workers. This is an important population because these are the youth who need to reconnect with education and employment to realize their potential. These programs were costly – they paid wages for youth who worked 12 weeks or so — but they were a necessary investment in the future of our young people and our region.

We employed 90 youth through programming in partnership with the Utica Municipal Housing Authority and Mohawk Valley Community College. Of these, 44 youth participated in two vital community projects – the creation of an Internet Café at the Vet Center in downtown Utica and the creation of the REACH Microenterprise Center in Rome. The work done by these youth – under the director of MVCC staff – served the Recovery Act's purpose of making our investments in training also investments in reviving our communities.

Of the 44 youth, 90 percent acquired certification through the Lead Safe Program; 80 percent worked the full 12 weeks of training; 13 without GEDs went to acquire that vital credential; 5 went to work; 13 are heading to MVCC, while 17 are looking for further construction skills training.

These programs transformed lives and took the first steps in the re-use of vacant downtown buildings. Transforming lives; transforming communities. That's what the Office of Workforce Development did this summer. That's not just what the Recovery Act wanted – it was what this community needed.

David Mathis is director of Oneida County Office of Workforce Development.

Several hundred benefited from teen jobs here

By LAURA URSENY - Staff Writer
Posted: 09/27/2009 12:00:00 AM PDT

OROVILLE -- Butte County teens and young adults were among those to benefit from stimulus dollars through the summer jobs program.

More than 300 individuals from 16 to 24 found summer jobs, according to youth case work manager Bob Lackey, who was one of about five adults involved in Butte County's program. The teens were generally disadvantaged or disabled.

The program was able to pinpoint 240 jobs throughout the county, but 316 individuals participated. Some could not work the entire summer, so the same job could be held by more than one person.

Lackey said Butte County's Private Industry Program got about \$1 million, split between payroll and administrative costs.

While most of the summer jobs have ended, there were still a few crews working until Friday.

"The program was suppose to end as of Sept. 30. Just a couple of crews were working until we used up the money."

Jobs came from Gridley's park department, Oroville's parks and tree division, U.S. Forest Service and Chico Area Recreation and Park District.

"I was very pleased with the local program, honestly."

Of the youth who found jobs, nine ended up going to college and four have full-time jobs, although their employers do get public dollars to help pay them, Lackey said

The program's two goals to have been met here: Stimulate the economy and expose teens and young adults to work experience.

Lackey said the majority of youths here had never held a job before.

In addition to

Advertisement

work-related experiences, they worked in places they might not frequent — the fairgrounds, foot trails, parks.

"That kind of exposure could help them in decided a career later on."

October 07, 2009

Stimulus jobs program helps teens, young adults

By VALERIE WHITNEY
Business Writer

DAYTONA BEACH -- Viola Highsmith knows she is one of the lucky ones when it comes to finding jobs during the recession.

On her last day as a participant in a summer work program aimed at teens and young adults, Highsmith was offered a job by Halifax Harbor Marina.

Marc Phillips, marina general manager, offered both Highsmith and fellow summer worker Bobby Schiffer-Ross the opportunity to continue working part-time at the facility. "I liked what they did and thought we could use them," Phillips said.

It could not have come at a better time for Highsmith, 23. "This job has been a blessing for me," she said Monday during a break from her work in grounds maintenance.

September's unemployment numbers put teen unemployment at a record high of 25.9 percent. At the same time, the 27.4 percent teen employment-to-population ratio, which looks at those employed compared to the teen population, is at its lowest point ever, according to the Washington, D.C.-based Employment Policies Institute.

More than \$1.2 billion in federal stimulus money was supposed to help teenagers and youths ages 16 to 24 nationwide find jobs this summer, but the effort barely made a dent in one of the bleakest job markets young workers have faced in more than 60 years.

Experts and government watchdogs claim the program yielded few new opportunities nationwide for teens seeking work, as more and more adults are vying for the same low-wage positions at hamburger stands and community pools.

Local officials see the program as a success, pointing to the jobs Highsmith and others got in the program, and afterward.

Christine Sikora, youth services coordinator for the Center for Business Excellence, said 350 youths in Volusia and Flagler counties got jobs this summer because of the program.

"It worked really well," Sikora said.

So far, six youths have gotten permanent jobs.

Many businesses were apprehensive at first, she said. "But they were blown away at how well the students worked."

Instead of the traditional teen employers, such as fast-food places and retailers, the agency worked with a dentist, a window-cleaning firm, nonprofit agencies and even local governments -- a total of 50 employers.

"We actually opened their (participants) eyes to the kinds of industries that they might not have been aware of," Sikora said. The teens also took part in workshops on such topics as financial literacy and resume writing.

"We would have loved to fund more jobs," Sikora said, noting the agency used up its allotment of \$775,000.

Vice President Joe Biden described the Workforce Investment Act summer program as a way to keep teens out of trouble and off the streets while reinvigorating the country's summer youth employment program, which had been inactive for a decade.

But since the stimulus program began in May, almost one-quarter of the 279,169 youths enrolled in stimulus-funded work programs have not gotten jobs, according to the latest government figures.

As congressional investigators scrutinize the program for potential waste, experts are wondering why it couldn't prevent youth unemployment rates from soaring to 18.5 percent in July, the highest rate measured among 16- to 24-year-olds in that month since just after World War II.

"The summer program was basically half-disaster," said Andrew Sum, director of the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University in Boston. "It was too little, too late and too poorly constructed to have any lasting effect on our youngest workers."

The Labor Department acknowledges it's still working out the kinks, and says even if not all participants got jobs, the program has helped youths build valuable professional skills that will serve them and the national economy.

