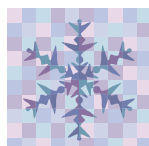


Youth in the News

Workforce Investment Board of Southeast Missouri

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"WIRED" GRANTS TO ENHANCE GED IN SOUTHEAST REGION

Traci Weissmueller Administrative Assistant for WIRED Initiative writes-To help improve the education attainment levels of Southeast Missouri, the WIRED Initiative recently awarded \$178,851.81 in funding to set up and expand 4 GED programs in the region.

- * The Bonne Terre Adult Education and Learning Center plans to expand their service area to include Ste. Genevieve County by opening a class site on the campus of Ste. Genevieve County R-II School District.

- * MERS/Missouri Goodwill will enhance the Scholars

@ Work Program with the Classroom in a Box, an educational library, at eight of their Southeast Missouri locations.

- * Poplar Bluff School District (which is located in the WIRED region) will expand the adult education and literacy opportunities and develop a countywide GED focused Missouri Options program housed at the Poplar Bluff R-I Technical Career Center.

- * Susanna Wesley Family Learning Center will develop an on-site GED training program in New Madrid County and will increase the learning rate of the GED students in

Mississippi County.

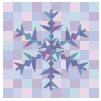
For those without a high school diploma, earning a GED is essential to surviving current economic conditions. Improving the statistics on educational attainment is also a benefit to the region as a whole as it could catch the eye of more site developers and businesses considering Southeast Missouri as the location to relocate or expand their operations.

Start dates for the programs vary and will be announced through the media.

*Team means Together
Everyone Achieves
More!
~Author Unknown*

GED





“ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY YOUTH” SPOTLIGHT

St. Francois County youth case manager Dale Sweet writes-The youth in the spotlight for St. Francois County is Katie Howell. Katie is a single mother of two who enrolled in the WIA Youth Program at age 17 and was attending Alternative School.

Katie began the program in a Work Experience at *All Aboard Play and Learn*, a local day care facility, and eventually found an unsubsidized employment working as a cashier at *Big Lots*, where

she has been for three years.

Katie completed the requirements for graduation and received her high school diploma. She later attended Allied College and in December 2009 earned her Associate of Applied Science degree in Dental Assisting. Katie continues to work at *Big Lots* while looking for work in her field of study. With her positive attitude and determination to meet goals set for herself, Katie is on the road to suc-

cess.

Great job Katie!



“If what you’re working for really matters, you’ll give it all you’ve got.”
~Nido Qubein



“DUNKLIN COUNTY YOUTH” SPOTLIGHT

Dunklin County youth case manager Cathy Reyes writes-Dunklin County would like to shine the spotlight on Drema Hamilton for all of her accomplishments. Drema is a single mother of four who entered the youth program when she was still attending high school. After dropping out of high school and having two children, she began working on her GED. She obtained her GED in October of 2008 just after her third child was born. A lot of people probably thought that by now, and especially after the fourth child that Drema would have given up on ever going to college, but we’re proud to announce that Drema has enrolled in college and began classes full time at Arkansas Northeastern College in Blytheville, Arkansas. Drema is working

on her general studies now as she is deciding on what degree to pursue.

We’re so proud that Drema never gave up. She’s came a long way and even though it must be hard, she is determined to make something of herself. She will be exiting the youth program soon and states that she couldn’t have done it without the help of MERS/Goodwill. There are a lot of youth just like Drema in Dunklin County, and hopefully we can help them make a difference in their lives and encourage them not to give up. Everyone has a purpose and needs to keep moving forward, some may take longer just because “life” gets in the way.

Way to go Drema! We’re very proud of you!



