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4th Annual Conference Results in More Youth Participation

What made the California Workforce Association's (CWA) Fourth Annual Youth Conference so successful? A vibrant youth presence, that fueled three days of working, networking, thinking, talking, and strategizing. Turnout was excellent, youth had a lot to say, and participants came away with lots of great ideas for 2004.

Last year's youth panel charged organizers to include more young people, and CWA rose to the challenge. Out of 376 individuals, 39 remarkable young people attended the 2004 conference. They made their voices heard and their presence felt, actively engaging in team projects in meaningful ways. "In the end, it was just a very different kind of conference because so many youth were present," observed CWA consultant John Baker. [Click here to read the story.](#)

Child Welfare Redesign in California

The California foster care system is responsible for 91,000 children. On February 28th Bonnie Armstrong, Senior Fellow at the Foundation Consortium for California's Children & Youth and Youth Advocate Rebecca Leach spoke to "All Youth-One System" (Remix) conference goers about the fundamental shift in the basic policies and practices that guide the California Child Welfare system. Armstrong and Leach framed the new Child Welfare vision and nine redesign objectives set forth in California's September 2003 Final Report. [Click here to read the story and associated links.](#)

8-Track Remix: Youth Cultural Competence



In tough times, it's tempting to stick to traditional strategies. Leading expert on at-risk youth issues and

programs Ed DeJesus refers to these often outdated strategies as "8-track tapes." In his energizing keynote, DeJesus questioned the value of this "8-track thinking" in what he calls an "MP3 world," where kids download their music from the internet, and called on attendees to appropriate popular culture for positive ends.

For the second year running, DeJesus, Founder and President of the Youth Development & Research Fund, delivered a rousing keynote. He called upon the audience to draw upon positive aspects of youth culture to get kids into jobs, into doing the right thing, into thinking in terms or purpose, not power. [Click here to read the story.](#)

YCi Spring and Summer Calendar

May 11, 2004	<i>Conference Call</i>	Involving Youth in Planning, Policy and Decision Making Part 2
May 20, 2004	<i>State Youth Council</i>	Public Meeting
June 2-4, 2004	<i>One-day Workshops</i>	Involving Youth in Planning, Policy and Decision Making
June 23-25, 2004	<i>Conference</i>	Annual School-to- Career Conference
TBA	<i>Team Leader Meetings</i>	Northern and Southern CA Meetings

[Click here for detailed calendar information.](#)



YCI Institute Teams Hit the Ground Running

In addition to speakers, presenters, and interactive sessions, Youth Council teams from throughout the state participated in the YCi Institute held during the “All Youth-One System” (Remix) conference. Youth Council members, staff and partners had the chance to examine and refine their goals for the year by networking with colleagues from around the state, sharing brilliant practices, and making the most of quality team time.

Eight Youth Council teams participated: San Diego Workforce Partnership, Alameda County Youth Policy Council, Orange County Workforce Investment Board/Youth Council, the SELACO Workforce Investment Board, Monterey County Youth Council, Sonoma County Youth Education and Employment Services Council, the Tulare County Youth Council, and the Santa Barbara County Youth Council. On the final day of the conference, each reported on team-specific breakthroughs and goals, and established the next steps necessary to achieve those goals. [Click here to download institute materials.](#)

Using High Schools and One-Stops to Create Education and Workforce Partnerships – A Local Story

This latest YCidea shares the success of the Santa Barbara community coordinating services between the county’s high schools and One-Stop centers. Santa Barbara County had several barriers preventing students from accessing their two one-stops. Transportation is a challenge in this rural county, and the offices are only open during school hours. On the other hand, Santa Barbara schools do an excellent job of keeping the county’s 20,000 high-school-age youth in school, and all the high schools have career centers on campus. When the Santa Barbara County Office of Education and Workforce Investment Board addressed this issue, the resulting strategies not only helped solve the problems of access, their community forged ahead in its goal of building a county-wide Comprehensive Youth-Serving System. Their work is supported by strengthened partnerships between schools and workforce development partners. [Click here to learn more about this YCidea.](#)

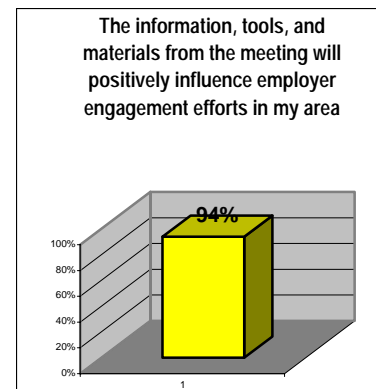
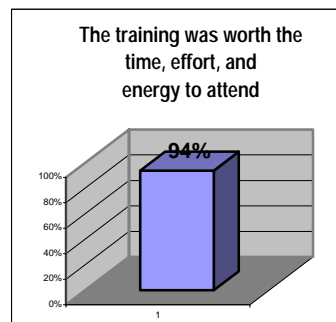
Coordinating Services for Foster Youth – A Local Story