"We don't think everybody is perfect, but we think there is a lot of good news coming out of this program," said Jane Oates, the department's assistant secretary for employment and training. "If there were mistakes made we're happy to correct them, because we want to make sure that this program sticks around."

630 Summer Jobs Created

Written by Pacific Coast Business Times

Saturday, 10 October 2009

A \$1.75 million federal stimulus program created 630 jobs for young people over the summer, the Workforce Investment Board of Ventura County said in a release.

The program provided work experience with Ventura County employers for youths aged 14 to 24. It ran through Sept. 30.

In the program, young people worked for private, nonprofit and public companies while earning \$8 per hour. They also completed eight hours of job readiness training in career planning, job search, leadership, teamwork and interpersonal skills. In all, 114 employers provided work experience at more than 150 worksites in Ventura County.

Grants help youths learn job skills

SARAH BRADSHAW • POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL • OCTOBER 14, 2009

Federal and Dutchess County funds helped with paychecks and job skills for 160 teenagers and young adults between May and September, resulting in unsubsidized jobs for 13 of them, the Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board announced.

The employment-focused nonprofit, based in Poughkeepsie, wrapped up two summer youth employment initiatives:

- The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program for youths ages 14 to 20 to acquire work skills and income and learn ethics. The money came from the county.
- The American Recovery Reinvestment Act Program, designed to create entry-level jobs for 17-24-year-olds. The program was funded by the federal government.

About \$300,000 went toward the salaries of the youth participants.

Youths worked in hospitality, agriculture, fitness, health care, television, art, service, clerical and government.

Among the employers were Gold's Gym, Hudson River Health Care, Beacon government offices, City Drug, B.J.'s Restaurant, Beacon Creamery, Millerton Farmers Market, Astor Head Start, Saint Francis Hospital and Catharine Street Community Center.

The Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board worked with several community agencies to administer these programs.

Workforce Investment Boards distribute funds for job counseling and training, and are advocates for work force issues to help employers and employees improve their competitiveness in business.

Stimulus funds help students learn skills

BY RICK FOSTER SUN CHRONICLE STAFF
Monday, October 12, 2009 2:19 AM EDT

English, math, career training given to 160 local youths

ATTLEBORO - Stanley Chou is training at Attleboro High School to become an auto mechanic and Brittani Boyer hopes to become a nurse someday.

But during the summer, the pair learned a few new skills while working in a summer school program that combined part-time jobs with tutoring to help them with their MCAS tests.

Chou and Boyer were among about 160 students from Attleboro, North Attleboro and Norton who participated in the federal- and state-funded program financed through the Bristol County Workforce Development Board.

Ninety-five participants were from Attleboro, according to Christine LaChance, director of Attleboro High School's school to career program.

LaChance said the young people, many from low-income families, worked 20 hours a week for a variety of public agencies and received 10 hours of tutoring in English and math. Where possible, youngsters were placed in jobs that complemented their interests or career plans.

Boyer, a student in the high school's medical assisting class, worked for the Arc of Northern Bristol County, an agency that advocates for the handicapped. Boyer performed computer record-keeping work and helped update the agency's files.

Chou didn't work on cars or trucks, but did get an opportunity to help the community by working to prepare food in Sturdy Memorial Hospital's kitchens.

"It was really fun," he said.

This year's youth jobs program was created through a \$350,000 grant shared by the school to career program and Attleboro Enterprises.

The summer program, helped by the influx of federal stimulus funds, represented a major expansion over last year's edition, when about 30 young people received jobs.

Besides providing summer employment and help with MCAS tests, LaChance said students also gained valuable workplace experience in "soft skills," such as how to conduct themselves at work and communicate with co-workers and supervisors.

RICK FOSTER can be reached at 508-236-0360 or at rfoster@thesunchronicle.com.

Minn. Chalks Up Nearly 12,000 Jobs To Stimulus

MARTIGA LOHN, Associated Press Writer

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — The federal stimulus has provided paychecks this year for nearly 12,000 jobs in Minnesota schools, prisons, state psychiatric institutions and construction on roads and sewer and water systems.

State finance officials reported Monday that the stimulus created or saved 11,800 jobs through the end of September. The state has spent \$1.6 billion, or about a third of the \$4.7 billion it stands to get from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Minnesota's unemployment rate stood at 8 percent in August, with more than 120,000 jobs lost this year.

The White House predicted in February that the stimulus would create or save 66,000 Minnesota jobs. Based on the rate of jobs created so far, the total is likely to be closer to 35,000. But state stimulus coordinator Michelle Weber said the numbers aren't comparable because the federal calculation included jobs linked indirectly to the stimulus, while the state tallied only jobs paid with the money.

Also, most of the stimulus money spent so far in Minnesota — about \$1.3 billion — went to two areas here employment is not tracked: federal medical assistance and unemployment benefits, said Tom Hanson, the state's management and budget commissioner and top stimulus official. All the jobs came from about \$231 million, Hanson said.

The stimulus had the biggest impact on the state's education system, followed by human services and correctional programs.

Stimulus money paid for nearly 6,000 jobs in public schools and state colleges and universities, including teachers, social workers, administrators, counselors and school nurses.

The money also covered more than 1,200 full-time jobs at state mental health facilities, the Minnesota Sex Offender Program, county jails, a privately run prison and related programs. The positions included physicians, nurses, psychologists, social workers, prison guards and support staff.

Almost 900 jobs were also created or preserved in transportation.

Other details:

—\$16.6 million put 5,800 youth to work over the summer, paid support staff and helping unemployed adults in two programs.