*Watch for spotlight stories in the February 2010 issue that will be featuring **Madison County** and **Perry County**!*



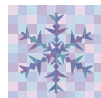
Case Manager's Monthly Progress Report

COUNTY	CASELOAD	# OF ACTIVITIES	D.O. PREVENTION/ ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL	WORKSITE LEARNING	OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING	LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	ATTAINMENT
BOLLINGER	1 IS 11 OS	1	8 ALT. SCHOOL	5	0	4	0
CAPE	0 IS 24 OS	5	12 ALT. SCHOOL	7	0	16	2 GEDS
DUNKLIN	4 IS 15 OS	2	3 ALT. SCHOOL	2	1	2	3 EMPLOYED & 4 POST SECONDARY
IRON	3 IS 17 OS	10	5/2 DO PREVENTION/ALT. SCHOOL	2	0	8	0
MADISON	6 IS 17 OS	12	9/3 DO PREVENTION/ALT. SCHOOL	2	7	5	2 EMPLOYED & 3 POST SECONDARY
MISSISSIPPI	1 IS 18 OS	2	9 ALT. SCHOOL	1	0	5	1 EMPLOYED
NEW MADRID	0 IS 14 OS	2	1/10 DO PREVENTION/ ALT. SCHOOL	7	0	5	1 POST SEC- ONDARY
PEMISCOT	3 IS 16 OS	2	11 ALT. SCHOOL	2	2	4	1 EMPLOYED
PERRY	0 IS 22 OS	17	9 ALT. SCHOOL	3	0	6	2 EMPLOYED
SCOTT	1 IS 20 OS	25	2/13 DO PREVENTION/ ALT. SCHOOL	5	0	10	1 EMPLOYED
ST. FRANCOIS	9 IS 20 OS	11	0	0	2	11	1 EMPLOYED
STE. GENEVIEVE	11 IS 14 OS	11	0	0	0	1	0
STODDARD	0 IS 17 OS	1	7 ALT. SCHOOL	3	3	5	1 H.S. DI- PLOMA & 1 GED

DO: Drop Out

IS: In School

OS: Out of School



Bollinger	Monthly Youth Meeting/"Goal Setting"
Cape	Quarterly Youth Meeting/"Goal Setting", workshop on "Budgeting: Money Personalities" and Work Readiness Classes
Dunklin	Monthly Youth Meeting/"How to Set Goals" and workshop on "Stress Inventory"
Iron	Workshops on "Motivation Part III with Mike Hester", "Learning Styles", "Responsibility", "Effective Listening", "Job Searching", "Resumes", "Job Interviewing", "First Impressions Part I & II", and "Job Applications"
Madison	Workshops on "Interviews", "Citizenship", "Leadership", "Workplace Ethics", "Homework", "Study Habits", "TABE Testing" and "GED Practice Testing"
Mississippi	Monthly Youth Meeting and workshop on "Budgeting"
New Madrid	Monthly Youth Meeting and workshop on "Money Management"
Pemiscot	Monthly Youth Meeting/"Job Personalities", GED Scholars @ Work Classes, Work Readiness Classes, and workshop on "Hunger Attack: Feed Your Appetite-Protect Your Wallet"
Perry	Monthly Youth Meeting/"Buying Car Insurance", workshop on "Taxes", and Work Readiness Classes
Scott	Work Readiness Classes, Youth Tutoring, GED On-line, workshop on "Keeping It Real" and Monthly Youth Meeting/ "Missouri's Top Job Openings"
St. Francois	Workshops on "Self Assessment", "Career Exploration", "Resumes", "Career Search", "Job Applications", "Cover Letters", "Finding the Job You Want", "Job Retention", "Getting Along With Others", "Elevate America", and "Anger Management with Mike Hester"
Ste. Genevieve	Workshops on "Budgeting", "Work Maturities Test", "Missouri Career Source", "Interviewing", "O-Net", "Dining Etiquette", "Energy Conservation", "Food Safety", "Applications", "Following Directions", and "Cover Letters"
Stoddard	Monthly Youth Meeting/ "Review of Program Services"

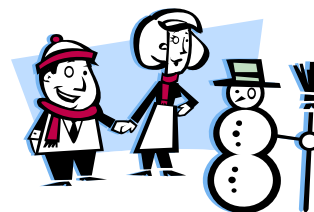


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"Stay Warm!"