More WIOA Young Adult Program Success Stories

WIOA YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM Success Stories

October: “I had just graduated from Woodbury High School when I joined the [Washington County] youth program. I wanted to go to college but I couldn’t afford it, and I had just been kicked out of the house. This program helped pay my tuition for two full years and helped me get my very first job. The first placement was at the R.H. Stafford Library, my second was at Woodbury City Hall, and the last was at Peace of Mind Daycare. I am currently a senior at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls with a Biology major, emphasis in Biomedical. I will be graduating in December of 2017. I plan on pursuing my education to be become a Physician’s Assistant. I have also recently started my own non-profit organization.”

Maxine dropped out of high school when her mom got sick and passed away. Maxine’s goal was to enroll in college so she decided to enroll in Adult Basic Education (ABE). She had a passion for working with young kids, so Southeast MN Workforce Development, Inc. signed her up for the WIOA OSY program. Shortly after, Maxine was employed at a local worksite in Owatonna, MN. Maxine obtained her GED last March and is currently working with the Owatonna ABE to focus on improving her acuplacer scores. Maxine hopes to enroll into college soon.

Andrea started working with Minnesota Valley Action Council hoping to learn work readiness skills. After the initial meetings, assessments of her strong reading and math abilities, the single mother completed work readiness classes, and landed a work experience at a local worksite. With this experience and career exploration, Andrea has started training for her Office Administration certificate and plans to either extend to a degree in this field or start an Accounting degree program.

Shavonne enrolled in Anoka County’s WIOA Youth Program where she worked as a Teacher’s Assistant through the work experience program. Her counselor connected her to the Health Care Pathways Program at the Anoka County’s Job Training Center through the P2P grant. In September 2016, she received her Nursing Assistant Certification and training. She is now working full-time and with paid benefits at Park River Estates as a Certified Nursing Assistant. Shavonne’s long term career goal is to go back to school for her LPN and work in a hospital or large care facility.

Gaolee enrolled in the Anoka County Youth Program when she was 19 and has two young children. She started in the program with a work experience placement at a hospital and was later hired on part-time as a dietary aide. She passed the Nursing Assistant and Home Health Aide state exam. Her plan is to work for a few years as a Nursing Assistant and then return to school to be a Registered Nurse when her children are both in school.

AT A GLANCE

- PY16 Funding Amount: ...... $7.29 million
- Number Employed in PY2016: ....... 2,707
- Youth from Communities of Color: ....... 51%
- Youth with Disabilities: ................. 34%
- Youth from families receiving public assistance: ............ 42%
- System-involved youth – foster youth or juvenile offenders: ... 17%
- Homeless or runaway youth: ........ 17%

ELIGIBILITY:

Participants are at-risk youth ages 16-24 who are not attending any school, and in-school youth ages 14-21 who are low-income and at-risk. WIOA Young Adult Program provides comprehensive employment and training services to youth, including work-based learning, an introduction to career pathways, attainment of recognized credentials and wraparound support services.

REQUIRED ELEMENTS OF WIOA PROGRAMS:

- Tutoring, study skills training, and dropout recovery and prevention;
- Alternative secondary school services;
- Paid and unpaid work experience, including summer employment;
- Occupational skill training;
- Education offered with workforce preparation activities and training;
- Leadership development activities;
- Supportive services;
- Adult Mentoring;
- Follow-up Services;
- Comprehensive guidance and counseling;
- Financial literacy education;
- Entrepreneurial skills training;
- Labor market and employment information about in-demand industry sectors/occupations;
- Activities helping youth prepare for and transition to post-secondary education and training.
Youth Committees are multi-sector local partnerships involved in shared decision-making, community education and awareness, resource mapping, youth-centered planning, program development and capacity building.

**YOUTH COMMITTEES:**
- Recommend policy direction to the LWDB for the design, development, and implementation of programs that benefit all youth;
- Recommend the design of a comprehensive community workforce development system to ensure a full range of services and opportunities for all youth, including disconnected youth;
- Recommend ways to leverage resources and coordinate services among schools, public programs, and community-based organizations serving youth;
- Recommend ways to coordinate youth services and recommend eligible youth service providers;
- Provide on-going leadership and support for continuous quality improvement for local youth programs;
- Assist with planning, operational, and other issues relating to the provision of services to youth; and
- If so delegated by the LWDB after consultation with the chief elected official (CEO), oversee eligible youth providers, as well as other youth program oversight responsibilities.

**For More Information:**
Kay Tracy, Director (651.259.7555)
Office of Youth Development,
MN Department of Employment and Economic Development

http://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/office-youth-development/youth-programs/youth-program.jsp

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**Success Stories:**

**Martinique** came to the Minneapolis HIRED seeking assistance in the areas of case management, guidance, employment, and skill-based learning. Martinique and her family of six constantly struggled with putting food on the table and buying the essentials they needed. She demonstrated a past history of school suspensions, fights, and skipping class. Martinique obtained a job at the Mall of America, and her grades and attendance have improved and she is on track to graduating. Martinique wants to pursue a meaningful profession in the fields of psychology or sociology. She is interested in becoming a medical assistant or a psychological nurse.

**Nesly:** “I came to America 4 years ago. Since I didn’t speak fluent English, I decided to attend a class at Hawthorne ABE, where I was introduced to SE MN Workforce Development (WDI). Their staff helped me to figure out classes to take and helped pay for college books, tuition, and bus fare. I got my CNA and LPN licenses, and I passed my boards last October. I now work as an LPN at Mayo Clinic while I finish my general classes. My ultimate goal is to be an RN. WDI has been a big part of most everything that I’ve achieved so far. I am thankful for this program and emotional support I’ve received from WDI staff.”

**Cody** was referred to the Southwest PIC Youth Programs by his Special Education teacher. Since he was struggling with classes, his plan at that time was to simply drop out of high school. Cody was given the opportunity at the school to work in the afternoon and receive academic credit. The PIC Youth Program staff met with Cody and placed him in a work experience at a local site. Cody completed his work experience successfully and also graduated from high school. Cody is currently working for NB Golf Cars as a Mechanics/Parts and Service Assistant.

**DeLani** participated in the SW MN Private Industry Council (PIC) Young Adult Programs to further her education and gain a career. She wanted to become a nurse but was not sure how to do that as a single-mother of two. With PIC staff’s help, DeLani began a work experience at Avera Marshall as a Patient Services Representative (PSR). She successfully completed the 8 weeks of training necessary to become a PSR at Avera. DeLani is very excited about this position, as well as is her employer Avera.

**Krystal:** “Before coming into the WIOA Youth Program at SBETC, I was working temp jobs and bouncing from couch to couch. The beneficial services I received included help with paying for school and help in figuring out what career field I wanted to be in. I chose healthcare, and though I changed my major many times, this program and the staff stayed with me and helped me make major decisions to better my future. I am working at the St. Cloud Hospital as a Personal Care Assistant (PCA). I am earning $14.53 per hour.

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