

Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council, Inc.

Annual Youth Report 2009

Contact Information:

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Area Served:

Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock, Swift, and Yellow Medicine Counties

Program Summary

The Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council provides youth employment services in 14 southwest Minnesota counties. Youth are referred through a variety of sources including schools, human service agencies, community corrections departments, parents and past or current participants. A variety of services offered, including, but not limited to: work experience, career exploration activities, post-secondary tuition assistance, and job seeking/retention assistance, transition services and support services. In addition to the WIA Youth and MYP services, the SW MN PIC leverages other resources, such as Youth Intervention funds and Juvenile Justice funding to complement and maximize services for youth. Key to the success of youth programming in southwest Minnesota are the well established partnerships with a wide range of partners including local high schools, education service cooperatives, post-secondary schools, businesses, civic groups, county human service agencies, group homes, community correction agencies, Rehabilitation Services, and Junior Achievement.

Work Experience

Through the work experience component of WIA Youth and MYP, youth have the opportunity to:

- Experience employment in an environment with clear expectations.
- Explore jobs in a career field of interest
- Understand and develop good work ethic and work habits
- Understand the value of a paycheck
- Work closely with an adult supervisor/mentor

Many students participating in work experience activities live in small towns with few employment options and no transportation. In order to obtain work skills in a very competitive environment, eligible students take advantage of work experience opportunities. Sites are chosen based on students' interests and abilities.

Supervisors receive a monthly newsletter containing mentoring tips. The tips are based on research from the Search Institute and have been well received by the supervisors.

Other Funds Leveraged/Career Exploration

All eligible applicants were invited to attend a summer workshop featuring the curriculum, *Career Choices*. The Youth Coordinators met with youth in three workforce centers one day a week for six weeks. Choices in the youth's lives and how those choices will affect their future was the basis for the workshop. The students discussed careers, personal goals, finances, possibilities and choices.

The Southwest Minnesota WorkForce Council's website, www.swmncareers.org, meets the needs of students and their parents by offering up-to-date labor market information that is specific to the southwest region. By highlighting high wage and high demand jobs, the Council is taking another step toward retaining the future work force in southwest Minnesota. Strategies to involve parents are also in place by placing the link on area school's parent portals.

The Outreach to Schools Program has been offered to alternative schools in the work service area, and has been expanded to now include any school in the area. Staff is located on-site to help students with job search and career planning. The students have the opportunity to partake in college visits, field trips to businesses and receive one-on-one assistance with college and financial aid applications.

Breaking Traditions is an annual event held in conjunction with Minnesota West Community and Technical College. Four college campuses host students for a day to offer hands-on career exploration activities. High school juniors work directly with college instructors and students to explore specific degree areas more in depth by hands-on experiences.

The SW MN Private Industry Council is a partner in the annual Career Expos held at Southwest Minnesota State University and Minnesota West Community and Technical College. Approximately 100 business and industry experts offer physical career exploration activities for over 1500 high school sophomores each year, allowing them to touch, feel and learn about the occupation.

Collaboration with Other Shared Youth Vision Partnerships

The Southwest Minnesota Youth Council continues to meet on a bi-monthly basis. Beginning each council meeting is a presentation significant to youth related activities. This allows for cross-training and increased knowledge of youth related activities as well as opportunities for new collaboration.

LifeSkills Day is an annual one day workshop for alternative school students. They have an opportunity to listen to a motivational keynote speaker and attend breakout sessions about issues, such as; personal finance, living independently, renting responsibilities, and customer service.

Summer youth participants are given an opportunity to attend a summer wrap-up event. This year's event was held at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center. Students tested their

comfort limits with the support of the other participants on the rock climbing wall and the “Flying Squirrel”.

Other partnerships include internships programs at area schools and leadership initiatives for minority parents through the University of Minnesota Extension Service, as well as involvement in Community Transition Interagency Committees, Advisory Committees and Junior Achievement.

Focus on Business Needs and Private Sector Involvement

Several high school classes make visits to a local WorkForce Center an annual event. During the visits, students learn multiple resources available, hear a presentation on high demand careers, learn about www.swmncareers.org and www.minnesotaworks.net websites and participate in mock-interviews. In addition, students from local alternative learning centers get a close-up look at high-growth and high-demand careers by taking field trips to area businesses.

Funds from MYP, WIA, Office of Justice Programs and Youth Intervention Programs are used jointly to increase program efficiency and to increase the number of students eligible for our services. The Community Plus Program is a collaborative effort between the Private Industry Council, Lyon County Probation, and the City of Marshall. Adjudicated youth are given an opportunity to complete community service hours, pay restitution to their victims, learn work skills, and earn a wage if meeting program requirements.

Staff are also active with the Junior Achievement board in Montevideo and delivering the curriculum to classrooms.

Success Stories

Please see attached two documents.

