

To: **Alfredo Mendoza:** Staff Services Analyst, Department of Workforce Investment
From: **Rebecca Lincoln:** Career Educator
Re: **Merced County Youth Council Quarterly Report-** Younger Youth Program
Date: **1st quarter report** (July, August and September 09)

A. Overall status of the program:

There were 215 active participants in the Youth Opportunity Program (YOP) 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) **The YOP summer employment** component began on June 09 2009 and ended on July, 2009; approximately one-hundred and sixty-seven (167) 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 2009 workshop*; an 18 hour course facilitated to all the participants in three-hour per week segments through-out the six-week summer component focused on “Volunteerism”. It emphasized the importance of volunteering in our communities. Participants were asked to volunteer three unpaid hours to the non-profit of their choice. The participants will earn a certificate, as well as logging hours to earn their community service cords at graduation.

- 2) **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 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 22, 2009
 - Careers in Arts and Communications on November 17, 2009
 - Careers in Education held on January 14, 2010

- Careers in Automotive Services (at the Castle Automotive Training Center) on February 11, 2010
- Careers in Health on Tuesday, March 11, 2010

3) Field Trip to UC Santa Cruz

The YOP Summer Youth that completed their 192 work experience hours were invited for a field trip to visit The University of California at Santa Cruz on August 12, 2009. Ms Toulou Moua and Cyndie Bray, YOP Advisors accompanied thirty-three (33) students for a tour of the UC Campus. The YOP participants agreed the trip was exciting, beneficial and they received useful information on enrollment, housing and special programs. Participants were able to get a real look at campus life and learned what The University of California at Santa Cruz has to offer.



4) YOP Success Story



Ben Vilayphone enrolled into YOP in January 2008. Ben's first summer worksite was "Starbucks" on Olive Avenue. After he completed his YOP summer work hours, Starbucks hired him on as a regular employee. Ben is still employed with Starbucks and is now making more than \$8.50/hr. Ben also graduated from Merced High School in June 2009. He is currently attending Merced College and working part-time at Starbucks.

5) YOP Success Story



La Vang enrolled into YOP on March 16, 2005. When La first enrolled, she was basic skill deficient in both reading and math. She was struggling in school but with the help of YOP, La was able to concentrate on school and was able to bring her grades up. She worked at the Sub- Shop in Atwater during the summer of 2006. La was offered a position by the owner and she happily accepted. La continued to work at the Sub-Shop while attending high school, and even with her busy schedule, she was able to maintain a 3.0 GPA. La graduated from Buhach Colony High School in June 2009 and is currently attending San Jose State University.

C. Past quarter deficiencies:

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:

F. Technical assistance needed: