

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: **September 08:** 4<sup>th</sup> quarter report for April, May and June' 08

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

There were 161 active participants in the Youth Opportunity Program (YOP) at the end of the fourth quarter; to include thirteen (13) new enrollments and five exits. The 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. The status on WIA-Client action reports for goals, activities, exits, and follow-ups (phase II) remain up to date.

**B. Past quarter highlights:**

- 1) **The YOP summer employment** component began on June 09 2007; approximately seventy-five 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 2008 workshop*; an 18 hours course was facilitated to all the participants in three-hour per week segments through-out the six-week summer component. The summer curriculum included: individual career assessments, job search and participants created an employability portfolio. The portfolio included an updated résumé, cover letter and reference letters. The summer workshop had a financial literacy component where participants learned how to make a household budget; open a checking account and facts about good credit versus bad credit.

2) **YOP Success Story**



**Future UC Davis Alumnus**

Griselda Barajas enrolled in YOP in January 2005. When Griselda first joined Youth Opportunity Program she was a very shy and timid freshman at Merced High School. Throughout her high school years she proved herself to be a strong, energetic, and ambitious young woman. She always participated in YOP events and meetings, guaranteeing her a spot in summer work experience. Griselda had the opportunity to work at Mercy Medical Center of Merced during her sophomore and junior year. Her work experience at

Mercy Hospital contributed to her decision on a future career in the medical field. Griselda will attend UC Davis in the fall; first generation in her family to attend college.

### 3. YOP Success Story: Priscilla Heredia



Priscilla Heredia graduated from Dos Palos High School on June 6, 2008. She was enrolled in the Youth Opportunity Program since April 2005. Priscilla was very active in California Scholarship Federation, Friday Night Live Mentoring program and the Bronco Buddy (reading to younger youth) High School programs. Priscilla loved to give back to her community by volunteering for the “Coats for Kids”, *Boo Grams*, and ` Fundraisers. She spoke on numerous occasions on the Dos Palos Public Radio station, where youth issues were discussed with the community. Priscilla also volunteered at Camp Green Meadows and the “*Youth to Youth*” Conference as a group leader and counselor. In the past two summers, Priscilla’s work experience was at *Warren’s Auto Body* in Dos Palos, as an office clerk where she obtained various secretarial skills. Linda, her job site supervisor, said that she was an outstanding employee.

Priscilla won numerous awards from both Merced County ROP and Dos Palos High School, to include the Department Award from the Lab Science. She also received excellent grades and was accepted to California State University at Chico on a full four year scholarship. Priscilla would like to thank the Youth Opportunity Program for giving her the opportunity to gain the needed employability skills and work experience that will help her to accomplish her goals of becoming a teacher.

### 4) YOP Success Story: Trinidad Rodriguez



Trinidad Rodriguez is a senior at Le Grand High School and has been a member of the YOP Program since he was in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. During the summer of 2008, he requested to be placed at “Best Buy” for his work experience training. The manager at “Best Buy “ was so impressed with Trinidad that he hired him after his 192 hours were completed. Trinidad will graduate in June 2009 and then plans to take business classes at Merced College in the fall. Trinidad is interested in owning his own business someday.

## 5. YOP Success Story- Staci Clemons



Staci Clemons was enrolled into the Youth Opportunity Program from September 22, 2004 to September 2006. Staci loved and appreciated all that she learned from the Youth Opportunity Program workshops. She not only was assisted with developing her job skills, but YOP gave her a place where she could put those skills to work. Her first year on the program, she worked in retail where she learned how to deal with customers and how to keep the store neat and clean. In her second year, she was an office assistant at Los Banos Valley High School, where she learned a variety of office skills. Staci claims that her mentor gave her the needed training and experience to prepare her for her future.

Staci is currently attending Healds College in Fresno, where she is pursuing her Associates in Applied Science in Business with an emphasis on Legal Assisting and plans to graduate in April of 2009.

**C. Past quarter deficiencies:**

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

Recruiting efforts for YOP are limited in the fourth quarter. The contract specified that as participants exit, new participants will be enrolled in the following quarter after exits, upon availability of funds.

**E. Next quarter challenges:**

**F. Technical assistance needed:** WIA Common Measures Training is scheduled on August 20, 2008 at the Merced County Office of Education campus.