—About \$5 million in low-income weatherization assistance created or kept about 170 jobs for installers, auditors, inspectors, contractors and state monitors.

—School districts used \$224,000 to buy ovens, steamers, dishwashers, freezers and refrigerators for their kitchens.

—\$1.7 million went to hire 83 workers at state Work Force Centers designed to help the jobless find new employment. Another \$27,000 bought 22 laptop computers.

—\$16 million went to 152 construction jobs on wastewater treatment plants, and another \$6 million provided 99 construction jobs on drinking water systems.

—\$300,000 covered home-delivered meals for seniors, helping create or retain 2.6 full-time jobs.

State agencies receiving stimulus money were required to report spending and job numbers through Sept. 30 to federal agencies on Saturday. They submitted more than 200 reports. The next update is due in January.

www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-in-conservationcorps,0,4296962.story

chicagotribune.com

Daniels expands youth conservation corps program

Associated Press

3:01 AM CDT, October 16, 2009

INDIANAPOLIS

Gov. Mitch Daniels says a program that hires young adults to improve Indiana parks and trails has been so successful that he's extending it for another year.

The Young Hoosiers Conservation Corps has given jobs to nearly 1,900 residents ages 16 to 24 since it was created this year using federal stimulus money. Corps members have worked on 750 parks projects statewide.

The program was set to expire this week, but Daniels extended it through 2010. Daniels says the program has exceeded expectations and puts young people to work quickly while enhancing Indiana's natural beauty.

Daniels is also considering expanding the corps into urban areas.

The state is using \$24 million in stimulus money to pay for the program over two years.

10.16.2009 1:52 pm

Feds praise St. Louis County youth jobs initiative

By Steve Giegerich

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

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An initiative that placed 1,000 **St. Louis County** residents between the ages of 16-24 in seasonal jobs and internships has been cited by the **U.S. Department of Labor** as one of the top ten summer programs in the nation.

The **Next Generation Jobs Team** matched 1,011 economically-disadvantaged young people with 250 employers who put them to work in law and engineering offices, health care facilities, public service and green construction jobs and in higher education.

Some team members helped beautify the **Lakeside Center**, a residential treatment facility in **West County**. Others assisted in the construction of environmentally-compatible homes for **Habitat for Humanity**. Some of the summer jobs, the county said in a statement, have led to full-time employment.

As a result of the federal government's recognition, county human services and workforce development representatives will share details of the program in Chicago at the upcoming **National Association of Workforce Development Professionals' National Youth Symposium**.

<http://www.sdn.com/sandiego/2009-10-21/blog/sponsored-blogs/career-centers-youth-employment>

Career Centers & Youth Employment

Rebecca Smith, San Diego Workforce Partnership

Wednesday, October 21, 2009 2 comments | [read comments](#) | [post a comment](#)

The San Diego Workforce Partnership is excited to feature real stories from people in San Diego who benefit from our work. The funding we receive from the Department of Labor gives us the opportunity to support a network of career centers countywide and run a summer youth employment program. - Rebecca Smith, Vice President, San Diego Workforce Partnership

“San Diego Workforce Partnership Provides a New Opportunity for Unemployed Professionals” - Kevin Campbell



Kevin Campbell's visits to the Metro Career Center this summer enhanced his job search process.

This year, the end of summer meant something new to me than in previous years – the season signified two full months of unemployment.

At 26 years old, with an undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies and three years of fulltime work experience, I had thought of my career as new and progressing.

Like many people in my situation, I started sending out resumes to every position I felt qualified for, sometimes up to ten mailings per day. I began networking with as many acquaintances as possible. This process turned out to be frustrating. When no job offers resulted, I felt rejected. I needed to reconsider my employment search methods.

I heard of the San Diego Workforce Partnership through a friend, who explained to me that the organization funds and oversees a network of career centers. This idea sounded like a step in the right direction. Through my research, I found that there are six career centers throughout the county, providing opportunities for job search assistance and employment training paid for by the San Diego Workforce Partnership.

Discouraged by so many unanswered online job applications, I decided to check out my local career center. I walked in with an open mind, hoping to get my resume reviewed and learn about training options. When I entered the Metro Career Center in City Heights, I noticed a small group of visitors of all ages and backgrounds, busy researching jobs on the computers. The studious atmosphere of the center made me I feel comfortable, and so did the friendly staff. I introduced myself to the front desk clerk, and from there, I was quickly on the way to my goal.

After filling out simple registration paperwork, I was scheduled for my first appointment following week. When I returned, I was introduced to Barbara, an eligibility specialist. Barbara explained that I would work with a career advisor, but first I had to complete necessary documents, and take a quick math and reading comprehension skills assessment test. The test did not take long, and I felt encouraged that I was on track to enhancing my job search.

Next, I met Charlie, my personal career advisor who supported me with the process of applying for funding to pay for training. Charlie was very knowledgeable, and I could tell that working with him would be easy. We discussed my background and interests. Charlie recommended that I get trained in solar power, a growing industry in San Diego and the nation. He explained that if I was willing to do some research and fill out an application, I could qualify to receive funding to pay for my training.

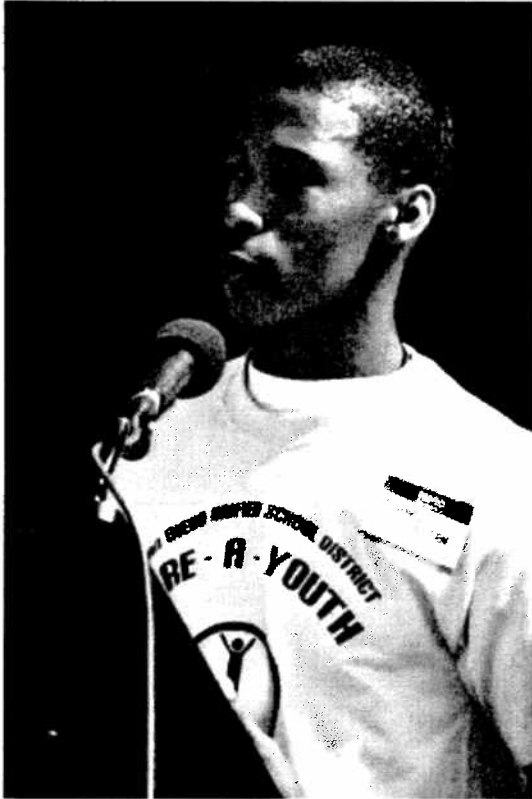
I was excited, yet somewhat nervous. I thought, “This opportunity is too good to be true.”

As soon as I arrived home, I completed the application process, because I didn’t want to miss out. Less than a week later, I turned in the paperwork, which included research on solar training schools, and interviewing a solar industry employee.

Within a few weeks of my first visit to the Metro Career Center, I was enrolled in an excellent training program, completely paid for by the American Reinvestment & Recovery Act (a value of almost \$5,000!). I now hold a professional certificate in electric power systems and

renewable energy. I have more contacts, and more confidence, for my job search. I am closer to breaking this unemployment streak.

“A Summer Job Made a Difference” - Michael Gaulden



Michael Gaulden read this essay to over 1000 attendees at an event on the USS Midway, celebrating the success of the summer youth employment program.

Some students considered the Hire-A-Youth (HAY) program as just another summer job. To many students, it was all about trying something different. Other students were into making money to buy new clothes, the latest cell phones, gadgets and gizmos. To me, the Hire-A-Youth (HAY) program is the relief to my family’s pain. This program changed my life, by drastically changing our circumstances.

Without HAY, which is sponsored by the San Diego Workforce Partnership, I wouldn’t have a job. There used to be a fine line that separated adult jobs from youth jobs; but over the last few years, that line has dwindled and perished. It feels as if finding a job is equivalent to finding a needle in a haystack. Everyone, from fifty year olds to fifteen year olds, fights for that McDonalds job, because what may seem like an insignificant McDonalds job, can mean the difference between your family “eating” and “starving.”

In this present economy, people have lost numerous things – cars, savings, and even their homes. I’ve never really had a home to lose. I hear people say, “I have nowhere to go,” but they

can simply head over to a see a relative or a friend. Even a shelter is somewhere to go. They might not be willing to go there, but they still have somewhere to be.

When I say that my mother, sister, and I had no place to go, that is exactly what I mean. Where would you go when your grandmother closed the door on you, laughed, and then said, “Being homeless is what you get?”

Where could you go when homeless organizations claim to place you in a motel for a month, and without even notifying your family, run out of funds your first week there?

Where would you sleep at night when your first cousin, whose living room is where you slept, moved out on you in your sleep, and left you there?

Where would you wake up when shelters toss you back into the streets when your time is up?

When shelters are too full to accept you, or the only way to take you would be to split up the only thing you ever had – your family? Where would you go when “friends” turn a blind eye to your struggle? Where could you go?

That was my question. Where could my family go?

My mother was doing her best, but couldn’t possibly do it on her own; and that extra help she needed just wasn’t there. What happens when a job doesn’t pay enough, and you need to buy food? Hunger happens. Food stamps helped, until our account was closed. This was me. This was our reality. My sister and I would eat at school, and we would bring scraps we managed to save back to our house or a car, so my mother could eat. This happened for a long time, until one day, I stumbled across a piece of paper that read “the Hire-A-Youth program.” To me, that paper read hope. It meant food. It meant sleeping at a motel at night. It meant a lot more than what it actually said.

Now fast-forward, past the HAY certification process and the work readiness training, to when I received my first paycheck. If you looked into my eyes on that day, you would have sworn I was Bill Gates! Two-hundred and seventy-nine dollars plus fifty-four cents was billions to me. That week, I purchased food and toiletries. I bought gas for the car, so my mother could get to work, did the laundry, and purchased other necessities, which allowed me the chance to step up and become the man of the family who could now be depended on.

The HAY program allowed me to provide for my family, gave me work experience and changed my family’s residential status. Due to the generous HAY pay rate, I covered rent and a deposit, so my family could move into our very own apartment and fill it with food. Our days of struggling with homelessness are over.

*Read more blog posts by San Diego Workforce Partnership: **San Diego at Work**. For more information on San Diego Workforce Partnership visit www.sandiegoatwork.com.*

Tags: [career advice](#), [employment](#), [jobs](#), [San Diego Workforce Partnership](#), [SDNN](#), [summer youth program](#)

This entry was posted on Wednesday, October 21st, 2009 at 8:46 pm and is filed under [San Diego at Work Blog](#), [Sponsored Blogs](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. You can skip to the end and leave a response. Pinging is currently not allowed.

Read more: <http://www.sdn.com/sandiego/2009-10-21/blog/sponsored-blogs/career-centers-youth-employment#ixzz0ZD1WduHb>



Economic stimulus summer youth program pays off in permanent jobs

Updated: Oct 20, 2009 06:41 PM EDT

By LISA OLLIGES



NEOSHO, MO. - The Workforce Investment board says more than 260 young adults had summer jobs, and at least 20 are still earning paychecks.

