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**Don't Forget**

**May is Foster Care Month  
and  
May is Safe Jobs for Youth  
Month**

## New Strategic Vision for Youth under WIA is now Available in Booklet Form

*WIA-funded youth programs will provide leadership by serving as a catalyst to connect these youth with quality ... opportunities.*

The Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) recently released a reader-friendly version of the strategic plan for youth. Given the role WIA-

funded programs play in the Strategic Vision, the booklet is a timely resource.

The Administration is emphasizing initiatives that "prepare the most at-risk and neediest youth for jobs in our changing economy." It also stresses the key role that state and local WIA systems play in creating and implementing such initiatives.

The New Strategic Vision identifies four key areas:

- Focus on alternative education
- Meeting the demands of business
- Focus on neediest youth
- Focus on improved performance

In all four of these areas, the ETA sees state and local workforce investment system leaders serving as "catalysts bringing together employment, education, and economic development."

To read the New Strategic Vision in booklet form, please [click here](#).

## New Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) on Common Measures Issued

*By Lori Strumpf*

The Department of Labor has issued its long awaited guidance on their "common measures" for all DOL funded programs. Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 28-04 dated April 15th outlines the new common measures policy. To read this policy, please [click here](#).

There are three common measures for youth: Placement in Employment or Education, Attainment of a Degree or Certificate; and Literacy and Numeracy Gains. Please note that in-school youth are excluded from the literacy/numeracy measure. This is a potential problem for those who are serving in-school youth. To read more, please [click here](#).

*Lori Strumpf is President of Strumpf Associates: Center for Strategic Change as well as Vice Chair and Chair of the Legislative and Policy Committee, National Youth Employment Coalition and one of the original thought partners in the design of YCi.*



**Cal WIB  
Invites  
Comments  
until April 29,  
2005 on Draft  
Two-Year Plan**

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, the California Workforce Investment Board (CalWIB) released their draft of the Two-Year Strategic State Plan for the Workforce Investment Act and Wagner-Peyser. (continued on next page)



## **Continued: Cal WIB Invites Comments until April 29, 2005 on Draft Two-Year Plan**

To view the plan, please [click here](#). Support for youth is addressed throughout the publication; however, the following pages included issues related to youth: 5-8, 16-17, 37, 48, 55-56, 59-60, 67, 71-72, 77-78, 99-101, and 107-110. CalWIB is inviting public comment through April 29. To make comments, please [click here](#).

### ***YCidea*** **Engaging At-Risk Youth on the Marin Youth Council**

Supporting youth leadership for all youth remains a challenge for Youth Councils. Part of the problem arises because many partnering organizations (such as schools and Parent Teacher Organizations) that often recruit youth members for Councils do not have strong connections with youth at risk.

Adult members of Marin County Youth Council Youth Subcommittee decided to create a new engagement strategy. They recognized that they needed to build relationships with youth through programs that serve vulnerable youth directly, in order to create trust and interest. They realized that asking their Council member who works with at-risk youth, Janis Reynolds, to take charge of these efforts held the most promise of success.

Reynolds built relationships with potential youth board members during a summer youth program. As a result, four new youth members were initially brought on board, and more than twenty young people from many underrepresented communities within Marin have served since then. To read this YCidea, please [click here](#).

### ***YCi Content Call*** **Youth Involvement on Youth Councils: Strategies and Ideas**

On March 15, participants from around the state called in to share their successes and challenges related to engaging youth on their local Youth Councils. Successful strategies included recruiting youth to join Youth Council project-based work groups and partnering with youth-focused organizations and programs to identify potential youth members. Other themes that emerged were the importance of mentoring, helping youth manage their time, and setting up official recruitment procedures. To read more, please [click here](#).

## **Engaging Workplace Partners Workshops: Strategies to Engage Workplace Partners Successfully**



Engaging workplace partners is a critical part of building a successful youth-serving program and making real connections for youth. In February, New Ways to Work and YCi hosted a content workshop series on the topic of Engaging Employers and Workplace Partners: The Role of Engagement Specialists and Strategies for Effective Organizations. Youth Council staff members, community youth service providers, and educators came together to learn tools and strategies for successfully engaging workplace partners.

Improving customer service standards and discussing strategies for overcoming objections were highlighted as important elements by many participants in their evaluations. Other participants enjoyed the shift of perspective in seeing potential workplace partners as customers, and youth as “products” to market to fulfill their needs. Many participants expressed that they were motivated to return to their organizations and support building overall organizational capacity to better serve workplace partners. According to evaluation results, 96% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that the discussions were helpful and useful, and that the event was worth the time, effort, and resources to attend. To read the full article about this workshop, please [click here](#). To read the notes, please [click here](#). Additional tools and activities from this workshop can be viewed and downloaded online at: <http://www.nww.org/previouscalls.html> (scroll down to the “Engaging Employers and Workplace Partners” section).

### **Young Worker Health & Safety Youth Leadership Academy a Success**

The very first Young Worker Leadership Academy was held on February 25 and 26, 2005. It brought together five teams of high school-aged youth (2-4 youth per team, plus an adult sponsor) from five regions of California. Participants learned about how and why youth are injured at work, their rights on the job, and how youth can have an impact on public policy, at both the local and state level. To read more about the Academy, please [click here](#).



## YCi Regional Forums Planned to Discuss New Strategic Vision

Over the last several months, and most recently through a YCi survey, policy makers, youth council members, staff, and practitioners have indicated that they are interested in learning more about the DOL's New Strategic Vision for WIA and how others are addressing the implementation of that vision. New Ways to Work, the California Workforce Association, and the Youth Council Institute are sponsoring a series of regional forums to discuss ideas and share strategies for addressing the new vision as well as issues related to potential reauthorization of WIA and the implementation of the new California two-year plan. Models of effective collaboration aligned with the New Vision will also be discussed, and information will be gathered from participants about additional needs for support. For more information, please contact Chandra Larsen at [clarsen@nww.org](mailto:clarsen@nww.org).

## White House Holds Meeting for Memo on Re-Connecting Our Youth

The Memo on Re-connecting Our Youth was sent to the President on January 27, 2005, and presented to the Governors at their high school reform summit in late February. The memo offers seven recommendations designed to increase high school graduation and work readiness rates among challenged youth. Forty-eight national organizations, including Connect for Kids, National Youth Employment Coalition, and New Ways to Work, as well as dozens of state, regional, and local agencies signed on to the memo.

The White House responded to the Memo by convening a meeting on March 10 to discuss the Memo and plan next steps. White House liaisons for First Lady Laura Bush's new youth initiative met with the representative for the signers of the Memo, Sally Prouty. As a result of the meeting, Prouty and others involved with the Memo will be partnering with the First Lady's team. The Memo representatives will serve as a resource for collecting data, identifying successful programs, and helping prioritize policy recommendations, leading up to the White House Summit planned for fall 2005. To read the memo, please [click here](#). To sign on to the Memo, please contact [jan@connectforkids.org](mailto:jan@connectforkids.org).

## One Response to the New Strategic Vision: Youth Transition Action Team Initiative

"Focus on neediest youth" is one of the New Strategic Vision's key strategies, and youth in foster care are among those needing the most support. The Youth Transition Action Team Initiative is designed to help foster youth make successful transitions to adulthood.

The Youth Transition Action Team Initiative (YTAT) focuses on developing comprehensive transition services for youth in foster care in 13 California counties. The initiative is a collaborative effort among State and local agencies and several foundations. New Ways to Work is the implementation partner.

In order to further efforts to create a comprehensive youth-serving system, New Ways convened a design team that integrated principles from other initiatives and built upon the All Youth – One System approach. The resulting frameworks will guide YTAT.

A YTAT newsletter will premiere in May. To learn more about YTAT or to receive the newsletter, please contact Chandra Larsen at [clarsen@nww.org](mailto:clarsen@nww.org).

## May is Safe Jobs for Youth Month

Safe Jobs for Youth Month is an annual public awareness campaign to highlight the importance of preventing teen injuries on the job. A free resource kit, with this year's teen-designed poster, a teaching activity, and other resources are available. For more information or to download the kit, please go to <http://www.youngworkers.org> or call 888-993-8336.

## Journalism Contest for Safe Jobs for Youth Month



The Labor Occupational Health Program of the University of California at Berkeley has announced the 2005 Safe Jobs for Youth Month Journalism Contest. The contest is open to any California high school student who writes and publishes an article on Safe Jobs for Youth Month in a high school newspaper or other youth-oriented publication. The deadline for submission is June 15, 2005. To read last year's winning story, please [click here](#). To learn more and to access the application form, please [click here](#).



## A View from Washington & Sacramento

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

## Federal Update

### *House Passes WIA Reauthorization Bill*

Rep. Buck McKeon (R-CA) and the House Workforce and Education Committee got the 109th Congress off to a quick start by reintroducing legislation to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act on the first day of the new Congress. HR 27, "The Job Training Improvement Act," is essentially the same as HR 1261, the reauthorization bill passed by the full House back in May of 2003. For more information, please [click here](#).

### *Senate, House FY 2006 Budget Resolutions Passed*

On March 17, the House and Senate voted 218-214 and 51-49 respectively to pass their versions of the FY 2006 budget resolution (H. Con. Res. 95/S. Con. Res. 18). Both plans sought to reduce mandatory spending and cut more than \$200 billion in domestic discretionary programs over the next five years, including a \$38 billion spending reduction for education and training programs. For details please [click here](#).

### *Senate Passes Perkins Reauthorization Bill*

On March 9, the House Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee approved separate Perkins reauthorization bills (H.R. 366/S. 250) by voice votes. The following day, the full Senate voted 99-0 to pass its bill. The Senate bill now awaits the House's passage of its version of the legislation. Once the House passes its bill, the two chambers must reconcile the differences between the House and Senate versions, possibly in time to pass a final version by Memorial Day. Most notably, the House and Senate bills would not eliminate the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program as proposed by the Administration. To read about differences between the House and Senate bills, please [click here](#).

### *Senate, House Pass an Extension of TANF*

On Monday, March 14, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill (H.R. 1160) to temporarily extend the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program through June 30, 2005, thus providing more time to reauthorize the program (due to expire on March 30). The Senate passed the bill on March 15, clearing the way for the President's signature. This is the ninth time that Congress has had to pass such a temporary extension for the mandatory spending program. To download a copy of the House TANF Reauthorization measure, please go to:

[www.calworkforce.org/ezupload/files/Documents/TANF.pdf](http://www.calworkforce.org/ezupload/files/Documents/TANF.pdf)  
For more information, please [click here](#).

### *Department of Labor (USDOL) Releases State WIA Allotments*

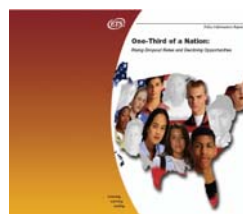
USDOL has released the WIA allotments of formula funds to States. Since the DOL is requiring each state to submit a new two-year State plan, the DOL will hold the PY 2005-06 allotments until the State plan is approved. The only exception is that one-fourth (1/4) of the Youth allotment will be available April 1, 2005. For details on the allotments, please [click here](#).

## State Update

### *State bills introduced related to WIA, career technical education and other workforce programs*

Dozens of bills have been introduced in the California State Legislature that propose to codify the Workforce Investment Act in state statute, reform career technical education, abolish the Employment Training Panel, fund nursing education, and address many other issues. Most of these bills will not end up as introduced, and are "spot bills" waiting further details, definition, and input from stakeholders and policy makers. For details on the specific bills, please [click here](#).

## One Third of a Nation: New Report Traces Rise in Dropout Rates



This new report by the Policy Information Center of the Educational Testing Service highlights increases in dropout rates in all but four states. It also traces declines in average earnings for high school drop outs. The report emphasizes a need for more dropout prevention programs as well as an increase in second-chance opportunities.

To access the report, please [click here](#).



## Conferences, Trainings, & Networking Events

### California Workforce Association Workshops

*This is a calendar of workshops and trainings offered by CWA in May*

*Motivating Yourself and Others! May 25, 2005 (Redding, CA),  
May 27, 2005 (Sacramento, CA)*

These one-day retreats led by Paul Clayton are for anyone who wants to learn new methods to work with clients and self. The focus will be on influencing customers effectively and renewing enthusiasm for one's job. For more information, please [click here](#).

*Youth Engagement Initiative One Day Training  
May 26, 2005 (Orange County, CA)*

This one-day training led by Edward De Jesus will introduce the Youth Engagement Initiative (YEI). YEI is an entirely new method for connecting with youth and then using youth to produce more positive program outcomes for their peers and programs alike. For more information, please [click here](#).

### Join the YCi Listserve!

*The YCi Listserve connects you with resource, network, and training opportunities relevant to education, workforce and youth development.*

To join, email Chandra Larsen at [clarsen@nww.org](mailto:clarsen@nww.org)

## YCi 2005 Activities

*This is a calendar of events and activities of the Youth Council Institute Network for 2005. Confirmed dates and locations will be posted online at: [www.nww.org/yCi/calendar.htm](http://www.nww.org/yCi/calendar.htm)*

### May

May 10 Content Conference Call (9:30 a.m. PDT)  
(**Topic: Coordinated Services, Part 3**)

TBD YCi Regional Forums

*New Ways to Work, the California Workforce Association, and the Youth Council Institute are sponsoring a series of regional forums across the state to discuss ideas and share strategies for addressing the new vision. Look for specific dates and locations coming soon.*

### About YCI

*The Youth Council Institute (YCi) was established in July 2001 with a goal 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.*