

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Yuma Private Industry Council

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Successful Certified Nurse's Assistant

Annalee S. is a single mom with a three year old daughter. She was working as a waitress and wanted a better job for herself and her child. She came to the Yuma Private Industry Council wanting to become a Certified Nurse's Assistant (CNA). Annalee said she felt the medical field would give her a more secure, better paying job.

Annalee completed CNA training on December 11, 2009 and was laid-off from her waitress job on December 22, 2009. She took her CNA exam in February and just found out that she passed the exam. While waiting to take her CNA exam, Annalee found two part-time jobs. She is working for Missing Piece as a patient attendant and for MIKID as a respite provider. "My jobs are important to me because I love working with kids."

Annalee reported that due to a supportive boyfriend, going to school and working was made a little easier. "I could not do this without his sup-

port and encouragement. I would like to continue my education by earning my LPN license. I could go to school and continue working in the afternoons and on the weekends."

"I live with my sister and her husband to make ends meet. Very soon I hope to have my own apartment." In addition to CNA training, Annalee also received resume services, and Life and Study skills classes while working with YPIC.



Annalee catching up on paperwork while at the park with some clients from MIKID.

English for the Workplace



Gloria M., "I don't want to be a custodian for the rest of my life."

Gloria M., a single mother of two, realized she needed to improve her English skills to be able to get her dream job as a school secretary. Gloria came to the Yuma Private Industry Council after being let go at the end of the school year, from the high school district where she worked as a custodian.

Gloria lives in south Yuma County, on the

border of Mexico. Gloria said she knows she needs to be bilingual to be able to get the kinds of jobs she wants. Gloria immigrated to the US in 2005 and because she lived in a border town, did not feel the need to improve her English. After graduating from high school in Mexico, Gloria earned her executive secretary certification. Gloria believes that due to her lack of English, she was not able to get a secretarial job. Gloria is currently working part-time as a substitute custodian in the Gadsden school, but said she does not want to be a custodian for the rest of her life.

Through the Yuma Private Industry Council, Gloria was enrolled in a workplace English immersion class and completed the class in February. Gloria said the class helped her expand her vocabulary and she is now sure she can learn more English quickly. Hopefully with these improved English skills, Gloria will be able to get her dream job.

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Numbers

ARRA funds spent to date:	
Youth:	Spent \$2,128,355 Received \$2,233,610
Adult:	Spent \$907,358 Received \$1,287,729
Dislocated Workers:	
	Spent \$492,917 Received \$871,599
Rapid Response	
	Spent \$35,196 Received \$143,277

NAWB Award for YPIC

The Yuma Private Industry Council received an award on March 8, 2010 at the National Association of Workforce Boards 2010 Forum, in Washington, DC. The award was one of six presented to Workforce Investment Boards (WIB) for the best job of demonstrating the Summer Youth program's value, presenting the key components of a successful youth employment program, painting a picture of the program's impact on individual participants, and highlighting the importance of business participation.

The Yuma Private Industry Council (YPIC)

created a monthly newsletter that kept stakeholders and the media abreast of the WIB's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) program, expenditures and outcomes. By creating a vehicle for ongoing communication, YPIC was able to create a context for its activities while also providing program details and telling the individual participant stories that bring employment and training programs to life.

To read the monthly newsletters, please visit www.ypic.com and look for the link to ARRA Archive.



YPIC Staff accepting NAWB award in Washington, DC

National Summer Youth Results

Jane Oates, Assistant Secretary of Labor, released some interesting national results of the Summer Youth program which was funded entirely by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. To view an abstract of this publication, as well as download the executive summary and full report, visit the ETA Occasional Paper Series Website at: <http://wdr.doleta.gov/research/keywork.cfm>.

- More than 355,000 youth were enrolled in the program
- Summer Youth had a threefold effect:
 - Got money into the hands of needy families
 - Youth and their families spent the disposable income in their depressed local economies
 - Youth gained valuable work experience, increasing their human capital and long-term job prospects
- Youth valued the opportunity to hold a job, gain work skills, and build their resume
- Youth also valued the exposure to professional environments and mentoring adults
- In the absence of the Summer Youth initiative, many youth reported they would be competing for jobs with more experienced adult workers or doing nothing productive over their summer break
- Their most common complaint was that the Summer Youth program was too short and offered too few work hours
- Employers were overwhelmingly positive about the Summer Youth program. They felt the experience of mentoring a new employee was worth the effort and almost unanimously agreed that they would participate again if given the opportunity

Economic Development Summit, Phase II

The Yuma Private Industry Council was awarded an ARRA System Building Funds grant which was used to host a Workforce Economic Development Summit, Phase II. The first meeting was held on January 20 and the second meeting was on March 4, 2010. Drafting an action plan to meet the needs of key stakeholders was the focus of the second meeting of the Summit. The Summit concentrated on defining initiatives that respond to opportunities and obstacles to prepare Yuma for a revived economy as it emerges.

Yuma is changing rapidly, and "taking the pulse" of the local economy will allow all the stakeholders to better understand current workforce conditions and assess the implications of economic trends for the future workforce. A plan will be developed by the community to address current employment problems. The focus will be on updating data compiled through previous research projects as well as investigating emerging and new economic opportunities. For more information on the summit, go to: <http://www.yumasun.com/news/yuma-56736-economic-summit.html>



Summit participants during group debate regarding branding Yuma.

