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Press Release

For Immediate Release

Learning on the Job: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Summer Youth Program Puts Thousands to Work in Michigan

The Summer Youth Employment Program, offered through the Michigan Works! System, put nearly 20,000 Michigan youth to work this summer

LANSING, Mich. (October 22, 2009) – Michigan Works! Association today announced the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which provided funds to the Summer Youth Program, created nearly 20,000 summer jobs for youth in Michigan.

The Summer Youth Program was implemented expeditiously and effectively as Michigan Works! Agencies partnered with education, economic development, private sector and non-profits to ensure ample opportunities for youth to secure summer employment.

The effort put forth through each Michigan Works! Agency created opportunities for local youth to experience an array of employment options that may not have existed without funding from the Summer Youth Program.

“The Summer Youth Program in Michigan, and across the nation, is a vital piece of economic recovery. Through this targeted program, almost 20,000 Michigan youth increased job skill sets and career readiness,” said Luann Dunsford, chief executive officer, Michigan Works! Association.

Youth, ages 16-24, were placed in positions that included health care, medical and customer services, information technology, and other professional and technical positions. The result of these job placements was true economic stimulus, both for local areas and Michigan’s statewide economy.

The program also increased youth awareness of career opportunities in industries that significantly impact the local economy, created real-world expectations of the workplace, and provided academic improvement and social growth.

“The Summer Youth Program is proof of ARRA money hard at work in Michigan,” said Dunsford.

Established in 1987, the Michigan Works! Association fosters high-quality employment and training programs serving employers and workers by providing support activities and a forum for information exchange for Michigan’s workforce development system.

For more information, visit www.michiganworks.org, or call (517) 371-1100.

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