“From a Street Thug to Wearing a Letter Jacket”



It is amazing how much determination, dedication, and ambition one youth who started out with nothing but trouble and neglect can have at the age of seventeen. Stephon Campbell certainly is a success story.

Growing up in an unstable household with no one to turn to for guidance, support, or affection, Stephon turned to the street life where he found himself getting into a never ending cycle of trouble. His single ambition was to fight because according to him it gave him a “sense of danger.” He stated, “I wanted to take over the town. I wanted people to fear me.”

After getting into serious trouble with the law, being placed in a detention center at the age of fifteen, and moving around from foster home to foster home, Stephon became a father and was placed in a permanent foster home where his new life began. Now, at 17-years-old, Stephon Campbell is an excellent, supportive father, an amazing athlete, a good student, and a very hard worker. According to individuals at his school he has become a totally different person. He is respectful and tries hard in school. Currently, Stephon works through the SW MN Private Industry Council Workforce Center at Hy-Vee and Gordans Cutting Edge in addition to working with the PIC Community Plus Program. His employers have nothing but good to say about Stephon. “He has a great attitude and does what I ask him to do with no hesitation,” stated one of his employers.

While working with the Community Plus Program, Stephon has shown astonishing leadership skills, is an excellent team player, is dependable, always uses his manners, and never complains. He reaches out to the younger kids on the crew trying to help them, offering them rides so they aren't late, and tells them how whatever it is they have done or still do is not worth it in the long run. During our first class session Stephon led a very engaging discussion trying to motivate the younger boys headed down the same path he was taking to change their attitudes. His words of advice for these boys and other troubled teens are, “Everything you do you WILL pay for in the future. I'm still paying for the things I did when I was 15 and will be paying for them for the rest of my life. It's not worth it.”

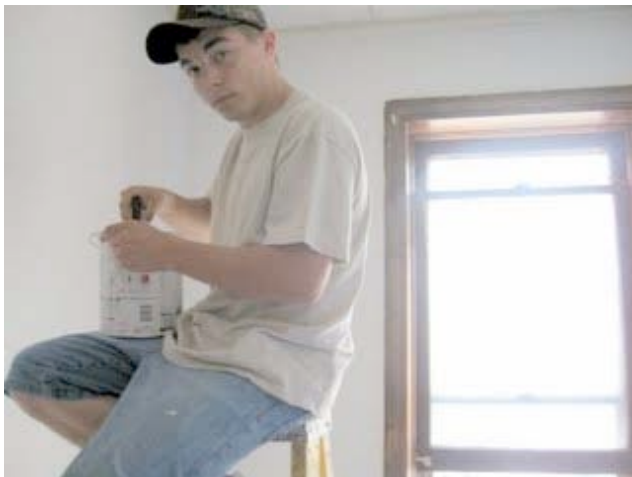
When Stephon was asked what his inspiration is he said, “My daughter and not wanting to be feared. I want friends.” More than anything Stephon wants to be a good role-model for his daughter in hopes she will grow up to be a successful individual. Stephon's new ambition is to become a police officer and he hopes to attend Ridgewater College in Willmar after he graduates from high school.

“From a street thug to wearing a letter jacket,” Stephon truly has made a remarkable turn-around!

Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council – Annual Youth Report 2009
Success Story – Ketin Houle

A child of divorce, a previously incarcerated parent and multiple moves, up to eight times in one year, Ketin Houle has many barriers to deal with at a young age. When I first met Ketin in the Spring of 2009, I was impressed by his determination. Still recovering from an insufficient work history, Ketin turned to the youth program for help finding a new job. In his placement at Clean Up Our River Environment (CURE), Ketin has found much more than that. Ketin has gained a new appreciation for a town he has lived in his whole life and has experienced aspects of it that he never knew existed. The following is a post from the blog the youth workers kept up this summer during their project. "I've been working for CURE now since the river trip in June and I'm proud to say that I'm glad that I got the job here. I remember coming in to my interview looking my absolute best, I wore my best clothes because I really wanted this job. I'm also glad that I am a part of all the good that CURE is a part of, like painting the Milwaukee Railroad buildings and just helping people get on the river to see how amazing it is. The first time I was ever on the river was a week before I started working here and we used the kayaks and canoes from CURE. If I wouldn't have gotten this job I would not have been able to see the stuff I've seen even in the town I've been living in my whole life. I wouldn't ask for anybody else to work with." (*See the entire blog at: <http://curesummerworker09.blogspot.com/>*)

Through CURE, Ketin was involved in various green projects to improve structures in his community. Ketin is a part of events that CURE hosts, such as canoe trips and river education. His work experience has not only helped him gain good work habits, he has built relationships with many members of the community he otherwise would not have met. This young man, with a lot of potential, is spoken highly of by his supervisors and co-workers. His youth worker comments that, "Ketin is definitely someone who has moved beyond his barriers and is now making the best steps he can towards his future. I am very fortunate to work with such a dedicated youth and am proud of the work he is doing in the community." Ketin is currently a senior in high school and is planning to go on for further education in the law enforcement/criminal justice field.