Successful Job Fair

The Yuma Private Industry Council hosted a Job Fair at the Yuma Civic and Convention Center on February 24. 900+ job seekers and 68 employers attended the Job Fair. Some of the employers in attendance included Wal-Mart, All-State Express Claims Center, US Border Patrol and Homeland Security, US Census, and Rural Metro Fire Department. Most of the employers took job applications on-site.

YPIC also provided computers for attendees to view YPIC's website and social media sites

(Facebook and Twitter). Since the Job Fair, YPIC's Facebook Friends have tripled.

A survey monkey was emailed to the employers last week to follow-up on the number of attendees actually hired as a result of the Job Fair.

To see a news report on the Job Fair, please go to <http://www.kyma.com/slp.php?idN=3138&cat=Local%20News>



Job Fair attendees talking with potential employers.

Dislocated Worker Off to Afghanistan

Dale J. is half-way through the application process to work for PAE, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation. If Dale gets the job, he will be working in Afghanistan in just a few months. "I worked for Lockheed Martin for over 15 years, however I was laid off. Although YPIC helped me become a truck driver, this job pays so much more and it will allow me to get back on track financially."

Dale lost his job in January 2009 and came to YPIC in April 2009. He was looking for a career

change and after talking to a career guidance specialist he found there were plenty of job openings for commercial drivers. Dale was offered a job prior to completing the training and began working immediately upon earning his Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

"I'm excited about going back to work for Lockheed Martin. There was nothing happening here in Yuma (with Lockheed Martin). They pay so much more than anyone else in Yuma. This will be a good opportunity for me."

Lunch & Learn

The Yuma Private Industry Council held its third Lunch and Learn. Approximately 13 businesses were represented by 17 attendees. Local businesses are invited for lunch, informed of YPIC's many services, and provided with a tour of YPIC's six building campus. The Lunch and Learn

resulted in 3 immediate job postings, with hopefully more to come. An interesting quote from the luncheon: "Why would I continue to pay for advertising every time I need an employee, when I could advertise with YPIC for free?"



Business owners listening to an overview of YPIC services.



Food, an important part of Lunch & Learn.

The Career Resource Center, Yuma Private Industry Council's One Stop had 1825 customers in February, double the 942 customers in January 2010.

320 indicated they were dislocated workers

169 indicated they were Veterans

41 indicated they were Migrant workers

114 indicated they were in-school youth

273 indicated they were out-of-school youth

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Yuma Private Industry Council
opening doors between job seekers and employers

**We're on the
web @
www.ypic.com**

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. The Recovery Act is intended to preserve and create jobs, promote the nation's economic recovery and assist those most impacted by the recession. Yuma County was awarded \$4.5 million for activities authorized under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) which will be administered by the Yuma Private Industry Council (YPIC). The Yuma Private Industry Council is a private non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide job seeker and employer services in the Yuma County labor market. Incorporated in 1988, YPIC serves as the Private Sector partner in the Public/Private Workforce Development Partnership with the Yuma County Board of Supervisors. With the advent of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), the Yuma County Board of Supervisors designated YPIC as the official operator of the "One-Stop" delivery system for workforce development services in Yuma County. The Yuma County Board of Supervisors also appoints the Workforce Investment Board which is housed in the organizational framework of YPIC. The Board draws membership from the community and is made up of representatives from all areas of the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

Newsletter Created
and Written
by
Nina Bone

New Restaurant Coming to Yuma

Sombrero Mexican Food Restaurant, a family owned business from San Diego is opening a location in Yuma. They contacted the Yuma Private Industry Council Business Services Officer and asked for assistance in advertising, collecting and screening resumes, and providing an interview location. YPIC was able to accommodate all of these requests. The job listings were posted in the YPIC

One-Stop and approximately 100 resumes were received.

YPIC's Business Services Officer reviewed resumes and scheduled interview appointments. Interviews were conducted on March 16 in YPIC's Re-Employment Center. 70 applicants were interviewed and 29 employees will be hired.



Job applicants speed interviewing with Sombrero Mexican Food Restaurant.

SUCCESSES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- SMART Training was provided to approximately 100 business owners during the Yuma Rotary Club meeting on March 16. SMART Training is a 12-point program that serves as a primer for the implementation of a business plan to manage a small business during the current recession, and to manage layoffs if necessary. SMART Training is a collaboration between the Yuma Private Industry Council and the Yuma County Chamber of Commerce, and is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
- 59 private and 27 Federal resumes were completed by the YPIC resume writers in

January.

- The Yuma Private Industry Council, in partnership with the Yuma County Library is providing a series of workshops open to the public. The workshops include: Writing Your Resume: What Works and What Doesn't, Effective Job Search Techniques, Winning Interviewing Skills, and Budgeting & Financial Planning in Difficult Times. The workshops are being repeated on a monthly basis and will run from March 09 through May 25. To read more about the workshops, please go to:
<http://www.yumasun.com/news/job-56316-garcia-ypic.html>

**5 ARRA
participants found
permanent
employment in
January**