



**May 5, 2010**

**To:** Dawn Karber

**RE:** Supplemental Youth Information

**From:** Heidi Peterson, Youth Services Manager; Next Generation Zone

Overall NextGenZone News: April was a busy month at the Next Generation Zone. The month kicked off with the Grand Opening celebration. This had an attendance of over 150 community members including elected officials, school representatives, employers and youth. Also in attendance were Mayor Vernor and a representative of Senator Patty Murray. In addition to speakers, there was a talent show by youth, an art contest and a resume wall. Everyone was able to see not only the talents that some youth possess but also their career goals. There were winners for all three contests as well as some employers leaving their contact information with regards to a resume that interested them. It all tied back to youth and their desire to learn as well as be part of the workforce. The open house was organized by members of the youth council, Next Gen Zone staff and members of the youth advisory board. INSHRM was a sponsor of the event as well as Sterling Savings Bank as a major sponsor.

In-School Youth Program: Graduation is approaching and students are getting excited. WorkSource Specialists continue to check in with seniors to make sure that they are on track to graduate in June as well as discussing their plans after graduation. With the registration deadline for summer courses at the community colleges coming up, another FAFSA workshop is being scheduled for May. This is being encouraged for anyone thinking of attending post secondary summer or fall session.

One of the new programs we have within the WIA program is the Opportunity Internship program for high school students. There are 36 slots for students to participate in a work experience in a career of interest that pays \$30,000 after the required schooling is complete. This involves 8 hours of unpaid internship and 82 hours of paid internship. The students participating in this may also be eligible for the state needs grant when they enter post secondary. More of these internships will take place over the summer when students are out of school. This is another step in career planning with youth. It is important to expose them to careers that interest them to help explore the possibilities they have.

Out-of-School Youth Program: Some of our out of school youth are participating in health care work experiences under the Health Care Grant. This is designed for youth interested in careers related to the health care industry. Youth are surprised to discover how many different careers are attached to this industry. The possibilities are great in our community. There are presently four youth exploring this field through this grant.

As out of school youth are ready to exit the program, staff is paying close attention to possible credentials related to their career plan. These range from GED attainment to NAC. Not all youth will need/want credentials but because this can make them more employable, it is part of the discussion staff have with them.

#### Outreach and Community Presentations:

- 4/1/2010: WA Business Week Steering Committee Meeting - discussion of enrollment, sharing contacts for judges and for securing the presenters. There is a new addition of AMPT! Manufacturing Week.
- 4/6/2010: Workforce Roundtable – A staff participated in a roundtable in Seattle regarding workforce issues as well as WIA reauthorization. This was with Senator Patty Murray, Assistant Secretary of Labor Jane Oates, and seven others around the state including representatives from organized labor, workforce board, educational institutions, DVR and youth.
- 4/9/2010: Breakfast of Champions: Chase Youth Awards – This breakfast was attended by many youth and adults representing the Spokane community.
- 4/9/2010: Next Gen Zone Grand Opening – Presentations, music and art contests, resume wall and tours for the community. Great representation of different organizations as well as youth.
- 4/13/2010: Q-6 Help Line – Staff assisted with the call-in show KHQ hosted during their news hour for S.L. Start.
- 4/20/2010: CCS visits – A staff visited each career center, IEL and WorkSource location at the community colleges to drop off materials as well as recruit for the job fair.
- 4/26/2010: Girl Scouts Launching Leadership Conference – This was a community event to learn about what the Girl Scouts do for their neighborhood, the variety of their services and their effort to grow. Senator Lisa Brown was in attendance.
- 4/27/2010: Youth Job Fair – This was held at the STA Plaza. There were 22 businesses and organizations that participated and over 120 youth in attendance. City Perk donated coffee to the vendors, Pizza Rita donated coupons for free slices of pizza (given out to youth) and STCE donated \$600 worth of prizes in the form of gift baskets.
- 4/28/2010: Barker High School – Staff conducted a resume workshop and employability game while marketing Next Gen Zone and the WIA program.
- 4/28/2010: West Valley High School – Staff represented the WIA program/Next Gen Zone at the College and Career Fair.

**SKIES data:** The WSS responsible for follow up has completed the initial review of files in SKIES to make sure information was correctly entered. She made corrections as she worked through them as well as creating a database to use daily. This is making it easier to see which credentials need to be captured, etc. prior to finishing in follow up services.

**Core services:** We had two employers come in to assist with mock interviews on two different days. One was a representative from Target. He gave very helpful feedback to the three youth that participated and even suggested that two of them apply at Target. We also have a video camera available to record the interviews so that the youth can look back and learn from watching themselves in an interview.

At the end of the month, we hosted a youth job fair at the STA Plaza and had a great turnout. Not only did we have a great turnout by employers but we also had different service groups available as well such as CCS, I-Best, YouthBuild and AmeriCorps. It was also helpful to have a representative from the WIA Adult/Dislocated Worker program present so that when adults came to see what was available, they could be directed to that table. There was a contest for the “best dressed for an interview” youth. Because there were so many to choose from, four awards were given out (2 male and 2 female). They were given \$20 gift certificates to the thrift store at Goodwill (donated by Goodwill).