

To: **Alfredo Mendoza:** Department of Workforce Investment
From: **Rebecca Lincoln:** Merced County Office of Education
Re: **Merced County Youth Council Quarterly Report:** Younger Youth Program
Date: **Program Year 08/09 first quarter report:** July, Aug, and September 2008

A. Overall status of the program:

There are presently **107** active participants in Youth Opportunity Program at the end of the first program quarter. There were no new enrollments and forty-seven exits that resulted in **93.2%** attainment of basic skills, work readiness and/or occupational goals and a **90.9%** exited with high school diploma. The status on all WIA- YOP Client action reports for goals, activities, exits and follow-ups (phase II) remain up to date.

B. Past Quarter Highlights:

1) **The YOP summer employment** component began on June 09 2008; approximately one hundred participants worked this summer with local employers and agencies. The Mentors met with site supervisors to develop training plans for the participants who worked up to 32 hours per week. *The YOP Summer 2008 workshop; an 18 hours course was facilitated to all the participants in three-hour per week segments through-out the six-week summer component. The summer curriculum included individual career assessments, job search, creating an Employability portfolio; to include a résumé and cover letter. The summer workshop included a financial literacy component that included budgeting, opening a checking account and facts about credit*

2) **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 Pavilion Building, unless otherwise indicated. The YOP Mentors are encouraged to invite those participants whose career goals or technical training aligned with these pathways. The following is the list and dates for the upcoming **Career**

Industry Days:

- Careers in Business, Marketing and Computer Information Systems on October 23, 2008
- Careers in Arts and Communications on Thursday, November 20, 2008
- Careers in Education held on Thursday, January 15, 2009
- Careers in Automotive Services (at the Atwater Training Center) on February 12, 2009
- Careers in Health on Tuesday, March 10, 2009

- 3) **Cell Phones for Soldiers:** The YOP and EMPOWER programs are proud to support our U.S. Troops by being a drop-off site for unused cell phones at the Merced County Office of Education, Bldg K. More than 150,000 troops are serving overseas and away from their families. *Cell Phones for Soldiers* and Merced County Office of Education are calling on our Merced communities to support our brave men and women by donating unused cell phones. It is a goal to collect over 50,000 cell phones to keep our troops connected with their families.

Cell Phones for Soldiers was created by Brittany and Bobbie Bergquist of Norwell, MA. After reading a story about a soldier who ran up a huge phone bill calling home from Iraq, these two teenagers decided to help and came up with the idea of collecting old cell phones. The cell phones are recycled for cash and the proceeds are used to buy prepaid calling cards for our soldiers serving in the Middle East. For more information, please visit www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com

- 4) **Common Measure Training:** YOP and EMPOWER staff along with DWI staff participated in a six-hour training at Merced County Office of Education, Newbold Room on August 20, 2008. The implementation of the Common Measure Policy from the Employment and Training Administration (ETA), states one set of measures will be used for common measure reporting purposes and WIA Section 136 performance accountability purposes for all youth programs. The training included an overview of the Ten WIA elements for youth services; definitions of the youth common measures; and how the measures can be successfully obtained. The new Common Youth Measures are as follows:

Placement in Employment or Education: the number of in-school and out-of-school youth who are in employment (including military) or enrolled in post-secondary education and / or advanced training / occupational training in the first quarter after exit.

Attainment of a Degree or Certificate: the number of in-school and out-of-school youth who attained a diploma, GED or Certificate by the end of the third quarter after the exit quarter.

Literacy and Numeracy Gains: number of out-of-school youth, basic skills deficient who increase one or more educational functioning levels within a year.

- C. Past quarter deficiencies: none**
- D. Past quarter recruiting/marketing efforts:** Recruiting efforts for YOP are limited
- E. Next quarter challenges:**
- F. Technical assistance needed:**