

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

YPIC

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LUNCH AND LEARN

On October 22, Yuma Private Industry Council hosted a Lunch and Learn for local businesses; 16 businesses were represented with 23 attendees. YPIC outlined the various services provided by the agency and gave a tour of the YPIC campus.

Employers ate lunch while listening to a 45 minute presentation about the services YPIC can provide to employers and the community. The business representatives learned that YPIC can help them advertise for and screen applicants, schedule interviews and offer space for interviewing. Services such as customized and on-the-job trainings avail-

able to local employers were also explained.

As a result of the Lunch and Learn YPIC received 4 job announcements and is negotiating a contract to provide customized training for a local call center.

The next Lunch and Learn is scheduled for January 2010 and Lunch and Learns will be scheduled on a bi-monthly basis for at least the next year.



Lunch and Learn participants.

The Yuma Sun published an article on the Lunch and Learn. To read the story, please go to <http://www.yumasun.com/articles/job-53748-services-ypic.html>.

SUCCESSFUL OJT

James J. is finishing an on-the-job training and will be hired by Keeter's Quality Plumbing. James reported this is a new trade for him and he has enjoyed working with his hands and having a job that allows him to work normal hours.

James came to Yuma through the military; he was a Marine stationed at the Marine Corp

Air Station Yuma. When he was honorably discharged, James said he was fortunate to be hired as a manager at a large discount chain. "It was a great job for many years and afforded my family many luxuries, but as my kids got older I realized how many important things I was missing due to my extended work hours. I worked there for 10 years."

process and began his OJT in just a matter of weeks.

James has learned to repair leaky faucets, unclog drains and replace water lines. "After I finish my OJT, I need my plumber's license and to get that I need to take classes at the community college. YPIC is helping me apply to Arizona Western College and will pay for my classes if I don't qualify for financial aid. I look forward to going to school."

"Everyone has been so helpful and seems to be concerned about my success. I would like to thank everyone who has helped me, including the government who provided the stimulus funds."



"One day while coaching my children's baseball team, I was talking about trying to find a new career and another coach said he had worked with YPIC to hire new plumbers and he was in need of some new help and suggested I check-out YPIC." James completed the enrollment

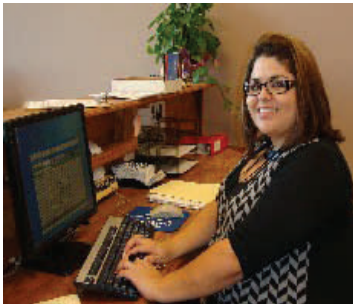
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Numbers

ARRA funds spent to date:	
Youth:	Spent \$2,040,846 Received \$2,233,610
Adult:	Spent \$583,137 Received \$965,357
Dislocated Workers:	
	Spent \$226,090 Received \$1,193,971
Rapid Response	
	Spent \$24,609 Received \$143,277

FROM ADDICTION -TO RECOVERY -TO EMPLOYED



Davina at her desk at Horizon Health Services.

Davina S. will complete a work experience in November. She will then begin an on-the-job training at Horizon Health Services, a mental health agency, where she will work as a secretary. Davina is excited about this opportunity and is looking forward to the new challenges. Although Davina is succeeding now, she explained that in the past she did everything but succeed.

Davina is a recovering drug addict; she said she was addicted for 20 years. Two years ago she was sitting in jail waiting to be transported to prison. A probation officer came to visit her and asked if she would like to stay out of prison and she said yes. She agreed to participate in Drug Court, which requires house arrest, mandatory work program, 90 AA meetings in 90 days, and community service.

Davina reported this sounded much better than prison.

She took the challenge and is turning her life around. She now lives with her parents and children and is able to contribute to household bills. Davina said when she last worked it was in fast food and she saw no future there; however due to her "sketchy past" she could not get a better job. "There was never enough money to buy the basics for my kids. But now with a good job, I can assist my parents with paying some of the bills and I've paid all of my court fines and fees. I've become a productive member of society!"

Davina volunteers at the County Attorney's office and recently was asked by one of the attorneys to speak to a class of Criminal Justice ma-

jors. She said she was nervous at first but realized how her story could help others understand drug addiction and the effects it has on the drug user and family members. "I lost my children and my marriage."

Davina graduates from Drug Court in December and hopes to start college next year. Davina has five sons, ages 11, 4, 3 and twins that are 2. "Now I'm there for my kids and I want to raise men who are strong and smart."

