

To: **Eve Snelling:** Staff Services Analyst II, 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: **February 2010:** (October, November and December 2009)

A. Overall status of the program:

There were one-hundred and twenty-five (125) new participants enrolled in the Youth Opportunity Program this past quarter; bringing the total to three-hundred (300) active participants. The WIA-YOP Client action reports for goals, activities, exits and follow-ups (phase II) remain up to date and 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.

B. Past quarter highlights:

1) **Career Industry Day Events in 2009-2010:** 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 YOP Mentors are encouraged to invite those participants whose career goals or technical training aligned with these pathways. The following two career days were offered to our participants in this past quarter:

- Careers in Business, Marketing and Computer Information Systems on October 22,2009
- Careers in Arts and Communications on November 17,2009

2) Community Services: Los Banos “March of Dimes for Babies”



On November 7, 2009, Los Banos Youth Opportunity Program (YOP) participants joined the “March of Dimes Babies Relay” at Loftin Stadium in Pacheco Park. The Los Banos participants together contributed 150 hours and helped to raise over \$9,000.00 in donations for “March of Dimes for Babies”. YOP participants helped to set up tents, sell tickets, register, cover the concession stands, clean up and relayed for this great cause.

3) Community Service: Dos Palos “Toys for Tots”



The Dos Palos YOP participants wanted to give back to their community and decided to collect canned and dry goods for the local “Toys for Tots”. The food donations were given to assist families in need. The donations were delivered on December 21, 2009 to the local “Toys for Tots” coordinator who expressed her appreciation and gratitude for all the hard work of the Dos Palos Youth Opportunity Program.

4) Field Trips: YOP San Francisco Trip

Fifty YOP participants attended a field trip to San Francisco’s Asian Art Museum on 12/12/09. Participants enjoyed learning about history that dated back as far as 1000 A.D. at the museum. There were many things to see from different parts of Asia – spanning from Iraq to Japan. It was a rainy day but the participants triumphed through the stormy weather and were able to have a great time in the big city. The participants enjoyed walking through the rich culture of San Francisco. It was a successful trip and left participants wanting to learn more about different cultures.



5) YOP Winter Potluck:

One-hundred and forty (140) YOP participants from Merced and Atwater came together on 12/9/09 for a Winter Potluck and to raise funds for the “Make a Wish” Foundation by writing letters to Santa. The Y.O.P participants raised \$140.00 for the MAWF at the potluck and enjoyed the cultural foods from different ethnic groups in Merced.



C. Past quarter deficiencies: None

D. Past quarter recruiting/marketing efforts:

The referral, recruitment and enrollment process was very active in months of October, November and December 2009 at the following school sites: Merced Union High School District Schools; Le Grand High School, Delhi High School, Dos Palos High School, Los Banos High School and Valley Community School at the Merced, Los Banos and Atwater School sites.

YOP orientations are conducted on a continuous basis and YOP Mentors will continue enrolling new participants in January and February 2010.

E. Next quarter challenges:

F. Technical assistance needed: