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## MINNESOTA YOUTH SUCCESS STORY: SHANICE

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### WSA 05 – CENTRAL MINNESOTA JOBS AND TRAINING SERVICES

Mille Lacs County – WIA Youth and Minnesota Youth Program

#### SHANICE



In 2009, fifteen-year-old Shanice enrolled in the Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services (CMJTS)'s summer youth program. Her activities included working in a flower shop, volunteering at the food shelf and at Kids Against Hunger, and creating cards for soldiers. She also participated in business and college tours.

After the summer program, Shanice enrolled in CMJTS' Minnesota Youth Program. This allowed her to work at the Monday Program, an after-school program for elementary school children at the Onamia Elementary School. Shanice supervised, mentored, and tutored the children. On Tuesdays and Thursdays she volunteered at the After-School Enrichment program where she helped children with their homework. As her skills increased, Shanice found she really enjoyed working with children.

Shanice participated in many school activities, including various high school choirs, the school musical, Teens Against Dating Abuse, and Students Against Drunk Driving. She was wrestling manager and participated in TRIO, a program that assists low-income individuals, first-generation college students, and individuals with disabilities progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to post baccalaureate programs.

In the spring of her senior year, Shanice was hired part-time at Grand Adventure, the child care facility at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. Shanice graduated from high school on May 31, 2012 and she met her goal of being on the honor roll. Through her various work experiences and career counseling, Shanice now knows what she wants to do with her future – pursue a career in working with children. In the fall of 2012, she will attend Central Lakes College for Childhood Development and American Sign Language.