

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 10/20/10

THROUGH: WIB Staff

For Discussion

FROM: Rebecca Lincoln, MCOE Staff

For Action

For Information

SUBJECT: Youth Opportunity Program (YOP) 1st Quarter Report (Jul-Aug-Sep)

PROPOSED MOTION(S): For Information Only

DISCUSSION:

A. Overall status of the program:

There were 358 (three-hundred and fifty-eight) active participants served in the Youth Opportunity Program (YOP) in the first quarter. Case loads were at full capacity therefore new enrollments did not occur, but due to graduations and participants attending college, obtaining jobs or attending vocational training the advisors exited 95 (ninety-five) YOP participants at the end of the first quarter. The WIA-YOP Client action reports for goals, activities, exits and follow-ups (phase II) remain up to date and 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.

B. Past Quarter Highlights:

- 1) **YOP *Bridges to Success*** summer component began on June 2009. One-hundred (100) Merced County WIA eligible high school students enrolled in the *Bridges to Success* program were provided with up to 192 hours of paid work experience along with a combined 12-hour per week ROP Medical Occupations or ROP Automotive Transportation classroom, shop or laboratory training. The ROP cooperative education model is a combination of specific hands-on training and work site experience that allowed students to apply what they learned in class. The three ROP teachers met with work-site supervisors throughout Merced County to develop training plans that identified the tasks each student will complete and the skills the student will learn on the job. The classroom schedule lasted for approximately six weeks and students continue to work until their 192 hours are completed. ROP Career Educators/WIA Case Managers will provide transition and

WIA services to all participants to include assistance to stay in school, find employment and other WIA activities, including leadership.

- 2) **Career Industry Day:** On October 28, 2010, ROP will sponsor an event that provide youth with detailed information and exploration of specific career pathways. The ROP Career Industry Day will include: a college and career fairs, guest speaker presentations, and hands-on activities related to various careers within a pathway. The ROP Career Industry Day is held from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm at the Merced County Fair Grounds in the Pavilion Building.

Areas of concentration will be included in the following career paths:

- Arts and Communication
- Education
- Business, Finance and Marketing
- Child Development
- Medical Fields
- Construction

The YOP Mentors are encouraged to invite those participants whose career goals or technical training aligned with these pathways.

- 3) **YOP Success Story:** Nina Lee enrolled into the Youth Opportunity Program in September 17, 2009 and was an active and engaged participant who attended all the YOP meetings and events.



Nina was also very active at school in different programs along with her activity in the YOP program. This past summer, Nina was placed to work at the Dollar Tree in Atwater. She always displayed courtesy to customers, honest, and a conscientious employee. No matter what job she was given, she gave it her all. The manager of the Dollar Tree was so impressed with Nina's work ethic that she hired her! Nina gained work experience, improve her job skills and able to earn money for college. Nina's plan includes enrolling into college to earn a four- year degree.

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