

To: **Alfredo Mendoza**: Staff Services Analyst, 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 2009** (January, February, and March 2009)

A. Overall status of the program:

There are presently 187 active participants in the Youth Opportunity Program at the end of the third quarter; there were fifty-eight (58) new enrollments and one participant exited. The YOP Mentors 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 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 2008-2009: 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 career days are as follows:

- c) Careers in Education held on Wednesday, January 15, 2009
- d) Careers in Automotive Transportation Services was held on February 12, 09
- e) Careers in Health held on Tuesday, March 10, 2009

2) California Workforce Association Ninth Annual Youth Conference “Smart Moves in Turbulent Times” was held on January 20-22, 2009 at the Renaissance Long Beach Hotel, in Long Beach, CA. YOP and EMPOWER staff attended the three-day conference that was designed to help local Youth Providers, Youth Councils members and policy makers run better programs, connect to other systems, and learn about the latest innovative strategies on youth development.

On Tuesday afternoon, DWI Grant Coordinator, Alfredo Mendoza; MCOE Career Educator, Rebecca Garcia; Merced County Probation Officer, Nancy Silva and Gabriel Morales from the

Center of Employment Training in Santa Marie provided an interactive session titled *CalGRIP Project- Increasing Opportunities for Gang Involved Youth*. This presentation was an overview on the Merced County CalGRIP Project, current gang statistics were provided; insights were shared from other counties in this session along with short video of current Merced County Cal-Grip participant's experiences.

3) YOP Success Story :

Ishmael Escalante enrolled in YOP in December 2007. Ishmael participated in meetings, events and community service and in the summer of 2008 he worked with the Dos Palos Elementary Maintenance Department. Ishmael did not graduate with the class of 2008 ; with encouragement from his mother and family he enrolled in Dos Palos Adult School. Ishmael came to class each week and worked on his English and U.S. History. Ishmael accomplished the goal of earning his high school diploma in December 2008. Ishmael will be on a job site this summer. He is ultimate goal is to become a chef.

C. Past quarter deficiencies: none

D. Past quarter recruiting/marketing efforts:

Marketing and recruiting efforts for the YOP program were on-going this past quarter. YOP orientations were conducted in February and March through-out the county, and fifty-eight new participants were enrolled into the program.

E. Next quarter challenges:

F. Technical assistance needed: