

---

## Council of Youth Advises Local Youth Council

**Youth Council:** Solano Youth Advisory Council

**Element:** Youth Leadership

**Function:** Convening Local Leadership to Take Action

**Subject:** Youth Involvement

**The Challenge:** The Solano County Youth Council’s mission is to advocate for youth employment for the community. They wanted to find a way to involve youth in their mission.

**The Practice and Evidence:** When approached with the idea of bringing ten WIA-enrolled youth together to create a council of youth, the Solano County Youth Council enthusiastically supported the concept. The Youth on the Rise Council was formed and, according to Youth Council members, soon became “where all the action is”! The most effective strategy the Council engaged in, however, was to hire an energetic young adult who related well to the youth to facilitate Youth on the Rise meetings. Another simple but important strategy was for the youth group to have its own name and identity.

- Youth members regularly “check the horizon” to learn effective practices of other communities. The youth identify program gaps and revise workshop curriculum to change how youth are taught in WIA workshops.
- Seventy-five youth have gone through the workshops re-designed by Youth on the Rise members. Participant evaluations indicate that young people are more receptive to the interactive style of teaching that uses their language. Young leaders are becoming more comfortable conducting and participating in the workshops.
- Youth are engaged. The Council lets them in on the challenges of running programs and engages them in problem-solving and decision-making.
- Work experiences for Youth on the Rise members include employment at the One-Stops, or as school liaisons. All of them dedicate a portion of their hours to work directly with the Youth Council.
- Youth on the Rise members tackle difficult issues such as how to improve activities in One-Stops, ensuring services are youth friendly, identifying duplication of services, influencing policy issues, and planning and producing events.

(continued)



---

**Details:** Council staff worked with the youth leaders, teaching them community organizing principals, empowering them to develop grassroots initiatives and showing them how to rally around an issue. Youth on the Rise members became active about their particular environment and learned how to create alternative activities and models for other youth. Work experience opportunities were also intended to include youth at a future stage working directly with case managers to develop and implement youth activities.

### **Where to Go for More Information**

Solano County Youth Council

Derry Moten

Workforce Investment Services Manager

[dmoten@solanowib.org](mailto:dmoten@solanowib.org)