John Fickbohm is one of them. He was paid by the state and federal government this summer, but Orscheln Farm and Home liked his work and permanently hired him along with four others.

The store manager says its a win-win, allowing workers to see if they like the job and the company to test the employees.

"This is retail, if anybody has never worked in it before and most people have, but retail is not for everybody and so to have the opportunity to see how people work out before you hire them is a good deal," says Steve Earnhart, the store manager at Orscheln.

To qualify for the program workers had to be ages 16 to 24 and meet income and other guidelines.

Workforce Investment has similar programs for teens and adults throughout the year.

<http://seymourherald.com/local-schools/2009/oct/20/walter-state-tops-list/>

Walter state tops list



published: October 20 2009 10:28 AM updated:: October 20 2009 08:28 PM

Seymour Herald/Library Photo

The Walters State Community College Foundation continues to set the bar when it comes to private support for Tennessee community colleges. The foundation received more in private giving than any other Tennessee community college during the past year, according to a recent report by the Council for Aid to Education (CAE).

The CAE showed that Walters State received over \$2.1 million in private contributions during 2008-09, outpacing all other Tennessee's community colleges listed in the report. The foundation's fund balance, as of the end of September, is \$11.5 million.

The Walters State foundation also led all Tennessee community colleges in private giving the previous year, according to a 2008 CAE report.

"You are making the difference at Walters State," said McCamey.

McCamey also informed trustees of several developments at the college since the board's last meeting in May.

He reported that the college received its highest ranking ever in the national Digital Community Colleges Survey conducted by the Center for Digital Education and "Converge" magazine. Walters State is ranked the fourth most technologically advanced community college in the country among mid-sized community colleges (between 3,000-7,500 students).

Also related to technology, McCamey announced that the college has been awarded a \$493,000 technology grant from the United States Department of Agriculture. The grant will be used to expand dual enrollment courses via video streaming to area high schools and build three new technology enhanced classrooms at the college. The grant also includes \$137,000 for technology upgrades at Jefferson County schools.

Through the college's Center for Workforce Development, \$1.7 million was used to provide job skills training and employment services to the unemployed. The CWD also administered the \$2.2 million summer youth jobs program in which 875 area youth were employed in local businesses and industries. This program, he said, has been nominated by the U.S Department of Labor as an exemplary program.

<http://www.wytv.com/content/news/local/story/Stimulus-Money-Hard-at-Work/0SZVlaQDdEK9gnAe6uoykw.csp>

Stimulus Money Hard at Work

Last Update: 10/19 8:42 pm



Here's proof of federal stimulus money hard at work.

In the past 9-months, the Mahoning and Columbiana Training Association helped more than 47,000 people in the tri-county area who've lost their jobs. That's a 100-percent increase since last year. The group received \$3.5-million in stimulus money. The association was facing a 13-percent reduction in funding, but they managed to increase staffing at the One-Stop Workforce Centers by 12-percent.

Part of the stimulus money also helped more than 500 people find work through the Summer Youth Program.

<http://www.examiner-enterprise.com/articles/2009/10/31/business/bus301.txt>

Summer youth program aids economy, brings jobs

By Special to the E-E

Saturday, October 31, 2009 10:43 PM CDT

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act signed into law on Feb. 17 was intended to preserve and create jobs, promote the nation's economic recovery and to assist those most impacted by the recession. Eligible youth for the Summer Youth Employment program were ages 14-24 and met income guidelines outlined by the act.

Locally the program provided employment opportunity for youth in Nowata, Delaware, Craig, Washington, Rogers, Ottawa and Mayes Counties in northeastern Oklahoma. The northeast region provided work experience and work readiness training to 155 youth during the summer months. Northeast Oklahoma received approximately \$284,000 for the Summer Youth Employment Program. The federal government requested 80 percent of these funds be used by March 31, 2010; as of Sept. 30, the northeast area has spent 86 percent of the funds delegated.

Youth were partnered with a career manager to help identify career goals. As those goals were established, youth were provided a work experience opportunities to match their career goals. During the work experience, youth were trained and mentored by their employers and career manager. Youth were taught skills needed for successful employment as well as opportunity for financial literacy training, academic improvement, and social growth.

Employers from both the public and private sectors partnered with Workforce Oklahoma to provide summer employment opportunities to youth from the seven counties in northeastern Oklahoma. Employers were encouraged to mentor the youth matched with them to provide them on-the-job training and assist them in developing the career skills needed for success.

The Summer Youth Employment Program provides other opportunities for youth participating in the program beyond the summer work experience. Several of the youth participating in the Summer Employment Program have been hired by the worksites; others will be attending training in alignment with their career goals. Funding for this training is also provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, some employers also elected to fund training.

The Summer Youth Employment Program hugely impacted the youth involved in the program.

<http://www.browndailyherald.com/city-gets-creative-with-arts-plan-1.2042766>

[The Brown Daily Herald](#)

City gets creative with arts plan

Lauren Feder

Senior Staff Writer

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Published: Thursday, October 29, 2009

Updated: Friday, November 13, 2009

Editor's Note: This story contains material similar to text that appeared in other published work. An Editor's Note was published in the Nov. 13, 2009, Herald. That Editor's Note can be found [here](#).

It's been a busy year for the arts in Providence. The city's Department of Art, Culture and Tourism has been working to draft, present and implement "Creative Providence," an ambitious, 10-year cultural plan designed to boost local arts-related activities and investment.

