

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 12/13/06

FROM: Youth Council Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: July - September 2006 YOP Quarterly Report

PROPOSED MOTION(S): Information only.

DISCUSSION: See attached.

ATTACHMENT(S): July - September 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: **October 2006** (July-Aug-Sept)

A. Overall status of the program:

There are presently 252 active participants in the Youth Opportunity Program, at the end of the fourth quarter. There were no new enrollments, and 110 exits; resulting in one-hundred percent (100%) of basic skills, work readiness, and/or occupational goals attained and ninety-eight (98%) of the participants exited earned their high school diploma.

B. Past quarter highlights:

- 1) YOP summer employment** component began on June 5, 2006; approximately 120 participants worked this summer with local employers. Mentors met with site supervisors to develop training plans for the participants who worked up to 32 hours per week. *The Real Game California* was an 18 hour course taught to all the participants in the first week of the summer component. By participating in *The Real Game California*, participants discovered the importance of education and life-long learning. The course gives participants the tools and experience to help them make realistic and informative choices to meet their career goals

The highlights of the YOP Summer Youth component were the two field trips on July 5th and 6th to the California State Capital via the Amtrak train. Each day approximately 35 youth and 8 chaperones tour the California State Capital; visited the IMAX theatre and enjoyed a relaxing afternoon in Old Town Sacramento.

- 2) Career Industry Day Events in 2006-2007:** 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 EMPOWER advisors 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:**

- a) Careers in Business, Marketing and Computer Information Systems, October 19th, 2006
- b) Careers in Arts and Communications, on Thursday, November 14th, 2006
- c) Careers in Education held on Thursday, January 25, 2007
- d) Careers in Agriculture (at the World Ag. Expo in Tulare) on February 15, 2007
- e) Careers in Health will be held on Thursday, March 1, 2007.

3) The Opportunity Club: is an ongoing activity that provides monthly sessions on current job, educational, community, and leadership opportunities, as well as information regarding life skills for EMPOWER and YOP youth in Merced County. Sessions are conducted on the MCOE campus. All participants are invited and encouraged to attend. A meeting was conducted on August 24th, 2006 and attended by thirty participants to follow-up with recommendations made from a focus group conducted on June 27, 2006; where seventeen EMPOWER and YOP participants and program staff discussed how the program can improve services to increase attendance and interest in The Opportunity Club meetings.

The participants agreed that the third Thursday of every month is a good time to meet. An updated calendar is to be provided at each meeting on updated information and announcements on upcoming community events and activities. The discussion on the Opportunity Club becoming an informal student organization was tabled for a later meeting. The students created a 06-07 schedule of all the meetings dates, time and topics for the upcoming Opportunity Club meetings that will be posted at MCOE in Bldg K, all school sites and the YOP/EMPOWER Website.

4) Merced County's Teen Conference "*Climbing towards Success*" was attended by both YOP and EMPOWER participants from throughout the county. The 3rd Annual 'Teen Summit' event was held at the McCombs Youth Center on September 30th, 2006. Youth had an opportunity to visit resource tables that provided information from partnering agencies throughout the county. The conference held two breakout sessions in the afternoon to provide workshops on topics of interest for youth to include: "The Law & Teens"; "Internet Safety "; "Eating Healthy" and "Handling my Feelings".

5) Community Service Coat Drive:

Merced County Office of Education EMPOWER/ YOP Programs are preparing for the third annual coat drive. This community service project is an opportunity for our participants to become involved in community service. This is an excellent way for them to give back to their communities in which they live. When choosing a school to sponsor, a school is selected that is "most in need" and where our efforts will truly benefit. Last year, the YOP and EMPOWER participants delivered coats to ninety-seven (97) children attending Planada Elementary School.

This year, Don Stoll Elementary is the selected school. The YOP mentors and EMPOWER advisors are working hard with their participants to find sponsors and holding fund raisers through out the County. The participants will assist in purchasing and the distribution of the coats; so that they can visually see who is benefiting from their efforts. Our plan is to distribute 140 new coats on November 9th, at 1:30 pm to Don Stoll Elementary students.

6) YOP Success Story:



La Vang at work at Atwater Sub shop w/ Elizabeth, owner

La Vang is a YOP participant and sophomore at Buhach Colony High School. She is a bright young lady with a great attitude. La requested to work at the Atwater Sub Shop this summer, since it is close to home. Elizabeth and Charles, the owners and supervisors, were so impressed with La's strong work ethic and pleasant demeanor that they hired her at the end of the summer to work part time after school. This semester, La is earning all "A's" and "B's"; she is able to balance both work and school well.

7) YOP Success Story:

Jose Moreno graduated from Granada High School in May, 2006. He has been enrolled in YOP



since his junior year at school. The first summer of YOP work experience he worked at the Planada Elementary School and learned many landscaping skills. He was happy with the site but he was more interested in the automobile industry. So the summer of 2006, he was placed at Garza Tire in Merced. There he learned how to repair tires, change oil, car alignments, etc. When the six week program ended, the business owner hired Jose to work full-time. The owner stated that "she really enjoys having Jose work

for her, and that Jose is a very hard worker and learns quickly." Jose plans to attend Merced College and enroll into the Toyota Program.

C. Past quarter deficiencies: none

D. Past quarter recruiting/marketing efforts:

There were no recruiting efforts for YOP in the 4th quarter; all enrollments slots are filled.

E. Next quarter challenges:

F. Technical assistance needed: Available training on WIA Common Measures