

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

SEE Youth receives \$2 million grant for summer jobs program

Program seeks youth applicants and the public sector/non-profit businesses to employ them

The Tulare County Office of Education's S.E.E. (Services for Education & Employment) Youth Program has received nearly \$2 million through the federal American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 to fund 800-1,000 summer jobs for young people ages 14-24. "The grant award is a huge boost to our employment and training program," says Project Coordinator Martha Alexandros. "We are eager to hear from young people who want to work this summer and from public sector/non-profit businesses willing to employ them."

The S.E.E. Youth Program is seeking 800-1,000 young people from low-income families to apply for summer jobs that average 150 hours each. Prior to employment, young people will receive ten hours of enrichment training on topics including workplace ethics, job safety and job readiness. Participants will earn \$8.00 per hour and can start their work June 8-16, 2009. They need not be attending school to enroll. Eligibility is based on family income. S.E.E. Youth

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counselors in Porterville (782-4773) and Visalia (733-6730) are available to explain the program requirements.

“I was first introduced to the S.E.E Youth Program by a good friend of mine, Josh Youngs,” says SEE Youth Program participant Samuel Cortez. “He knew how hard I had been looking for a job. He told me that the S.E.E. Program could help me with my resume, interviews, first impressions, and even find me a job. I was a little skeptical at first because I had already tried so many other programs and workshops that didn’t meet my expectations. I needed more than just the basics. Coming to the S.E.E. Program was, with no exaggeration, a decision that changed my life. I was in a situation at the time that if I didn’t find a job quickly, I would be living on the streets. I came to the S.E.E. Program, completed eligibility requirements, and was in a workshop giving me detailed advice about finding a job in no time. S.E.E. helped me a lot by taking into consideration my job interests. They got me a job at Goodwill which kept me from becoming homeless. The S.E.E. Program is a great program for youth.”

The SEE Youth Program is also seeking public sector and non-profit businesses to step forward to employ young people. The young people’s salaries will be covered by the grant, but employers must provide any materials needed for the job and be able to supervise their work. Youth can be used for a wide variety of work including clerical, recreation aides, maintenance

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and construction. For businesses interested in employing young people through the S.E.E. Youth Program this summer, call Martha Alexandros at (559) 733-6730.

“We look forward to working with public sector and non-profit organizations to give Tulare County students ‘real world’ job experience and exposure to career possibilities of their own,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak.

The SEE Youth Program is a partner with the Tulare County Workforce Investment Board Inc. For more information, call (559) 733-6730.

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