The plan, which was publicly released in June, is the product of initiatives put in place by Mayor David Cicilline '83 last fall. Since last September, the Creative Providence team, composed of five members of the arts, culture and tourism department, has sought the input of more than 3,000 citizens, according to its Web site. The official report — which examines the city's arts scene in all forms, including visual arts, music, theater and dance — was produced with the help of two regional consulting firms and the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, said Lynne McCormack, director of the art, culture and tourism department.

McCormack said the plan outlined programs and goals for the next decade, but the current focus is on a handful of initiatives proposed by the mayor earlier this year. Following the June release of the plan, Cicilline outlined 10 "priorities for action" to be addressed by the end of 2010.

Cicilline's priorities are based on the official report, McCormack said. They include promoting the city as an arts and cultural destination and increasing arts-related programming in local schools, as well as positioning Providence as a leader in creative disciplines like filmmaking and graphic design.

McCormack said the department has been guided by Cicilline's proposals since June — and has already found much success.

"We've been pacing with those priorities," she said. "I think we're hitting the mark."

She pointed to a summer youth employment program as one initiative in which the department was able to quickly and effectively carry out the mayor's proposals.

Funded largely through federal stimulus dollars, the program provided summer jobs in the arts community for needy young adults, aged 14 to 24. The initiative created more than 300 temporary jobs, and students worked at local creative establishments such as the Steel Yard and AS220, McCormack said.

McCormack cited the city's "Buy Art" initiative as another successful outgrowth of Creative Providence.

Launched last winter, the program supplies participating artists, arts retailers and vendors with Buy Art pins. The venues distribute pins to customers who purchase original art, and supporters wear the pins as a symbol of support for the arts market. The pins feature works by five different local artists.

Though both of these programs have been relatively successful, McCormack said Creative Providence still has much more work to do.

She said the group's primary focus in the coming months will be to "look into different sectors" and to "seek to establish a nonprofit, downtown cultural authority," an organization for arts groups.

"A lot of other cities have them," McCormack said, mentioning Pittsburgh as an example. She said the authority would aim to align smaller arts events "under one roof" and help to determine "how to fund organizations while having them accountable to some larger, outside group."

And in a smaller way, Creative Providence has already taken steps to bring local artists together, McCormack said. Just last week, the department sponsored a social event for all members of the creative community.

"We've made the decision that we want to have networking events for people to gather and just talk," she said.

And McCormack said in the end, the realization of Creative Providence will be in the hands of not only the department, but also the citizens.

"This is not a plan for the department," she said. "This is a working plan for the community."

<http://www.esd.wa.gov/newsandinformation/releases/stimulus-funds-created-thousands-of-youth-recovery-jobs-09-096.php>

Stimulus funds created thousands of youth “recovery” jobs - October 28, 2009

09-096

Media contact: Sheryl Hutchison, Communications Director, 360-902-9289

OLYMPIA – Deborah Gardner of Spokane and Britany Garner of Port Orchard were among more than 5,600 teens and young adults in Washington who had paying jobs last summer, thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The state’s Employment Security Department received nearly \$20 million for the youth jobs program, which it funneled to local workforce development councils to create and run employment and training programs in communities throughout Washington.

Recovery funding paid for Gardner to work at Center Pointe, a facility that offers classes and activities for developmentally disabled adults in the Spokane area.

Gardner said the experience not only convinced her to make special education her career, but also taught her about her own limits -- or lack of them. Gardner was born without hands and lower arms, but she proved that she could be a capable member of the work force.

“This job taught me I could take on more responsibility,” said the 16-year-old, who’s a junior at Mead High School. “This job made me more ready for everything.”

Britany Garner, also 16, said that for as long as she can remember, no one in her immediate family has ever held a job. She was determined to break the public-assistance cycle.

Through the youth-employment program, she landed her first summer job, as a Head Start teacher’s assistant. The program not only paid her wages, but also bought her a bicycle that she rode nearly nine miles to the nearest bus stop each day to get to work.

Garner said she was pleased to see other teens with troubling backgrounds, including some high-school dropouts, participating in the summer jobs program. “I was really proud of them. They were being responsible,” she said.

A total of 5,786 youths were accepted into the summer program this year. About 130 were placed in GED-preparation courses, rather than paying jobs, to improve their chances of finding jobs in the future.

More than 1,500 different employers offered work experience in jobs such as construction and manufacturing work, stream cleanups, office work at colleges and other public facilities, and leading recreational and learning activities at Boys & Girls Clubs.

Employment Security Commissioner Karen Lee said she was impressed at how quickly the local councils ramped up the first youth jobs program in a decade.

“Our goal was 5,000 jobs, but the councils blew that number out of the water,” said Lee. “They were highly motivated to help these youths earn some money and gain valuable work experience.”

Participants had to be aged 16 to 24 and low-income, with an emphasis on those who had dropped out of school or were at risk of dropping out, youths who were in foster care, homeless, runaways, disabled, or whose parents were incarcerated. Military veterans and their spouses also received priority service.

Participation numbers and funding for all 39 counties are below

Workforce area	Youth jobs funding	Total youth participants	Paying jobs
Olympic <i>Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap</i>	\$890,834	220	220
Pacific Mountain <i>Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Thurston</i>	\$1,684,664	579	574
Northwest Washington <i>Island, San Juan, Skagit, Whatcom</i>	\$1,230,207	351	351
Snohomish County	\$1,503,086	246	243
Seattle-King County	\$3,456,187	895	889
Pierce County	\$2,558,130	1,032	978
Southwest Washington <i>Clark, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum</i>	\$2,172,965	705	705
North-Central Washington <i>Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Okanogan</i>	\$1,164,985	322	314

South-Central Washington <i>Kittitas, Klickitat, Skamania, Yakima</i>	\$1,691,296	515	515
Eastern Washington <i>Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman</i>	\$949,534	272	267
Benton-Franklin counties	\$884,221	188	166
Spokane County	\$1,742,508	461	437
TOTAL	\$19,928,617	5,786	5,659

###

Broadcast version

In this tough economy, many jobs traditionally held by teenagers are being filled by adults.

