



# What's Happening News

May 17, 2016

## **WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) by June O'Dell:**

\*The Youth Action Network next meeting will be May 16, 2016; at 10:00 a.m. at the WDB office.

## **Missouri-Kick off 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Summer Job League:**

The Summer Job League is a Missouri workforce development program that helps young workers ages 16 to 24 connect with area businesses to gain summer work experience. The state recently kicked off its second year of the program, which benefits both area youth and businesses; participating youth gain real-world experience while earning a paycheck, and supporting businesses are able to access high-quality candidates at no cost. Last year, 783 local businesses participated in the inaugural program and helped develop the state's emerging workforce, and 3,107 young workers gained valuable jobs skills while helping these firms grow.

This is an opportunity for WDB members to get involved, open your business to help area youth gain skills.

## **Alliance for Equal Access committee:**

Working with the Alliance for Equal Access committee and the Cape Job Center One-Stop Leadership Team, the Southeast region will have an EmployAbility Summit this fall in Cape Girardeau. This Summit will help educate small businesses on providing accommodations for employees. Stay tuned for more information.

## **WIOA Youth Program Up-dates-April 2016:**

**General Update from Sherri Long-**All of our 13 counties will participate in the Summer Jobs program and the SPYC program again this year. We were successful in placing 156 Youth to work for the summer 2015. For 2016 we anticipate our success will continue with as many or more placements.

The WIOA Youth Program assists the Young Adults in the Southeast Region in so many ways. This year is no exception. We have experienced so many success stories we will be sharing in the near future. The positive effect the WDB provides through the Program is wonderful to say the least.

Thank you to everyone for allowing us to be a part of the WIOA Youth Program and a part of the success of these young people. We appreciate you.

**Bollinger County – Sherri Long**

Bollinger County continues to provide services for the Enrolled Young adults in the county. We are anticipating a busy summer with new enrollments and work experience. We are currently working with schools and agencies for summer employment.

Total Enrolled: 3

Enrolled This Month: 0

Total Exited: 0

Total in Follow-Up: 4

**Cape County - Christina Gonzales**

Cape County has 15 young adults participating in the WIOA Program and 4 more are gathering paperwork and waiting to take test to complete enrollment. There are 2 potential WIOA's who started their HSE classes this month and are progressing well. 4 are preparing to take their work Keys test in May. 2 young adults are preparing to take their permit test in May and 1 has earned her permit in April. There are 3 Cape youth taking their HiSet test in May and 2 who earned their HSE Certification. 3 of our unemployed youth started new jobs this month and they are doing well. At the Missouri Job Center, we are able to offer at least 2 workshops a week to help the Cape County Youth with preparations for employment, assist them with online applications and teach them employment skills. They will also be able to participate in Job Club with others who are struggling with the same problems. The Cape County WIOA Youth Program has been partnering with many different local agencies and businesses to promote personal growth, self-sufficiency and work experience for our young adults.

Total Enrolled: 15

Enrolled This Month: 2

Total Exited: 0

Total in Follow-Up: 4

**Dunklin County – Sherri Long**

Dunklin County continues to build on enrollments working with agencies in the county. The opportunity to be working in the Dunklin County Job Center has proven to be an advantage to work with more individuals meeting the WIOA Youth Program criteria. We are excited to see what the summer will bring in addition to adding more jobs for your young people through work experience.

Total Enrolled: 4

Enrolled This Month: 0

Total Exits: 0

Total in Follow-Up: 5

**Iron County – Sherri Long**

Iron County is currently working to enroll 3 new youth in the WIOA youth program and also look forward to the Summer Work Experience. This program has always been very successful in Iron County in assisting our Young Adults to become employed in the area.

Total Enrolled: 1

Enrolled This Month: 0

Total Exited: 0

Total in Follow-Up: 5

### **Madison County – Sherri Long**

Madison County is growing in numbers for the WIOA youth program. We have several potential enrollments waiting for paperwork to be completed. We are ready for a great increase over the next two months in Madison County. AEL classes are still available in the evenings Tuesday through Thursday. Working with other agencies in the area to create a positive career path for our active Young adults will give them the necessary skills to meet the challenges of a successful career path.

Total Enrolled: 4

Enrolled This Month: 0

Total Exited: 0

Total in Follow-up: 4

### **Mississippi County - Tiffany Penrod**

Mississippi County has 7 actively enrolled Youth in the WIOA Youth Program. We are very excited about the 2 new enrollments that we have enrolled. All the WIOA Youth Participants are looking forward to starting work experience in the next coming months and hoping to further their education and training in their desired career paths.

There is currently 1 youth that has been placed in Work Experience, but more to come. Currently we have young adults with different career paths that we are working with local businesses to let them gain the training skills needed in hopes of getting hired on fulltime. We are looking into careers such as, Maintenance, Teaching, LPN, and Diesel Auto Mechanic. We are hoping to get these young adults placed soon. We currently have 2 that have decided to further their education in the fall with Teaching and LPN. They are currently enrolling at the Southeast Missouri States University with classes starting in the fall. 1 youth referred from MINGO Job Corp is interested in re-entering Kentucky Job Corp to continue a career path as a Diesel Auto Mechanic.

We continue to partner with several agencies in our Counties to create a mainstream of opportunities for the Young Adults we serve.

Total Enrolled: 7

Enrolled This Month: 2

Total Exited: 0

### **New Madrid County – James Hollywood**

April was a good month for the youth in New Madrid County. We had 0 clients exit and 0 newly enrolled youth. During the month of April we had one youth that began employment, one youth that is no longer BSD in any subject area and a youth that completed a national accredited occupational skills certificate in obtaining a Child Development Associate certificate. MERS Goodwill has partnered with a few agencies during the month.

