

To: **Eve Snelling:** Staff Services Analyst II, Department of Workforce Investment  
From: **Rebecca Lincoln:** Career Educator, Merced County Office of Education  
Re: **Merced County Youth Council Quarterly Report-** Younger Youth Program  
Date: **May 2010** (January, February, and March 2010)

**A. Overall status of the program:**

There are presently 370 active participants in the Youth Opportunity Program at the end of the third quarter; there were seventy (70) new enrollments. In the past quarter, YOP Mentors continue to track the number of participants enrolled in structured program activities, to include a monthly average of 50-60 YOP participants placed on worksites through-out Merced County to complete up to 192 hours of work experience. The status on all WIA-Client action reports on goals, activities, exits and follow-ups (phase II) remain up to date.

**B. Past quarter highlights:**

**1) Career Industry Day Events in 2009-2010:** These ROP sponsored events provide youth with detailed information and exploration of specific career pathways. Career Industry Days include tours of local businesses, guest speaker presentations, and hands-on activities related to various careers within a pathway. Career Industry Days are held from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm at the Merced County Fair Grounds in the Exhibit Building. The YOP mentors are encouraged to invite those participants whose career goals or technical training aligned with these pathways. The following two career days were offered to our participants in this past quarter:

- a) Careers in Education held on Thursday, January 14, 2010
- b) Careers in Automotive Transportation Services was held on Feb.11, 2010
- c) Careers in Health held on Thursday, March 11, 2010

**2) California Workforce Association 2010 Youth Conference “A Billion Beats”** was held on January 19-21, 2010 at the Renaissance Long Beach Hotel, in Long Beach, CA. YOP and EMPOWER staff, as well as participants from the YOP, EMPOWER, Cal-Grip and Green Job Corp attended the three-day conference that was designed to bring together a unique group of individuals, including staff from youth serving agencies, educators working with special populations, youth program designers, managers, policy makers, and youth who are involved in youth development programs

Career Educators from the EMPOWER Program facilitated an interactive session titled *REAL GAME Financial Planning*. The session utilized the Real Game California curriculum to conduct a presentation on expense sheets, budgeting and financial planning. The workshop engaged the audience through a series of worksheets and activities that portray the real life of a fulltime working single person, living on their own. The Real Game California curriculum is a part of the EMPOWER Workshop series.

On Wednesday, Alfredo Mendoza, Staff Services Analyst II with Merced County Department of Workforce and MCOE Career Educator, Toula Moua facilitated a session titled *San Joaquin Valley Green Jobs Corp: A Regional Collaboration of Central California*. The presentation was an overview at the regional collaboration of nine (9) California counties that extends from Bakersfield to Stockton that focuses on the green sector. Mr. Mendoza and Ms. Moua each provided insight on how the grant is designed to help youth learn job skills available in the green sector, providing them with environmental stewardship, civic responsibility, community service, work experience and education. The workshop ended with a rousing report from a local Green Jobs participant, Mitchell Denton, on the impact the Green Jobs experience has on his life.

### 3) YOP Sacramento Trip to State Capitol:



On Feb 26, 2010, YOP participants from Merced, Atwater and Los Banos attended a field trip to Sacramento. The purpose of this field trip was to tour the State Capitol. Participants were able to view different window displays from all 58 counties in California. Included is a picture of three young men standing in front of Merced County's display. Participants were able to view and appreciate the beautifully crafted rooms and architecture of the 1800's and some of the artifacts that were in different rooms throughout the capitol building. This was a great field trip, participants learned about California's history and even learned that Sacramento was not the first site for the capitol but was finally settled in 1854. The participants especially enjoyed touring the

governor's office. After the tour, a quick walk to Old Sacramento was also made available to the participants.



**C. Past quarter deficiencies: none**

**D. Past quarter recruiting/marketing efforts:**

Marketing and recruiting efforts for the YOP program were on-going in high schools through-out Merced County held in the months of January and February, 2010.

**E. Next quarter challenges:**

**F. Technical assistance needed:**