But thanks to the federal Recovery Act, more than 56-hundred teens and older youths across Washington were provided with summer jobs this year, doing everything from construction and manufacturing... to stream cleanups... to working with disabled citizens.

The state's Employment Security Department funneled nearly 20-million dollars in federal funds to local workforce development councils to operate the summer jobs program.

Employment Security Commissioner Karen Lee credits the local councils for making Washington's youth jobs program one of the most successful in the nation.

http://journalstar.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_c95f2c60-c40f-11de-81c0-001cc4c002e0.html

Report: 2,300 Nebraska jobs saved, created by stimulus funds

By NANCY HICKS / Lincoln Journal Star | Posted: Thursday, October 29, 2009 1:15 am | [\(4\) Comments](#)

Stimulus jobs numbers reported by state agencies are at: recovery.nebraska.gov.

Teachers and construction workers appear to be the biggest winners in jobs created or saved by federal stimulus money that went to Nebraska state agencies.

According to a state report being prepared for the federal government, more than half of the estimated 2,374 jobs reported created or saved through stimulus funds came in those two areas.

Around 1,053 jobs were linked to stimulus funds going to schools through the Nebraska Department of Education.

The Legislature will be sending about \$157 million of the federal funds through the state aid formula to public schools -- saving about 656 jobs, based on the report required by the federal government.

Another 368 jobs were saved or created through two other big grants to schools, providing programs for low-income schools and special education.

The state spent federal stimulus funds on 36 road construction projects, creating about 450 jobs during the spring and summer, according to the report.

That construction work took place across the state, and included resurfacing and bridge repair work on several miles of U.S. 34 in Lincoln.

The Department of Correctional Services also reported keeping more than 357 jobs because of stimulus funding.

The Legislature used about \$2.6 million in federal stimulus funds this year for budget stabilization. It was earmarked for corrections rather than spread out across state government agencies, explained Gerry Oligmueller, budget director for Gov. Dave Heineman.

That made it easier to track and was an efficient way to use the money for stabilizing the budget, he said.

State agencies spent about \$65.5 million in federal stimulus funding through Sept. 30, according to the first quarterly report. They expect to get about \$648.2 million eventually.

Other big job-producing areas were the departments of Labor and Environmental Quality.

About \$3.9 million in stimulus money paid for a statewide summer youth program, creating about 268 jobs, according to the report.

Teens worked throughout the summer, mostly in nonprofit and government agencies, said Catherine Lang, Department of Labor commissioner.

Loans to about 29 local communities for wastewater treatment plants and improvements in drinking water systems created another 96 jobs, according to information from the state Department of Environmental Quality.

Nebraska's experience is similar to other states, according to preliminary information collected by The Associated Press.

"Based on this information from a handful of states, teachers appear to have benefited most from early spending. That's because the stimulus sent billions of dollars to help stabilize state budgets, sparing what officials said were tens of thousands of teacher layoffs," the AP reported in early October.

Job estimates have become political chips in the debate whether the stimulus was worth its hefty price tag, particularly since many of the jobs created are temporary contract positions, according to the AP.

The Obama administration, bolstered by some economists and anecdotal evidence, has said things would have been far worse without the stimulus, according to the AP.

The Nebraska budget office also has collected the stimulus funding reports sent to the federal government.

National data should be available at the end of this week.

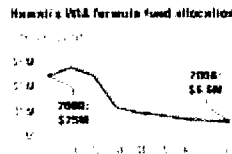
Reach Nancy Hicks at 473-7250 or nhicks@journalstar.com.

Posted in [Govt-and-politics](#), [Govt-and-politics](#) on *Thursday, October 29, 2009 1:15 am Updated: 11:29 pm.* | Tags: [Stimulus](#),

Friday, November 6, 2009

Federal training funds reach 22,000 Hawaii workers

Pacific Business News (Honolulu) - by [Linda Chiem](#) Pacific Business News



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Approximately 22,000 Hawaii workers have benefited from federally funded work-force development initiatives in the past year, according to state officials.

The state's **Workforce Development Council**, which oversees how federal job-training money is spent in Hawaii, said it hit most of its goals for getting workers access to employment training programs and services during a year in which Hawaii received a relatively small amount of money.

The state received \$6.3 million from the federal Workforce Investment Act — job-training money given to states — for the fiscal year that ended June 30, according to the Workforce Development Council's latest annual performance report released Oct. 1.

That's 75 percent less than the \$25 million that Hawaii received in 2000, the first year that states began receiving WIA funds.

The funds, which have to be spent within three years and are divided among the counties, go to help selected adults, dislocated workers and low-income or disadvantaged youth learn how to search for jobs, plan their careers and develop skills through a network of 14 “one-stop centers.”

Up until earlier this year, Hawaii was an example of robust employment with a jobless rate that hovered at or below 4 percent for much of the past decade. That meant there wasn't a desperate need for federal job-training funds.

(Based on the federal government's formula for distributing the money, the higher a state's jobless rate, the more job-training money it gets.)

Then the recession hit, shooting Hawaii's unemployment rate to 7.2 percent, leaving 46,900 people jobless and renewing demand for employment training.

Between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009, Hawaii had 39 mass layoffs involving 4,502 workers, according to the council.

