

TO: Youth Council

DATE:02/08/06

FROM: WIB Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: YOP Quarterly Report

PROPOSED MOTION(S): Information Only

DISCUSSION: YOP Quarterly Report, Oct, Nov, Dec 2005 is attached

ATTACHMENT(S): YOP Quarterly Report

To: Dave Davis: Special Projects Manager, 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: April 2006 for the quarter ending March 31, 2006

A. Overall status of the program:

This quarter YOP enrolled fourteen new participants and exited fourteen participants for a total active enrollment of 391 YOP participants. Ninety-seven percent (276/267) of the basic skills, work readiness, and/or occupational skills goals were attained. The status on all WIA-Client action reports for goals, activities, exits and follow-ups (phase II) remain up to date.

B. Past quarter highlights:

1) **Career Industry Days:** 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 students whose career goals or technical training is aligned with these pathways. The following three career days were attend by our participants:

- A) Careers in Education held on Thursday, January 26, 2006;
- B) Careers in Agriculture (held at the World Ag. Expo in Tulare) on Feb. 15, 2006;
- C) Careers in Health held on Tuesday, February 28, 2006.

2) **March of Dimes Valentine Bouquet fundraiser** This quarter, EMPOWER/YOP Programs decided to raise money to help support research for the prevention of premature births. Merced County Office of Education Empower and YOP Programs held a Valentine Balloon Bouquet fundraiser on February 14th, 2006. High energy volunteering by thirty (30) participants and ten staff members produced the goal of selling 80 balloon bouquets! The money raised will be added to the anticipated Car Wash to be held on May 13 at Merced Union High School. The YOP and Empower program goal for this year is \$1000.00! Please support the fundraiser by purchasing a car wash ticket during our presale, the week of May 1st thru May 6th. On May 6th, Empower and YOP participants will be gathering at Applegate Park in Merced for **WalkAmerica**, wearing T-shirts printed with the EMPOWER and YOP logos. Please join us.



3) YOP Success Story:

Joe Whalen graduated on March 7th 2006 from Merced Valley Community High School. Joe is demonstrating that he can bend steel and do the impossible. On his TABE test last year he scored a 6.2 reading, and when he recently post-test he scored 12.9 reading level. Joe also has been hire to work full-time at Johnson's Plumbing. Trevor, Joe's new supervisor at Johnson Plumbing stated, "in the past 15 years he has never worked with such a quick study, honest and dedicated worker." Joe plans on attending night school to major in criminal law at Merced College. He later wants to pursue a career in law. He is content working at Johnson Plumbing for the next 10 years, while pursuing his law degree.



- 4) **Portfolio Days:** YOP participants who are in ROP classes participated in Portfolio Days. Every student completed a ROP Employability Portfolio and participated in a mock job interview with a professional in the community who provided the student with constructive criticism. Students will be acknowledged at one of MCOE/ROP's "**Award of Excellence**" ceremonies held on April 26 2006 at Golden Valley High School Theater.
- 5) **Youth to Youth Conference:** On March 28th, YOP students from the Dos Palos area attended the annual "Youth to Youth" Conference held at Cruickshank Middle School. The Friday prior to the event was an all-day Leadership Training that the students were required to attend. They learned numerous techniques on how to engage others and facilitate groups. They worked all day with other trainees from schools throughout the County. On Saturday, they arrived at Cruickshank School at 7:00 A.M, and were involved in the events of the day, non-stop until 10:00 pm that evening. Participant feedback was extraordinary. Students had so much fun at this event. They enjoyed meeting other teens their own age that are so dedicated on helping younger youth identify the bad effects of drug and alcohol use.

6) High Concentration of Youth Award: The Merced County Local Workforce Investment Area was awarded \$62,500 from the Governor's 15% WIA Discretionary Funds. Merced County Office of Education (MCOE) is providing \$33,917 in matching funds to provide services for an additional 30 in-school youth with disabilities. The additional participants are now enrolled into the program. The grant funds must be spent by December 31st, 2006

C. Past quarter deficiencies: none

D. Past quarter recruiting/marketing efforts: Recruiting efforts for YOP are limited. YOP program staff dispersed brochures at the Merced County Job Fair held at the Merced County Fairground on March 29th 2006.

F. Next quarter challenges: Focusing on preparation for the Summer Youth Employment component and related curriculum.

G. Technical assistance needed:

Training on WIA Common Measures Policy will be available on May 5th, 2006 at MCOE