The outlook for the 3,500 youth who annually age out of the California foster care system is dismal. An underlying factor is a lack of collaboration between people and systems that serve these youth. The Ventura County Youth Council devised Project TRENDSS — which stands for “Teens Reaching for Employment Now and Developing Self-Sufficiency” — as part of a plan to coordinate services that had not previously been integrated. Strategies to connect everyone involved in the care of a youth include meetings, networking, youth ownership of the program, and shared software.

Youth Services Manager Frank Ramirez describes Project TRENDSS as the first to link services offered by Children and Family offices with employment and training programs. The program offers work-readiness workshops and comprehensive employment and training services. Youth who complete the work-experience component can get on-the-job training, which involves a contract that defrays 50% of the expense for the employer. “It almost guarantees a job. It’s a very positive component,” Ramirez notes. [Click here to learn more about this YCidea.](#)

Engaging Workplace Partners Workshops a Success!

The Engaging Workplace Partners Series wrapped up on April 1st for the last of a series of content calls and workshops hosted by YCi. With over 120 participants on conference calls and trainings, YCi practitioners are building their expertise on the four easy steps to workplace partner engagement. Workshop participants rated the workshops as very effective. [Click here to download content call and workshop materials.](#)





A View from Washington

The California Workforce Association (CWA) and the National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC) provide in-depth federal policy and legislative analysis for the workforce system. NYEC's policy updates are available for review on their website at www.nyec.org. CWA's policy analysis can be accessed by clicking the links in the summaries below. YCi encourages practitioners to familiarize themselves with important issues related to WIA Reauthorization Allocations and other policies relevant to youth.

Advocacy Notes

The March 26 issue of NYEC's *Advocacy Notes* features information and summaries about the release of the PY 2004 WIA Allocations, the FY 2005 Budget Resolution, and the Senate passage of the temporary TANF Extension. We have highlighted below information from the *Advocacy Notes*, but for complete analysis and review, go to the member's only section of www.nyec.org or email Chandra Larsen at clarsen@nww.org to send you a copy.

White House Task Force for Disadvantaged Youth

YCi practitioners submitted responses to the Final Report on the White House Task Force for Disadvantaged Youth. YCi submitted the comments to NYEC, which in turn submitted a national response paper that reflects the views and opinions of its membership. The Response is available online at http://www.nyec.org/Letter03_30_04.html.

PY 2004 WIA Allocations Released

On March 25th, the US Department of Labor released the Federal Notice announcing the FY 2004 WIA Title I Allotments to states for Program Year 2004 (July 1, 2004–June 30, 2005). As anticipated, DOL used 2000 Census data in the allotment formula. California's relative share of the total, however, even with the updated Census data, is less than expected. For a brief description of the formula factors and California's share of the national allotments, go to [WIA Final Allotments](#). For a breakdown of the allocations by local Workforce Investment Area, go to www.edd.ca.gov/wiarep/wiab03-77.pdf.

Bush Administration's Unveils FY 2005 Budget Request

On February 2, President Bush released his election-year budget proposal of \$2.4 trillion for FY 2005. The President's FY 2005 budget for the Department of Labor requests from Congress a modest 1.2 percent increase in discretionary spending. However, due to a proposed Consolidated Grant of Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Employment Service (ES) funding, significant reductions in both ES and Dislocated Worker dollars, new national initiatives paid for out of the Consolidated Grant, and a 25 percent reduction in Youth formula funding to pay for national Youth Challenge Grants, states and local workforce areas stand to lose more than half a billion dollars in employment and training funds. See CWA's Analysis on the [FY 2005 Budget Request](#).

President's Reform Agenda

On April 5, in his "Better Training for Better Jobs" initiative, President Bush announced new reforms to programs under the Workforce Investment Act. The President's recent remarks on job training at a North Carolina community college emphasized the new initiatives outlined in his 05' budget proposal, but also provided new clarity on his broader policy priorities. This reform agenda includes: reducing "administrative" overhead in job training programs by \$300 million; increasing worker choice through ITAs (Innovation Training Accounts); changing the state/local governance balance by shifting resources, decision-making, and control to Governors; and consolidating 4 major training programs -- WIA Adult, WIA Dislocated Worker, Wagner Peyser, and possibly WIA Youth. For more information, see CWA's [White House Fact Sheet on President's Reform Initiative](#).