During that period, 2,076 workers took advantage of the state's work-force development programs at an average cost of \$2,343 a year per worker.

In addition, another 19,513 workers have taken advantage of the state's reemployment services under a similar but separate federal funding stream, according to James Hardway, executive director of the Workforce Development Council.

The \$6.3 million infusion that Hawaii received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act allowed the state to keep up with demand, he said.

"The issue that exists now is meeting training goals strategically and fundingwise," Hardway said. "What's compounded Hawaii's problem is our unemployment rate, which has more than doubled in about a year and a half, but we've been able to turn the corner with the help of the stimulus infusion."

Kauai gets approximately \$300,000 in job-training money each year, which has been used primarily to train students between the ages of 14 and 24 for summer jobs.

"The funds we got to get youth into training programs were really successful in reaching out to the target group," said Randall Francisco, president of the **Kauai Chamber of Commerce** and chairman of the **Kauai Workforce Investment Board**. "We felt strongly of the importance of sending a message, in this slow and low economy, that the youth still have hope and there are businesses who are willing to step it up to train them."

The Big Island receives approximately \$1.3 million a year, which it uses to train high-school students, persons with disabilities and even ex-convicts for the work force.

"There's more and more people showing up every day to research jobs and it's hard to keep staffed so that everybody can get help at all times, but we're managing it," said Michael Gleason, CEO of the nonprofit Arc of Hilo and chairman of the **Hawaii County Workforce Investment Board**. "Over the past several years, because of low unemployment, we've focused on the ones who needed more training, like the elderly, people with disabilities and at-risk students, to fill employment slots. But with high unemployment, there are different challenges."

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Area wins national award for business collaboration

By Anthony Clark

Business editor

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When Enterprise Rent-A-Car decided to open a new call center with 200 jobs in Gainesville earlier this year, a site consultant for the company said the unique cooperation of local agencies that handle economic development and hiring services played a major role in the decision.

When \$580,000 in federal stimulus dollars were allocated for work force training, those same agencies mobilized their network of public schools, colleges, local and state government, and businesses to provide training and internships for 500 at-risk youths and young adults this summer.

For such efforts, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for a Competitive Workforce awarded the Alachua and Bradford county area the 2009 Region of Excellence Award.

The U.S. Chamber recognized the work of TEAM - Targeted Economic Achievement Machine - a partnership between the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce, Council for Economic Outreach, North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce in Starke and FloridaWorks.

"Businesses looking to grow or expand in our community can find all the resources to meet their needs under one roof at the Chamber," said Brent Christensen, Gainesville chamber president, in a news release.

Criteria for the award includes programs for job training and partnerships with education institutions, among others.

TEAM, which formed in 2005, moved quickly to organize the Summer Youth Program when FloridaWorks partnered with Santa Fe College, the School Board of Alachua County, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, the Community Weatherization Coalition and Alachua County government. The groups developed a curriculum and trained youths for jobs expected to be in demand, such as solar panel installation, digital media, green building practices and energy auditing.

FloridaWorks, the state work force board for Alachua and Bradford counties, has since received another \$1.5 million for health care-related and green technology training.

"It is the belief that opportunity is every individual's right that unites our team of economic and workforce developers, educators, government and our business community," said FloridaWorks Executive Director Angela Pate in a release.

"The Region of Excellence award is recognition from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce that we are succeeding."

The collaboration is currently working with tech start-ups, many of which come out of University of Florida research, to find office space and a trained workforce that will keep them in the area. The effort includes the Gainesville Technology Enterprise Center incubator, a partnership between the chamber and city of Gainesville.

Future plans call for working with businesses to address the education and training needs of low-income, at-risk people to address issues of poverty, crime and dropouts.

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2009/12/disadvantaged_youth_to_find_su.html

Youth employment program receives federal money to aid would-be workers in Pennsylvania

By MONICA VON DOBENECK, The Patriot-News

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The Summer Youth Employment Program, funded in Pennsylvania through \$43.5 million in federal American Reinvestment and Recovery Act money, helped 9,200 disadvantaged youths get first jobs last summer. Program directors hope to help just as many next summer.

They shared what they have learned at the Youth Services Academy this week run by PA Partners at the Grantville Holiday Inn. The two-day conference is designed for professionals in workplace development.

Among the panelists discussing what they consider the importance of the summer program were Pennsylvania Secretary of Labor and Industry Sandi Vito and Pennsylvania Secretary of Education Gerald Zahorchak. Those ages 19 to 24 were "horribly hit by the recession," Vito said. She hopes next summer's program can add some extra incentives to reach people of that age who are out of school and get them in some year-round programs.

Doran Condon is the Youth Program Manager for the South Central Workforce Investment Board, which covers eight counties. He said more than 500 disadvantaged youth in this area got jobs with more than 100 employers last summer, with their salaries paid from the ARRA funds. Without the stimulus money, probably none of them would have jobs, he said. About 30 were offered permanent positions after their summer experiences.

Sean Hurley, youth coordinator for Cumberland County, said the 50 jobs offered in Cumberland included working for the YMCA, Carlisle Borough, TJ Maxx, coffee shops and more. They worked four days a week for minimum wage, and took employment skills training on the fifth day. They all now have references for seeking their next jobs, he said.

Samuel Sims, 19, of Harrisburg, has been in the year-round training program and hopes to have a job this summer. He said he struggled in school, particularly in science and math, but what he is learning now is much more hands on, and he thinks it will be more useful. "I have no source of income, no high school diploma," he said. "This is a good opportunity for me."

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