



YCi receives Architect of Change Award

The US Department of Labor and the National Association of State Workforce Agencies awarded the CA Youth Council Institute with their Customer Service Award for Innovation for 2002. Assistant Secretary Emily DeRocco of ETA awarded YCi with a plaque and trophy at the ceremony in Kansas City on September 25th attended by John Merris-Coots of CalWIB, Steve Trippe and Lois Ann Porter of New Ways to Work (on behalf of YCi, New Ways and CWA), and Sam Rodriguez of EDD.

4th in a series: **YCi Snapshot:**

Mendocino County Youth Summit

Over 200 youth attended the Mendocino County Youth Summit September 25, the first time youth from throughout the county had an opportunity to meet each other in a collaborative and friendly setting. An historic rail line and its "Skunk Train" brought young people from inland and coastal areas to a central location in the middle of the county's characteristic redwoods to spend the day meeting each other and discussing issues important to themselves and to their communities.

The Mendocino County Workforce Investment Board and its Youth Council each had adopted "youth empowerment" as a primary goal. In an effort to fulfill this goal, the Youth Council sent its young members (now Youth Council co-chairs) to the

statewide Merced Youth Conference last March. The young women came back enthused by their experience and vigorously lobbied for a similar countywide event. The result was the formation of a partnership of the Youth Council, Mendocino College Tech Prep program, and the Mendocino County Office of Education School to Career program. This coalition facilitated two planning sessions with youth so they could share their ideas and goals for the Summit. They wanted an opportunity to meet each other (a difficult feat for a rural county with little public transportation); they wanted to have fun; they wanted to become motivated to take action on important community issues; and, they wanted to implement action projects that were meaningful.

Eric Rowles of the Youth Leadership Institute in San Francisco was the facilitator. Invitations to the Summit were sent to all public high schools, charter schools, court/community schools, continuation and private high schools as well as to out of school youth and community college students. The response was tremendous -- the only limitation being the number of seats available on the trains.

The Youth Summit met the expectations of the young planners. Each had an opportunity to meet dozens of other youth from around the county. The day was warm and sunny which helped contribute to the delight of the train ride. The youth went away motivated to take action in their communities and with action plans specific to each of their schools. They are eager to deal with various issues ranging from youth employment to teen pregnancy. The high schools stand ready to assist in implementing these plans and the Youth Council will do whatever it can to develop grants that will provide funds to support these plans. And, there is always the possibility that this may turn into an annual event.

YCi Workgroups Ready to Go!

The YCi workgroups have been on hold, and we are now ready to kick off the year getting you all involved in the work.

The workgroups are parallel with the State Youth Council and the YCi Youth Council Functions which include:

- YCi Network Planning
- Coordinating Youth Services
- Measures
- Policy

Workgroups will meet regularly, with the frequency determined by the workgroup. At a minimum, workgroups will meet via telephone conference call on a quarterly basis, with at least two face-to-face meetings scheduled during the year.

The first workgroup calls are scheduled at the following times:

- Network Planning 10/14 @ 11a.m.
- Policies 10/14 @ 3 p.m.
- Coordinate Services 10/15 @ 11
- Measures 10/15 @ 3 p.m.

To join any call, dial 707-824-8013.

If you are interested in joining any of the workgroups, please email yci@nww.org by October 11th so that we can get any materials for the call to you beforehand. Please join us!

Youth Practitioners Met in August

The YCi Youth Practitioner Community held its 4th meeting August 21 in conjunction with the DOL One-Stop Conference in Anaheim. With over 75 practitioners in attendance, the room was over capacity, but that didn't stop the meeting from being a great success.

The topic of the day was "Effective Strategies for Building Youth Leadership Skills." Representatives from the EDD presented on their Youth Employment Opportunity Program (YEOP) which is a state-wide peer mentoring program that assists youth in achieving their educational and vocational goals. Presentations were also made by practitioners on "cool" youth leadership

activities they are doing in their programs.

Recommendations for building the YCi Practitioner Network include:

- Develop contact info for practitioners including effective practices.
- Increase knowledge about post-secondary opps & resources.
- Add more Practitioners to the State Youth Council.
- Create open communication and realistic measures.
- How to *not* duplicate services in the same geographical area given the need to meet performance goals.
- Worker Certification.
- Compensation for participation of adults and youth.

The next Practitioner meeting will be held November 13 in Oakland.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Oct. 3 – YCi Orientation, Oakland, contact rtuohy@nww.org

Oct. 16 - YCi Youth Practitioner call, WIA Eligibility Criteria, 9-10 a.m. *

Nov. 13 – YCi Youth Practitioner meeting

Contact fmiller@calworkforce.org

Nov.19 – YCi Network Meeting, Long Beach, contact rtuohy@nww.org

Nov. 20 – State Youth Council meeting, Long Beach, <http://www.calwia.org>

Dec. 11 – YCi Youth Practitioner call, 9-10 a.m.,*

Jan. 29 & 30 – YCi Workshops (tba)

Feb. 11 – YCi Practitioner's Network meeting, Palm Springs

Feb. 13 – YCi Network Convening, Palm Springs

Feb. 11-13 – CWA Youth Conference, Palm Springs

* for all conference calls, dial 707-824-8013