

**TO: Youth Council**

**DATE: July 14, 2004**

**FROM: Youth Council Staff**

**FOR  
INFORMATION**

**SUBJECT: Younger Youth Program Quarterly Report**

**PROPOSED MOTION(S): Information Only**

**DISCUSSION: YOP Quarterly Report Apr/May/Jun 2004 is attached.**

**ATTACHMENT(S): YOP Quarterly Report**

To: Dave Davis  
Employment & Training Analyst, Department of Workforce Investment

From: Robin Davis  
Career Educator, Youth Opportunity Program, Merced County Office of Education

Re: Quarterly Report, Younger Youth Program  
Prepared for the Merced County Youth Council

Date: July 2004 (Apr/May/Jun)

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

In

March, we received the monitoring results. WIA elements such as community service projects, leadership opportunities, work experience, a structured summer curriculum, field trips, speakers, counseling, tutoring, parent involvement, and mentoring were examined and have “contributed to the overall apparent success of the program”.

Maintenance of WIA forms were found to be “virtually error free” and in compliance with regulations. The Youth Council Goals were exceeded; showing a decrease in the pregnancy/parenting rate, a decrease in substance abuse, and an increase in school attendance. With the exception of the Skill Attainment measure in the second quarter, all performance measures have continued to exceed the contract and state standards.

Areas in need of attention were addressed for specific files. They included verification of family size or eligibility, a more thorough development of the Individual Service Strategy, and details on the I-9 form. All concerns were resolved by individual mentors.

2. **Past Quarter Highlights:**

Over

30 YOP participants and 9 YOP mentors/chaperones attended the **Merced County Children’s Summit** (Teen Night) on April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Boys & Girls Club. The feedback was very positive. Survey comments from youth in Atwater, Dos Palos, and Merced included:

- “I think the event was important because we were able to discuss topics such as teen pregnancy, depression, and relationships with people who knew what they were talking about and could help us understand and develop our own ideas on how these issues should be dealt with.”
- “I liked sharing what I had to say and maybe having a positive impact, as small as it may be, on the community in the future.”
- “It really gives you a bigger perspective and allows you to agree/disagree with what others have to say about a topic.”
- “I learned a lot about teen relationships- like what kinds of relationships are healthy and the ones that are not good to be in.”
- “I loved it!”

The **summer employment** program began June 7<sup>th</sup>. While hundreds of youth received a paid work experience during the school year, nearly 300 youth are working this summer with local employers. Mentors developed a training plan for each participant who works 29

hours/week and attends the Working Professional course 3 hours/week. The course emphasizes traits necessary to keep a job. Additional curriculum this summer helps youth focus on their strengths, preferred working environments, goals, and overcoming challenges. Youth are working in retail sales, landscaping, construction, graphic arts, warehousing, clerical positions, and athletics assistants.

Three field trips to the California State Capital via the Amtrak train are scheduled this summer. Each day will allow 64 youth and 11 chaperones to tour the Capital, visit the California State History Museum, and watch “Wild California” at the Sacramento IMAX theater.

**Success Story:** Often, the success of the program is recognized in Follow-Up when a youth is in college or working. YOP participant, Buu Nguyen, was recognized for success by her mentor, Blanca Rodriguez. Through YOP, Buu researched career paths in business and health, developed a career portfolio, practiced interviewing skills, and experienced her first jobs over three summers. Buu described the benefits of her work experience.

“I gained an incredible amount of skills. I learned how important it was to be a leader and also a team player. Before I started working, I always had the concept that it would be wonderful to be the boss of everyone. My experiences shaped me to realize that I had to get over that my job, the lowest rank in the company, was worthless to me and the company. By understanding that, I was able to take the skills I learned at every job more importantly.”

Buu’s career guidance began with YOP in her sophomore year. Last year she graduated from Atwater High and is now attending UC Davis.

3. **Past quarter deficiencies:** none
4. **Past quarter recruiting/marketing efforts:** Opportunities for youth to apply for the program are provided in high school career centers or daily bulletins. 101 participants were enrolled this quarter.
5. **Number enrolled:** 445 active / 1850 overall
6. **Number of hard/soft exits:** 1405 / 0
7. **Next quarter challenges:** MCOE will be hiring and training two new Mentors, an Instructional Aide, and a new lead Career Educator for this contract. I have accepted a position to work abroad so my last day with MCOE is June 30, 2004. The support and dedication of everyone working in the program has been wonderful.
8. **Technical assistance needed:** I have requested Younger Youth Eligibility training for staff in September 2004.