FY 2005 Budget Resolution Moves to Conference

The Senate's version of the FY 2005 budget resolution (S. Con. Res. 95) passed the Senate floor on March 11th. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) succeeded in attaching an amendment to the bill, adding \$250 million to increase WIA funding. Since FY 2002 WIA funding has been cut by \$448 million; this \$250 million for WIA funding goes a long way in restoring more than half of the devastating cuts to WIA over the past several years. On March 25, the House passed its version (H. Con. Res. 393), sending the measure to conference committee with the Senate. On March 31, House and Senate Conferees formally opened Conference Agreement talks. For more information, go to CWA's brief on the [Congressional Budget Resolution](#).

WIA Reauthorization Increasingly Unlikely this Year

Despite the passage last year of WIA bills in both houses, a conference committee has yet to be created to finalize the work. According to congressional staff closely involved with prior WIA negotiations, the Administration's 2005 budget proposal (which includes consolidated funding, deep cuts to Employment Service, and myriad new programs and demands on existing funding) and the President's recent public remarks on job training effectively buried the possibility of a bi-partisan conference on WIA reauthorization, thus derailing hopes for a final bill this year. This means that current law will continue until the new 109th Congress takes up reauthorization next year. In all likelihood, the process will begin again from scratch, with past agreements and compromises off the table.

Senate Passes Temporary TANF Extension

On Thursday, March 25, the Senate passed (S. 2231) an act to temporarily extend the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, which, unless extended or reauthorized, is set to expire on March 31. The bill would reauthorize TANF through June 30. See NYEC's *Advocacy Notes* article for full review and analysis at www.nyec.org.



Learn How to Involve Youth in Organizational Planning, Policy, and Decision Making

Increasingly, Youth Councils, Boards of Directors, Advisory Councils, Youth Organizations, Schools, and other programs and services are recognizing the necessity of engaging young people in their planning, policy, and decision-making. If you want to include young people in a program, initiative, or change effort, or if you are already working with young people and want to do so more effectively, the May and June YCi Practitioner training series is for you. Through our content calls and training sessions, you will:

- Learn how to recruit, hire, train, and mentor young leaders on your Youth Council, organization's board, or other policy-making body;
- Explore the dynamics of youth and adult relationships, especially around decision making;
- Look at barriers that inhibit youth involvement;
- Hear about other successful youth involvement efforts and "how-to" tips and guidelines for effective youth engagement; and
- Learn how to sell and coach others on the concept of youth involvement.

For more information about this training series, [click here](#), or contact clarsen@nww.org.

Ideas for Successful Summer Programs

YCi received a request to run a *YCinfo Search* on the topic of summer internships and jobs for youth. Local Youth Councils and partners responded with ideas, practices, and examples of how their community or organization has structured summer work experiences for youth, responding to the following questions:

- How is your community organizing to develop summer internships and jobs for youth?
- What workplace partner engagement practices help make your summer programs successful?

[Click here to read responses to this YCinfo Search](#)

New Tools Now Available

YCi Guidebook

The YCi Guidebook brings together the tools, materials, strategies, approaches and lessons learned by Youth Councils across the state through the first two and a half years of YCi. YCi has prepared this *Guidebook* to assist and guide Youth Councils across California as they pursue the development of comprehensive, local systems that serve all youth. To view or download the *Guidebook* online, [click here](#), or to order a hard copy, email clarsen@nww.org.

Engaging Employers and Workplace Partners Tools and Frameworks

New Ways to Work has published new tools and frameworks to help guide organizations and individual engagement specialists in engaging workplace partners. New tools include updated frameworks, assessments, and work plans, as well as a new Quick Guide for Engagement Specialists and other supportive materials. To view or download these tools, go to: www.nww.org/whatsnew.htm and scroll down to "Engaging Employers and Workplace Partners Tools and Frameworks".

About YCI

The Youth Council Institute (YCi) was established in July 2001 by the California Workforce Investment Board (CalWIB). Its goal is to assist California's 50 Youth Councils by creating a unified and transparent network of local organizations whose diverse services are available to all youth. The "All Youth-One System" tools and frameworks serve as the foundation for YCi. YCi provides technical assistance and support, disseminates tools and practices, and conducts trainings and planning activities. It is supported by the CalWIB and managed and delivered through a partnership between New Ways to Work and the California Workforce Association.

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