

To: **Alfredo Mendoza:** Department of Workforce Investment
From: **Rebecca Lincoln:** Merced County Office of Education
Re: **Merced County Youth Council Quarterly Report:** Empower Program
Date: **Program Year 0910 first quarter report:** July, August, and September 2009

A. Overall status of the program:

There are presently 171 active participants in EMPOWER at the end of the first quarter; this past quarter the program had six new enrollments and 10 exits. The Empower advisors continue to track the number of participants enrolled in structured program activities to ensure that the majority of youth are receiving intensive services, as opposed to case management services. The status on WIA-Client action reports for goals, activities, exits and follow-ups (phase II) remain up to date.

B. Past Quarter Highlights:

- 1) **EMPOWER Workshops:** The EMPOWER Workshops were provided to youth only in the month of September this quarter. The following is an accounting of workshops offered and number attended:
 - a) **EMPOWER Orientation:** Conducted on Thursday, September 10 had seventy (70) youth in attendance;
 - b) **EMPOWER Workshop I: ‘Gettin’ Ready for the Job’** conducted on Friday, September 11 had forty-four (44) youth in attendance;
 - c) **EMPOWER Workshop II: ‘The Real Game California’** was conducted on September 14, 16 & 18 had an average attendance of twenty-nine participants per session;
 - d) **EMPOWER Workshop III: ‘Gettin’ a Job’** was conducted on September 21, 23, and 25 with an average attendance of thirty-one participants per session.

- 2) **Bldg D-3-Computer Lab:** EMPOWER participants use the computer lab daily to work on résumés, portfolios, and to conduct job search. *PLATO* is educational software designed to increase math and reading skills, it is also available to the participants in the computer lab. Sign-in sheets are used to track the number of participants using the computer lab daily.

3) EMPOWER Success Story: David Hedden



On May 8th, 09, David Hedden attended the May Empower Orientation and subsequently enrolled into the Empower Program. David is a very focused and serious young man. His interests lie in outdoor physically challenging jobs. His occupation of choice is to become a firefighter in which he has completed career research in the Firefighter field. His ultimate plan is to join a branch of the military force that can offer him firefighting opportunities.

David's most immediate need required work experience to give him some financial security. He requested a worksite near his home and something outdoors. He was placed at The Millennium Sports Club and he loved it there. The sports club found him to be a hard worker and loved his dedication to the summer program and children in his care. David enjoyed working at the club, but did not see an opportunity to be hired once school started, so he approached his advisor and asked to be moved to another site where he had a chance to get hired. The advisor suggested Costco, and he was at the work experience jobsite within a few days. When picking up David's first time sheet, the advisor Cyndie Bray spoke to the assistant manager and he told her that Costco had interviewed David for a full time position. David was immediately hired by Costco and the assistant manager has nothing but great things to say about him. David's work ethics and hard work obtained a great job for him!

C. Past Quarter Deficiencies: none

D. Past Quarter recruiting and marketing efforts:

Program participants continue to be our greatest source of recruiting and marketing. Seventy youth appeared for program orientation in September based on youth-to-youth referrals.

E. Next quarter challenges:

G. Technical assistance needed:

H. Number of clients receiving social services and examples of services received.

Numerous referrals have been made to agencies to assist with food, clothing, housing and transportation.