

Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board

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"Building Partnerships for Workforce Solutions"

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEADLINE: County-Wide Summer Youth Employment Program 2013

Poughkeepsie, New York, June 20, 2013 – Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro has announced the Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services has awarded \$259,635 to the Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board (DCWIB) for the 2013 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) *Summer Youth Employment Program*. The program provides youth ages 14 years to 20 years old with summer employment positions, giving them an opportunity to be challenged and productive, enhance their self-esteem, increase their workforce readiness skills, explore career options and improve their understanding of work day world expectations.

"With the challenging economic environment we live in, it is simply more important than ever to provide young people the opportunity to obtain critical job skills necessary to enter and successfully compete in the workforce," said Dutchess County Executive Marcus J. Molinaro. "The Summer Youth Employment Program provides that chance to gain job readiness skills through educational and on-the-job training opportunities."

Youth will be placed at a variety of private, not-for-profit and public employers around the county with diverse opportunities. Some of the positions include television and radio segment design and development, planting, harvesting and selling produce, and construction opportunities while others will spend the summer as a camp counselor, shadowing professionals in the community or working for local entrepreneurs. Everyone will also be paid to participate in an on-the-job training component.

This year, DCWIB is partnering with Junior Achievement (JA) of the Hudson Valley to deliver the educational component. Throughout the duration of the summer program all youth will participate in two of Junior Achievement's high school programs; JA Careers with a Purpose and JA Success Skills. Combined, these curriculums are designed to help participants answer the following questions "What do I need to know to find, get, and keep a job," as well as "What should I do when I graduate from high school, what choices are out there, how do my skills, interests, and values match with available careers?"

An opening ceremony is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel on July 3rd to kick off this year's program and on August 13th at 1:15 p.m. at Dutchess Community College the closing ceremony will be held.

DCWIB has worked closely with Department of Family and Community Services to continue to make the program more relevant in today's employment environment and give youth the

skills needed to meet national standards of job readiness. This year, more than 100 students will take part in the *Summer Youth Employment Program* pushing the total up over 1000 since 2002.

A competitive process has determined that the programs run by Children's Media Project, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Dutchess ARC, Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce, Family Services Inc., Hudson River Housing, Mill Street Loft, North East Community Center and R.E.A.L Skills Network.

By the end of the summer, the goal is for all participating youth to be able to identify their newly acquired hard and soft skills, and to have an understanding of the significance of formal and informal education as connected to career goals and choices.

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Workforce Investment Boards administer federal funds for job counseling and training, and are advocates for workforce issues to help employers and employees improve their competitiveness in business.

The programs provided by this agency are partially funded by moneys received from the County of Dutchess, the New York State Workforce Investment Board and the New York State Department of Labor.

EOE/P, auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities