

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 08/18/10

FROM: WIB Staff

For Discussion

For Action

For Information

SUBJECT: Youth Opportunity Program (YOP) 4th Quarter Report (Apr-May-Jun)

PROPOSED MOTION(S): None. For Discussion Only.

DISCUSSION:

A. Overall status of the program:

There were three-hundred and sixty-nine (369) active participants in the Youth Opportunity Program (YOP) at the end of the fourth quarter; to include eight (8) new enrollments and ten (10) exits. 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 WIA-Client action reports for goals, activities, exits, and follow-ups (phase II) remain up to date.

B. Past quarter highlights:

- 1. Camp Green Meadows- Jack Boyd Outdoor School: In April 2010 during Spring break, YOP students were on their way to the snow; many for the first**



time! The Merced County Office of Education Youth Opportunity Program had the rare opportunity to attend the Jack Boyd Outdoor School for four (4) days and three (3) nights. Eighty (80) students and six (6) advisors spent valuable time with the park naturalists learning about the environment, eco-systems and observing animals in their natural habitats.

Each day there was a new nature hike and the students enjoyed the daily challenges from the Naturalist. Whether it was hiking thru the forest or experiencing cross-country skiing, the students had the time of their lives. The participants learned great team building activities, living together, eating together and the many challenging daily exercises. One day included a special trip to Yosemite National Park for hikes and pictures.

The students had so many nice things to say about the whole trip. Some comments included:



“I have never seen snow before and had no idea it was so wet”!

“I loved Yosemite National Park; I saw a waterfall for the first time”

“Staying the night was the best; I haven’t been away from home before”.

“I learned a lot about the amount of food that we waste everyday”.

The YOP participants were thankful for this wonderful experience.

2. YOP Field Trip: On June 17, twenty-four (24) participants in the Youth



Opportunity Program (YOP) attended two college tours in San Francisco. The first tour was at the SF Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (FIDM) off of Market Street. Participants were given a tour of each level in the building and had the opportunity to view window displays done by the students at FIDM. The tour included a vast library of fashion and art books that ranged from the history of art, individual artists and current/past fashion trends. FIDM is widely known from the show “Project Runway”

hosted by supermodel Heidi Klum. Each participant received a school catalog that listed different majors that the school has to offer. Participants also received information about FIDM’s summer programs.

After the tour of FIDM, participants were off to the other side of San Francisco where they received a tour at the San Francisco Art Institute. The SF Art Institute is the oldest art school on the West Coast. Students received a tour of the entire building and were able to view and appreciate the nostalgic arts and craftsmanship of the early 1900’s. Participants were able to tour two different galleries, viewed student art work that was on display; the highlight of the tour was the Diego Rivera Gallery. Participants learned about summer programs and that the Art Institute will view art portfolios free of charge. Both tours were successful due to the fact that the participants whom attended all have an interest in the arts and this was a perfect opportunity to encourage them to seek higher education in these fields of art.



C. Past quarter deficiencies: None Reported.

D. Past quarter recruiting/marketing efforts:

The program's philosophy is to enroll students in the first semester in order to provide services during the school year and make the summer work opportunity an incentive for year round participation by youth.

E. Next quarter challenges: None Reported.

F. Technical assistance needed: None Reported.

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A