

From: **Rebecca Lincoln**: Career Educator, Merced County Office of Education
Re: **Merced County Youth Council Quarterly Report- Younger Youth Program**
Date: **December 2007** (July-Aug-Sept)

A. Overall status of the program:

There are presently **147** active participants in Youth Opportunity program at the end of the first quarter; this past quarter the program had one new enrollment and fifty-five exits; resulting in a **97.2 %** attainment of basic skills, work readiness and/or occupational goals and a **91.1 %** of participants exited with high school diploma. 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) **The YOP summer employment** component began on June 11, 2007; approximately eighty 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 Entrepreneur Workshop*, an 18 hour course facilitated to all the participants in three-hour per week segments through-out the six-week summer component. By participating in *The Entrepreneur Workshop*, participants explored the advantages and opportunities of becoming a business owner. The youth took part in assessments to help them find their strengths and interests; with staff's assistance, students came up with a "*Big Idea*" for a company, service or product. Each participant then developed a business plan and a marketing plan to include a logo, a flyer and business cards. The participants also completed an updated business résumé and a budget for start- up costs. The six week course ended with participant's "*Big Idea*" presentations given to staff, site supervisors, business partners and fellow participants.
- 2) **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 Pavilion Building, unless otherwise indicated. The YOP Mentors 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 on October 17, 2007
- b) Careers in Arts and Communications on Thursday, November 28, 2007
- c) Careers in Automotive Services (at the Atwater Training Center) on January 16, 2008
- d) Careers in Education held on Wednesday, January 30, 2008
- e) Careers in Agriculture (at the World Ag. Expo in Tulare) on February 15, 2007
- f) Careers in Health will be held on Thursday, March 6, 2007.

3) YOP Success Story



Mike Moua enrolled into the Youth Opportunity Program on March 21st, 2005. When Mike first enrolled in the program, he was basic skills deficient in reading and lacked work experience. Mike's first goal was to increase his reading skills. That first year, he worked hard in the PLATO computer lab and within the first year he increased his reading level. Mike's second goal was to get work experience; therefore, his YOP Mentor placed Mike at *Starbucks* during the YOP Summer Youth component in 2006. Mike was hired as a part-time employee after his YOP work hours ended. Mike's third goal was to decide if he wanted to attend Merced College or work after graduation. Through guidance and assistance with his applications, Mike made the decision to attend Sacramento State University, and started attending classes in September. Mike was able to find employment easily in Sacramento due to his past work experience. Toula Moua, YOP Mentor, expressed these words regarding her participant, "I know that Mike will be successful in whatever career he chooses. He displayed dedication and commitment to reach his goals in the Youth Opportunity Program and will display the same dedication and commitment towards his education."

C. Past quarter deficiencies: none

D. Past quarter recruiting/marketing efforts:

There were no recruiting efforts for YOP in the first quarter.

E. Next quarter challenges:

F. Technical assistance needed: Training on WIA Common Measures