Davina said she turned to YPIC because we had helped her several years ago and she hoped she would be given another chance. "YPIC has given me self-esteem and a chance at a good job. I now refer others to YPIC because if YPIC can help me, they can help anyone. They've given me everything I needed to succeed."

AWC GRADUATION

Arizona Western College held a Graduation and Award Ceremony on November 6 at the Martin Luther King Neighborhood Center in Yuma. AWC is a provider that has worked with Yuma Private Industry Council for 20+ years.

The MLK Center was packed with family and friends; the

graduates wore caps and gowns. Of the 85 graduates, all were WIA participants and four also received services under ARRA. The graduates earned a variety of certificates: 29 GEDs, 31 Clerical certificates, 20 Medical front office certificates, 2 Electrical certifications, 1 EMT certificate, and 2 HVAC certifications.

The ARRA graduates all received GEDs and are now moving on to more training or jobs. Javier B. is now a corrections officer, April C. is attending Certified Nurses Assistant training, Fausto L., just started a new job at a home repair store and Dorothy R. is now seeking employment.

The Career Resource Center, Yuma Private Industry Council's One Stop had 2238 customers in October, up from 2116 customers in September 2009.

483 indicated they were dislocated workers

166 indicated they were Veterans

79 indicated they were Migrant workers



Yuma Private Industry Council
opening doors between job seekers and employers

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FROM ADDICTION -TO HOMELESS -TO EMPLOYED

Daniel S., a homeless 50 year old has completed his truck driver training and now has a CDL license and is working. Daniel was referred to YPIC through Crossroads Mission, a homeless shelter where he lives.

Daniel reported he had not been a responsible adult and had been in and out of trouble. He had moved to the river to get away from bad influences and while living on the river was bitten by a spider, which landed him in the hospital.

Because he had to stay in town to receive follow-up medical care after he was discharged, he was referred to the Mission.

“I was tired of being unemployed and not having a place of my own. I think that in spite of myself, I was just getting older and growing out of the old ways. I knew I wanted a better life and finally I knew what I wanted to do. I turned to YPIC and they helped me get into truck driving school.”

The majority of the graduates for the driving school are hired by interstate trucking companies. However due to Daniel's past he would not be allowed to drive for one of the interstate companies, therefore YPIC would only allow Daniel to enroll in driving class if he had a pre-hire letter from a local trucking company. Daniel was persistent and was able to get a pre-hire letter. “I will make more money than I ever made before.”

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PERMANENT JOB AFTER SUMMER YOUTH

Armando Carrillo was a Summer Youth participant who was hired as a permanent employee at the end of the summer at Z Trendz. Z Trendz is a clothing retailer who offers uniforms, embroidery services, screen printing and medical scrubs.

Blanca Barragan, owner of Z Trendz reported she hired Armando “because he fits in. He gets along with everyone and he is a very hard worker. Armando is a quick learner and as he mastered our processes;

he asked to learn more.”

Armando is a 24 year old single young man who worked in agriculture and as a bus boy, but was never able to find permanent long-term employment. “I like this job because I get to work with computers and learn new programs. There are a variety of job duties and I never get bored. I have always been good at art and I enjoy it. I'm glad that during the Summer Youth program I was able to have this job. I worked hard and hoped

it would lead to a permanent job.”

“I signed up for Summer Youth thinking they would help me get my GED, but I also needed a job and I'm glad I have this job. Now I will work on my GED through the community college and when I finish the GED, I will then start taking computer graphic classes so I can be of more value to my employer. I will stay with this job as long as they will have me. I like it here.”



Armando working on a new logo for uniforms.

SUCSESSES

- Four rapid response presentations were held for a local behavioral health agency; the agency will lay-off 235 employees by January 2010. The majority of the employees are being hired by other mental health providers as they are being laid-off.
- Taped radio spots on KBLU on November 17 regarding YPIC services
- While at a meeting, a YPIC employee heard the following: A young man came into the Career Resource Center on a Friday for job search and he told his mother that the staff was nice and helpful. The mother relayed that it was a positive experience for her son and that by Monday, he was working.
- 106 private and 35 Federal resumes completed in October.
- The Chief of Nursing at Yuma Rehabilitation Hospital informed YPIC that she is very impressed with YPIC referrals and mentioned that the applicants definitely stand out and the resumes look great. She said she could easily identify YPIC referrals due to the professionalism and interviewing skill and would like to continue receiving referrals from YPIC.

23 ARRA participants found permanent employment in October