Ketin painting one finished room in the upstairs of the CURE building.

**MINNESOTA YOUTH PROGRAM DATA SUMMARY
(07-01-2009 to 06-30-2010)**

A. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION		
WSA: 6 – SW MN Private Industry Council		Contact: Juanita Lauritsen
Phone #: 507-537-6987		E-mail Address: juanita.lauritsen@state.mn.us
B. PARTICIPANT SUMMARY INFORMATION		
1. Total Participants Served		58
Gender	2a. Male	27
	2b. Female	31
Age	3a. 14 – 15	17
	3b. 16 – 17	34
	3c. 18	5
	3d. 19 – 21	2
Ethnicity / Race	4a. Hispanic/Latino	7
	4b. American Indian or Alaska Native	2
	4c. Asian	4
	4d. Black or African American	1
	4e. White	51
Education Level	5a. 8 th grade and under	0
	5b. 9 th Grade – 12 th Grade	52
	5c. High School graduate or equivalent	2
	5d. Post-Secondary Education	0
Other Demographics	6. Limited English Proficient	3
	7. Youth From Families Receiving Public Assistance	8
	8. Foster Youth	3
	9. Youth with a Disability	39
	10. High School Drop-Out	1
	11. Youth Offender	3

**MINNESOTA YOUTH PROGRAM DATA SUMMARY
(07-01-2009 to 06-30-2010)**

12. Pregnant or Parenting Youth	4
13. Basic Skills Deficient	35
14. Homeless or Runaway Youth	3
15. Not Employed at Program Enrollment	53
C. PROGRAM SERVICES, ACTIVITIES, AND OTHER RELATED ASSISTANCE	
1. Received Education or Job Training Activities	3
2. Received Work Experience Activities	50
3. Received Community Involvement and Leadership Development Activities	4
4. Received Post-Secondary Exploration, Career Guidance and Planning Activities	1
5. Received Mentoring Activities	6
6. Received Support Services	6
D. INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE AT EXIT	
1. Attained Work Readiness or Education Goals in ISS	10
2. Received Academic Credit or Service Learning Credit	9
3. Drop-Out - Returned to School	0
4. Obtained High School Diploma, GED, or Remained in School	5
5. Entered Post Secondary Education, Vocational/Occupational Skills Training, Apprenticeship, or Military	2
6. Obtained a Certificate or Degree	0
7. Entered Employment	1
E. CUSTOMER SATISFACTION	
1. Number of participants rating MYP experience as "Excellent"	18
2. Number of participants rating MYP experience as "Very Good"	13
3. Number of participants rating MYP experience as "Average"	3
4. Number of participants rating MYP experience as "Below Average"	0
5. Number of participants rating MYP experience as "Poor"	0
6. Total Number of Surveys Completed	34

**MINNESOTA YOUTH PROGRAM DATA SUMMARY INSTRUCTIONS
(07-01-2009 to 06-30-2010)**

Age: Indicate age of participant at program entry.

Ethnicity/Race: More than one category may be selected per participant.

Education Level: Indicate highest level completed at program entry.

5d. ***Post-Secondary Education*** – Select if participant has completed any post-secondary courses.

Other Demographics:

8. ***Foster Youth*** – Select if participant is now or has ever been in foster care.

14. ***Homeless or Runaway Youth*** – Select if participant is now or has been homeless or runaway in the past.

Program Services, Activities, and Other Related Assistance: Report for all youth served during the program year. Youth may be counted in more than one category, but should not be counted more than once within a category (i.e. Education or Job Training Activities, etc.).

1. ***Education or Job Training Activities*** – examples include math or reading remediation, GED preparation, tutoring, ESL instruction, time management skills training, study skills training, work readiness training, On-the-Job Training (OJT), vocational/occupational skills training, pre-apprenticeship
2. ***Work Experience Activities*** – examples include subsidized or unsubsidized employment, internship, Job Club, job placement
3. ***Community Involvement and Leadership Development Activities*** – examples include community service, youth advisory board/council participation
4. ***Post-Secondary Exploration, Career Guidance and Planning Activities***– examples include college fairs and visits, assistance with college applications or financial aid applications, career counseling, workforce information services (such as labor market information)
5. ***Mentoring Activities*** – examples include sustained relationship between mentor and participant in one-on-one or group setting (formal or informal), personal or life skills counseling
6. ***Support Services*** – examples include health services, substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, transportation, child care

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Customer Satisfaction: Report the number of youth participants rating their experience in the MYP during the period 7/1/09 to 6/30/10 as Excellent, Very Good, Average, Below Average and Poor, respectively. Also indicate the total number of surveys completed.