

Youth Action Program:

Job Training Openings for Teens and Youths

By **Dianne Anderson**

One way to keep kids out of trouble over the next few months is to give them jobs.

That's the plan for Youth Action Project, and they are taking applications right now until the end of June.

Once hired, 40 teens and youth will be trained to go out into local high schools, work and mentor students, get them through their CAHSEE exams, off through graduation and learn some new life skills.

Tremaine Mitchell, director of operations at the Youth Action Project, said new hires can expect to put in about 120 hours of training with 60 hours upfront working with local high schools and students.

The year-long program is great for both students and the tutors, who will also fine tune their own professional development, continuing education and career goals.

"We do a lot of career coaching, we are helping them with resumes and translating their service experience to show that on their resumes," she said.

Recently, YAP pulled down \$1 million Americorps funding to be spread out over the course of a three-year grant. New hires will work after-school programs at local high schools, including Arroyo Valley and San Geronio. They must commit to complete 900 service hours.

This year, YAP expects to serve at least 300 students, which includes some case man-

agement. The program is also receiving matching funds from the school district to reach more in the community

"Parent engagement and home visits are part of the service. They are a big part of our program design. We went from hiring tutors to hiring academic case managers," said Ms. Mitchell, who was recently recognized by the League of Women Voters for her role in bringing resources for local youth and adult employment services.

YAP regularly holds workshops and presentations with partners where students and their parents learn about their options in Advanced Placement and college preparation courses. She said parents also learn to keep on top of their students' progress, using the parent portal to check grades and attendance.

Over the years, the program has taken off to reach more students under CEO Joseph Williams, who serves on the San

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Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board. Williams was also recently appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to serve on the State Workforce Investment Board, where he will help create new policies to be implemented statewide.

For those students who apply for YAP, but do not make it into the Americorps funded program, she said that they will work directly with their many resources to get linked into other

local opportunities.

"If they're not selected to work with us, we still forward them other job opportunities and keep them involved in the school," she said.

For an application and information, call (909) 915-1714 ext 1248; see www.youthactionproject.org or email tmitchell@youthactionproject.org.

