



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Report

YPIC

Issue 3
June 17, 2009

This is a new format of the ARRA monthly reports produced by Yuma Private Industry Council, since April 2009. We are committed to being transparent and accountable in the use of the stimulus funds.

Summer Youth Has Begun!

ARRA funding is providing funding for 773 youth to participate in the Summer Youth program administered by Yuma Private Industry Council in Yuma, AZ. The youth will work in their own communities from Dateland, Wellton, Yuma, Somerton and San Luis. Youth ages 14 to 24 are being provided summer employment opportunities.

The purpose of the program is two-fold. The program will provide summer employment, infusing money into families that are struggling financially and into the local economy. The second purpose of the program is to teach work readiness skills to eligible youth. Work readiness skills are necessary to prepare youth for employment. Work readiness skills include world of work awareness, labor market knowledge, occupational infor-

mation, career planning and decision making and job search techniques, just to name a few.

The Summer Youth program begins with each youth receiving work readiness classes. 14-15 year old youth will take part in work projects and most 16-24 year old youth will participate in work experiences, with some also being involved in work projects.

For example, in Yuma there will be a Green Demonstration Project at Carver Elementary School. Youth in this hands-on project will build a kinder playhouse utilizing green building materials. The students will receive training in hay bale, paper-crete, recycled metal building, safety procedures, OSHA requirements, development and design, adobe finish and lighting. Each wall will



Summer Youth Culinary Arts class.

have a plexi-glass cover so the kindergarten children can view the materials that make-up their play structure; exposing the very young to the benefits of green building. This is just one of six projects planned across Yuma County.

The summer youth program will have several start dates, beginning 6/15/09 and ending on August 28, 2009.

Brothers in Summer Youth

In May's report you were introduced to three brothers from Tacna, AZ, Fred, Casey and Cameron. All three had applied for the Summer Youth program and they were found eligible and

are participating in Arizona Western College's Summer Youth program at Antelope High School in Wellton, AZ.

Cameron (17) is obtaining valuable job skills working for the High School District. Cameron has decided to save his paychecks and hopefully purchase a car before he graduates from high school next year.

Casey (15) and Fred (14) are in a project at Antelope High School.

They are exploring the world of work and participating in community service. Fred is also saving his money but Casey said he is buying new shoes and buying his grand-father a Father's Day gift with his first paycheck.

All three sounded happy to be in the program and are looking forward to learning new skills this summer. We will give you an update at the end of the summer on how they did.



(L to R): Fred, Cameron and Casey have begun the Summer Youth Program.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>Dislocated Worker Training</i> | 2 |
| <i>SMART Training</i> | 3 |
| <i>Summer Youth at Regional Center for Border Health</i> | 3 |
| <i>Summary of Activities</i> | 4 |

NUMBERS

773 youth will be served in Yuma County:

- 50 youth - Goodwill of Central Arizona
- 195 youth - Arizona Western College
- 528 - Yuma Private Industry Council

Dislocated Workers in Training

"This job will provide security for my family."

Robert and Dale are attending California Career School's truck driver training. The school offers a 4 week commercial drivers license (CDL) course in Yuma. Robert and Dale are two weeks into the four week program and both have been offered jobs with a nationwide carrier contingent upon successful obtainment of their commercial drivers license (CDL).

Robert was laid off from a manufacturing job three months ago and had been looking for jobs on his own, when he decided to return to YPIC for job search assistance. Robert had used YPIC's services in 1990 when he was placed on an OJT which lead to a permanent job. When Robert was recently laid off, he immediately thought of YPIC and came back asking for any job training YPIC had available. Robert said it was time for a career change.

Robert is married and has three children. Robert said this training and job offer could not have come at a better time because his wife works at Head Start and during the summer she does not work. "This job will provide security for my family." Robert believes his past supervisory and management experience will allow him to advance quickly with any trucking company.

Dale had been an electrician for 33 years when he was laid off from Lockheed Martin at Yuma Proving Grounds. Dale said, "When the contract was given to ITT, they laid off all of the high-level technicians. I then



(L to R): Joseph (CA Career Schools Recruiter), Robert, Dale and Bill (CA Career Schools Instructor).

worked in construction for three months but was laid-off from that job also. That's when I decided to enroll in a trade program at Arizona Western College." He said he was driving home from registering for college and he heard a YPIC commercial saying only 20% of available jobs were advertised, so he drove directly to YPIC and asked if someone could tell him where the other 80% of the jobs were. Dale was surprised about the depth of the information he received and after he jumped through all of the registration hoops, he got really excited.

Dale is married and the only income generator in his family because his wife has multiple sclerosis; Dale also has a 13 year old step-son. "Although I'm happy that I've already received a job offer, I'm hesitant to take a job with a long-distance company and hope to find a job locally. I've talked to the driving instructor about this and he said he knew of a local company that needed to hire 7 drivers immedi-

ately. Hopefully this will work out for me"

Dale is glad that YPIC has short-term training programs to offer so he could start earning a salary again.

California Career School offers a 4 week commercial drivers license (CDL) course. California Career School uses full-sized equipment for student training and students can be behind the wheel within a few days and DMV testing in as little as 4 weeks. Graduates have the opportunity to receive endorsements including doubles, triples, passengers, tankers and hazardous materials. The school also offers lifetime, nation-wide job placement assistance for all graduates. California Career School can be contacted at the website:

www.CaliforniaCareerSchool.edu

Spending of ARRA funds to date:

Adult: \$37,611

Youth: \$314,175

Dislocated Worker: \$20,605

Rapid Response: \$6,278

SMART Training

We are happy to announce that the Yuma Private Industry Council and the Yuma County Chamber of Commerce introduced a joint collaborative training during the June "Good Morning Yuma" gathering. The **SMART Training: Strategies Mandatory at Recessionary Times** is a unique approach designed to help small business make effective financial decisions to better align business needs during this economic downturn.