In the upcoming month case manager is looking forward to working with local partners and agencies to conduct joint efforts of workshops and events. Starting May 10<sup>th</sup> DAEOC will be offering their "Step Up the Leadership" program, the Family Resource Center will be offering "Parenting Classes" and "Job Readiness Classes". MERS Goodwill will be offering Job Readiness Classes, also known as "Job Club," on each Monday during the month. We also have one Scholars @Work participant. May is going to be a busy month for New Madrid County.

Total Enrolled: 9

Enrolled This Month: 0

Total Exited: 0

Total In Follow-Up: 4

### **Pemiscot County - James Hollywood**

Pemiscot County had a good month of April. We had 0 exited clients and enrolled 1 youth. In the upcoming month we are looking to enroll several more youth. During the month of April the youth program partnered with local organizations and agencies in the area.

In the upcoming month, case manager will be working on enrolling new youth in Pemiscot and partnering with local agencies. We also have a few clients that in the process for work experiences and three attending AEL classes. May appears to being a good month for the youth in Pemiscot County.

Total Enrolled: 11

Enrolled This Month: 1

Total Exited: 0

Total In Follow-up: 5

### **Perry County – Sherri Long**

Perry County has our two newest enrollments ready to complete the HiSet Test next month. One of the young men has found full time employment and we are working with another to find employment that will compliment his career path. One of the young men has a true passion to own his own business and will be working with the Missouri Extension Entrepreneur Program to make his dream come true. We anticipate great things for Perry County.

Total Enrolled: 3

Enrolled This Month: 0

Total Exited: 0

### **Scott County - Tiffany Penrod**

Scott County has 8 actively enrolled youth in the WIOA Youth Program and 14 youth in follow up. These young adults consist of some working on their HSE credentials, work experience, and job connection skills. As of right now, we currently do not have anyone participating in work experience, but will have some within the next month.

We currently have 4 youth that have been actively working on their HSE with the AEL instructor.

They are planned to take their HiSet on June 7<sup>th</sup>. All 4 want to pursue college afterwards in different career paths in which they seek. We currently have 1 exit that has received her HSE credential and is working at an in-home health worker for her mother. She is also working on her CNA certification in hopes to help more people throughout her career.

The NCRC Work Keys testing is a hot topic in all of the Counties we serve. We are working diligently to complete testing for active and follow up youth. This testing has proven to be a great addition to the success for employment and career planning for the Young Adults we serve.

Total Enrolled: 8

Enrolled This Month: 0

Total Exited: 1

### **St. Francois County – Sherri Long**

St. Francois County has a new case manager. She is not new to MERS/Goodwill; however she is new to the Youth Program. Her name is Angel Pickens. We welcome her skills and her hit the ground running attitude. In the short time she has been with us she has proven to be a great asset in the fact four new potential enrollments have been contacted and appointments set for interview.

Total Enrolled: 5

Enrolled This Month: 0

Total Exited: 0

Total in Follow-up: 8

### **Ste. Genevieve – Stacy Snider**

April has been a super successful month at the Ste. Genevieve County Youth Center. We have had several new enrollments into the Adult Education classes partnered with Unitec Career Center. We currently have 18 enrolled in the Day and Evening Adult Education classes. Students have been working extremely hard preparing for the High School Equivalency Exams. We had 1 adult who has taken all sections of the HSE with the exception of Language and passed. He will be taking the Language portion on May 14. We also have 3 youth who will be taking portions of the HSE exam on May 14 and hope to be completing the exam by the end of June. We are very proud and excited to announce that we currently have 5 Scholars @ Work. They have arrived to class on time each morning looking sharp and ready to work hard to make the changes in their lives. They have been working very hard and are showing terrific progress. We had one Scholar @ Work who increased from a 7<sup>th</sup> grade level to an 11.5 grade level in Language. We had another youth who increased from a 9.5 grade level to a 12.9+ grade level in Language. Another Scholar @ Work increased from 5.6 grade level to 11<sup>th</sup> grade level in Language.

We have had one youth taking the next step in his Career Path with the MO National Guard Gold program. He has registered this month for the ACT is taking the necessary steps. We have enrolled 4 new youth this month into the WIOA Youth program. We currently have 10 youth working on Workplace Readiness Classes. We have one Scholar @ Work who broke his glasses. He has not been able to come up with the money to purchase new glasses. We have been able to set up an eye doctor appointment with a local eye doctor and have approval from the Workforce Development Board to assist with the purchase of new eyeglasses for our youth. We had a guest speaker from Mineral Area College that came to speak about the programs offered there and the MoSTEMWINS grant. Our youth are planning a trip for a tour toward the end of May.

Total Enrolled: 11

Enrolled This Month: 4

Total Exited: 0

Total in Follow-up: 11

### **Stoddard County – Sherri Long**

Stoddard County has 2 new enrollments with additional inquiries for the WIOA youth program. One of our young adults has entered into the Work Experience program and is currently employed at the Sikeston Job Center for skills training. Her plan is to learn needed job skills in the business world and to find full time employment in the near future.

Total Enrolled: 2

Enrolled This Month: 2

Total Exited: 0

Total in Follow-Up: 1

**“Our Vision: A High Quality Standard of Life for Our Region”**

**“Our Mission: To Promote a State of Economic Well-Being by Helping to Create a Skilled, Diverse, Motivated, and Adaptable Work Force”**

The Workforce Development Board is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.