

To: **Alfredo Mendoza:** Staff Specialist 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: **February 2008:** (October- November and December 2007)

**A. Overall status of the program:**

There are presently 119 active participants in the Youth Opportunity Program at the end of the second quarter; thirteen YOP participants are dual-enrolled as part of the High Concentration Contract. There were nine (9) new enrollments and 37 exits; resulting in ninety-five percent (95%) of the basic skills, work readiness, and/or occupational goals attained and seventy-eight (78%) percent of the participants exited earned their high school diploma.

**B. Past quarter highlights:**

1) **Career Industry Day Events in 2007-2008:** 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 two career days were offered to our participants in this past quarter:

- a) Careers in Business, Marketing and Computer Information Systems, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007
- b) Careers in Arts and Communications, on Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007

2) **The Opportunity Club** was held on September, 20<sup>th</sup>, participants were asked to provide staff with input on the Opportunity Club meetings for the 2007-08 program year regarding times to meet, ideas for upcoming club meetings, and possible field trips. Consensus was that participants would prefer to meet on a quarterly basis; ideas for upcoming meetings include family night, "Smash" revisited, having a career and/or resource fair. Ideas for field trips include Livermore Lab, Yosemite National Park, trips to nearby State colleges and UC campuses. YOP & EMPOWER staff is in the midst of planning these upcoming events.

3) **The Dos Palos YOP** participants were very busy this past quarter. In October with the Boo Gram Halloween Fundraiser for the Dos Palos Community Center. YOP participants Priscilla Heredia and Felicitas Rodriguez assisted with making, selling and delivering the Boo Grams to various sites in Dos Palos.

In the month of November, YOP Dos Palos High School senior, Priscilla Heredia participated in an hour long segment at the local radio station. She and other seniors discussed teen issues and the YOP program. The feed back received from the community was great regarding the YOP program.

In December, a Santa Gram fundraiser was successfully competed with the leadership of YOP participants Felicitas Rodriguez, Priscilla Heredia, and Ashly Solis. The girls did a great job with making, selling and delivering the Santa Grams. All proceeds from the Dos Palos YOP fundraisers will be used for the YOP participants to have an end of the year field trip.

**C. Past quarter deficiencies:** none

**D. Past quarter recruiting/marketing efforts:**

Recruiting efforts for YOP are limited this past quarter. The contract specified that as participants exit the program, new participants will be enrolled in the following quarter after exits.

**E. Next quarter challenges:**

**F. Technical assistance needed:** available training on WIA Common Measures