SMART services are built around giving solid unbiased advice tailored to individual situations. This venture utilizes American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Stimulus monies to ensure that Yuma County businesses are operating efficiently and that individual business decisions fit into overall

business strategies.

SMART Training is a two-part training program: a 12-point program which serves as a primer for the implementation of a business plan designed to manage a small business during the current recession. The second part "How to Manage a Layoff" is structured to ensure that layoffs are administered without prejudice and are equitable to all affected employees. Additionally, it also ensures that disruption to employees and to business functions is minimized. The training is normally provided in a two-part module, however, each module can be held independent of the other. Business owners decide which they feel is most beneficial for their

current needs!

This training has been provided to one company and they were very pleased with the training, saying they were better prepared to begin their lay-offs. The team will continue to advertise this training through Chamber mixers, the Yuma Business Direct published by the local newspaper and the Southwest Arizona Human Resource Association.

SMART Training was recently featured in the Yuma Sun. To read the article, type this web address into your internet browser: <http://www.yumasun.com/articles/business-50738-training-chamber.html>



Summer Youth Work Experience Serving Children Across Yuma County

Twelve Summer Youth participants are placed at Regional Center for Border Health in Somerton, AZ; most of the youth are from the Somerton area. The youth will complete two weeks of classroom training, spend two weeks as Market Research Analyst (surveyors) and the last two weeks will be spent developing recycling campaigns.

During the classroom training the youth will learn about non-profit agencies, explore job opportunities and public services available in their community such as KIDS Care, WIC and religious organizations.

Once the youth have finished the

classroom training, they will spend two weeks in the community conducting surveys through the "Nuestros Ninos" Healthcare Census & Immunization Campaign. They will go from home to home in low income neighborhoods, asking if children have health insurance and immunizations. If families are lacking services, the youth will be able to provide the families with information regarding available services. The youth will also assist with two immunizations clinics being held in San Luis and Somerton, AZ; both clinics being held on Saturdays.

The youth will also develop recycle campaigns and make presentations to civic organiza-

tions in South County. This will be accomplished through the "No Contamine/Don't Trash La Frontera", an education awareness campaign for the prevention of illegal dumping. This campaign increases the promotion, education and awareness of proper management of solid waste (recycling, prevention, education). It also coordinates and sponsors clean-up campaigns, targeting areas most impacted by illegal dumping and involving school aged children, young adults and the community.



Student's first day of classroom training at Regional Center for Border Health.

To read more about the Regional Center for Border Health and their numerous programs please go to their website at: www.rcfbh.org.

3826 W. 16th Street
Yuma, AZ 85364

Phone: 928-329-0990 X 141
Fax: 928-783-0886
Email: promant@ypic.com



Yuma Private Industry Council
opening doors between job seekers and employers

**We're on the
web @
www.ypic.com**

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. The Recovery Act is intended to preserve and create jobs, promote the nation's economic recovery and assist those most impacted by the recession. Yuma County was awarded \$4.5 million for activities authorized under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) which will be administered by the Yuma Private Industry Council (YPIC). The Yuma Private Industry Council is a private non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide job seeker and employer services in the Yuma County labor market. Incorporated in 1988, YPIC serves as the Private Sector partner in the Public/Private Workforce Development Partnership with the Yuma County Board of Supervisors. With the advent of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), the Yuma County Board of Supervisors designated YPIC as the official operator of the "One-Stop" delivery system for workforce development services in Yuma County. The Yuma County Board of Supervisors also appoints the Workforce Investment Board which is housed in the organizational framework of YPIC. The Board draws membership from the community and is made up of representatives from all areas of the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

For more information, please contact Pat Romant at:

Phone: 928-329-0990 x 141
Email: promant@ypic.com

Summary of Activities and Upcoming Training/Events

- May 19—John Morales, YPIC Executive Director interviewed with City of Yuma (local TV program) to talk about some of the ARRA activities
- May 19—YPIC bilingual staff interviewed with Spanish speaking City of Yuma program to talk about ARRA activities
- May 19—YPIC and Arizona Western College met to discuss possibility of starting ESL pilot program in South Yuma County (San Luis, AZ)
- May 28—distributed ARRA monthly report
- May 29 - continued Strategic Planning that began in May 2009
- June 8—Yuma Private Industry Council is also leveraging funds through the Community Based Job Training Grant with ARRA funds. Three participants were sent to Pima Community College in Tucson, AZ to completed truck driver training. The grant will pay for the community college tuition and ARRA adult and dislocated worker funding will pay for lodging and support services.
- June 8—Phase I of YPIC's & AWC's East County Summer Youth programs began
- June 10-11—Attended Recovery & ReEmployment Forum hosted by US Department of Labor
- June 11-12—RESUMIX training for resume writers
- June 13—completed quality control of Summer Youth files and distributed to programs (773 applicants found eligible)
- June 15—AWC's East County Summer Youth program began
- June 22—Phase II of YPIC's Summer Youth program will begin
- June 29—Phase III of YPIC's & AWC's Yuma Summer Youth program will begin
- June 26—YPIC will finalize Strategic Planning began in May 2009
- YPIC has implemented transformational to accommodate increase in customer flow and service
- June 30—YPIC is partnering with San Luis Chamber of Commerce to host a job fair. Approximately 20-30 employers are scheduled to attend.
- July 6—Financial Counselor will begin working with adult and dislocated workers and teaching financial management and life skills classes
- July 7—Phase IV of YPIC's and Goodwill of Central Arizona Summer Youth programs will begin