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## MINNESOTA YOUTH SUCCESS STORY: AHMED AND SEE

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### WSA10 – Minneapolis Employment and Training Programs

#### **AHMED AND SEE** (no Photo)

By Angie Hugen, District Housing Supervisor

Summer started early in Minneapolis this year, and so did the growing season which is great for gardeners, but a very busy time for the staff who must enforce tall grass and weeds. Fortunately, Housing Inspection Services had some awesome help through the STEP-UP Program. Ahmed Mussa and See Xiong both worked for Housing Inspection Services this summer.

Ahmed will attend Metro State University this fall. Ahmed immediately took to field work. He said, "One of the things I most enjoyed was going out into the field with the college interns, sweeping the neighborhoods for tall grass, rubbish and broken down cars." Ahmed also assisted in a pilot project with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) to mow certain vacant lots in north Minneapolis. Ahmed noted the vacant lots with tall grass and took photos so that the MPRB Teen Teamworks crews would know what areas to cut.

See has been involved in the STEP-UP Program for the past two years and is currently starting her senior year of high school. See immediately bonded with the support staff at the Housing Department, learning skills that she'd like to apply in a future job. "I learned a lot of things about Housing and keeping the city safe and livable." See has really grown in her skills and her commitment to the job. One day when the support staff were both out of the office, See made a list of things that needed to be done and saw that they were completed!

Both See and Ahmed adapted to the changing work demands of a busy office and offered to help in any way they could all summer long. This positive work ethic and "can do" attitude will help them in their future endeavors. Housing had several previous STEP-UP interns return as college interns and eventually land a fulltime job with the City. Both Ahmed and See are on the right track with great attitudes, pleasant personalities, and solid work skills.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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