



Training Education Empowering Innovation

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Report

Reporting Period
April - June 2010

Coconino County Career Center
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Angelica Chavez, Instructor Deb Willie, and Angel Sanchez practice taking blood pressure readings.

Rural Caregivers finding their Niche

With the continued development of the Health Care Grant, the Coconino County Career Center is beginning to see an influx of interest in the Caregiver field. The grant received from the Arizona Governor's Workforce Council has allowed 20 applicants to move through the training process with their sights set on local in-demand jobs.

While caregiving in rural America carries a unique set of challenges, men and women are finding ways to give back to the local community through their services in caregiving with the skills and training received through this local program.

Client Douglas DiStephano shared that *"sometimes it's hard but then I remember that no matter what I am doing, I am touching the lives of people and making a difference."*

ARRA Funding Providing Opportunities for Dislocated Workers in Coconino County

Through the positive changes being seen in the local economy, many Coconino Career Center clients are seeing their job searches finally coming to an end. Through the use of ARRA funded programs, a group of Dislocated Worker (DW) clients see a destination at the end of their long unemployment road.

DW clients are getting involved in workshops, on-line training opportunities, one-on-one coaching sessions, and regular and executive Job Clubs. They are finding that the skills and networking learned through these job seeker tools are presenting them with

new contacts and opportunities. With the use of ARRA Grant funding

many DW's have entered internships with local employers. These internships are not only being used to sharpen and learn new skills, but some are turning into regular, full-time employment.

On-the-Job Training contracts are also being utilized to assist employers in keeping costs down as they bring in and train new employees.

These are just a few of the ways that DW's and all

clients at the Coconino Career Center are utilizing ARRA funding as they seek to move into new employment.



l to r: Tim Rodriquez, Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce; Alice Irwin, Abrio Family Services; Jalien Shield, Abrio Family Services; S. Christina Boyd, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flagstaff; Geri Begay, Coconino County.



Best Day Ever!

Youth Works 2010

Coconino County Career Center takes on the community'

Although today consisted of trail building, log moving, a CPR refresher, fire prevention tips, and the most work we have completed in a single day, the

participants said,

"today was the best day yet!"

I am sure it has nothing to do with getting to clean a fire truck.....



Summer **Youth Works 2010** Crew members:
 Brian Todecozy, Chris Gonzales (above)
 Marissa Martinez, Tonya Gonzales (right)



For full story of the Coconino Career Center **Youth Works 2010** Flagstaff crew see page 4

Summer Youth Internships = Real World Experience

This summer the Coconino County Board of Supervisors and the Career Center are again helping to put Coconino County's youth to work, growing and learning throughout our communities.

These opportunities introduce real work experience for 16-21 year olds. In addition to the Flagstaff crew (see page 4), a number of internships have been set up in Fredonia, Page, Flagstaff, and Williams. These internships allow youth to gain experience in working with regular employees in business settings while on the job. Work sites for internships include:

Fredonia Public Library,

Fredonia Public Works, Fredonia Senior Center and the Fredonia High School (7 internships)

Page Chamber of Commerce, Page High School, and Glen Canyon National Park (4 Internships)

Flagstaff Youth Crew, Coconino County,

Flagstaff Unified School District, and a Green Coconino Rural Environment Corps Crew (12 internships) and

Williams Unified School District (3 internships).

Internships are one element of a year long training program for youth provided by the Career Center. Other elements include job shadowing, career explorations, higher education opportunities, skill based workshops, employment training and one on one career planning.





Quarterly Highlights and Exciting Updates

Coconino County Career Center ARRA Adult client Gilbert Ortiz and ARRA Dislocated Worker client Jocelyn Fischer have been working hard at Bearizona, a wildlife theme park in Williams, Arizona.

Both Jocelyn and Gilbert received ARRA-funded training at Bearizona through the Career Center and both were hired as permanent employees, Jocelyn as an Operations Assistant and Gilbert as a Maintenance Assistant. During their training period, Bearizona was not yet open to the public, which allowed both to be employed from the ground up!

In late May Bearizona opened to the public, Jocelyn and Gilbert were both integral team members in getting the park ready for its opening day. Since opening, Bearizona has received many inquires from the public and media to which Jocelyn responds. Jocelyn provided

information which was quoted in the Arizona Daily Sun newspaper http://azdailysun.com/news/local/article_a65783f9-779f-58b8-b45f-35a5cd83e75a.html. Gilbert continues to work hard maintaining the park and creating new areas for visitors as well as for new animal use. He is very thankful for the opportunity he has been offered through the partnership of Bearizona and the Coconino County Career Center.

"Every morning I wake up and thank God for having this job to go to."
ARRA adult Gilbert Ortiz shared his thoughts while working with his coach.

Harnessing Social Media: Employers, Employees, and Job Seekers

On the wake of the ever-growing social media craze of Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter, the Coconino Career Center is promoting their programs and successes in a whole new way. By staying on trend to showcase the many ways they work with the community of Northern Arizona, highlights of our programs can be seen all over the world.

We are not only utilizing the most technologically exciting and growing opportunity ever, but Specialist Nicole French has developed a Social Media Job Search workshop to ensure that our clients are also ready to utilize these tools.

The Career Center has joined and maintained a Twitter page since July 2009. About twice a week we 'tweet' about job tips, Career Center happenings, employment trends, and events within Coconino County.

Currently the Career Center is being followed by clients, government agencies,



community partners, employment bloggers, and individuals from as far away as New Zealand and the Philippines. Through Twitter, the Career Center has been able to share information and increase its visibility in Coconino County and beyond. The Career Center also enjoys using Twitter to follow and learn more about partners, stakeholders, and other relevant entities within the "Twittersphere." Through Twitter the Career Center was able to re-tweet an ARRA report featuring the Career Center posted by the Arizona Office of Economic Recovery. To follow us on

Twitter visit <http://twitter.com/CoconinoCareer>

The Career Center maintains a Facebook page for connecting with individuals interested in programs and services.



"Fans" include Coconino County employees, current clients, former clients, as well as other interested organizations. Last month our Facebook page had its busiest month ever with over 1,000 page visits. The page can be accessed at www.facebook.com/CoconinoCountyCareerCenter

Last month also saw the creation of a Coconino Career Center YouTube Channel. The channel features a video highlighting the Dislocated Worker program. Similar videos for the Adult and Youth programs are being planned. The video and channel may be accessed at www.youtube.com/user/CoconinoCareer.





Crew: Tonya Gonzales, Marissa Martinez, Chris Gonzales, Brian Todecozy, Teacher and Crew Supervisor Betsy Bale

Youth Works 2010 In Progress

This summer the Coconino County *Youth Works 2010* crew has been participating in beautification projects throughout the Greater Flagstaff area. The crew is employed through the Summer Youth Employment Program sponsored by the Coconino County Board of Supervisors from federal Workforce Investment Act and ARRA funds. Local youth, ages 16-20, were employed in this five week program.

Throughout the summer the crew was kept busy working at

- Museum of Northern Arizona
- Flagstaff Housing Authority
- Lowell Observatory
- North County Health Care
- Coconino County Admin Bldg
- Highlands Fire Department
- Second Chance Animal Shelter
- Leupp Chapter House on the Navajo Nation.

These projects have included work such as invasive plant removal, trash removal, fire management, trail building, stacking logs to be used for heating elderly community members' homes in the winter, and washing a fire truck. Other tasks involved were painting picnic tables, playground sets, handicap/no parking curbs, and benches.

Through these activities, the participants have grown into a cohesive group learning skills such as team building, responsibility, and punctuality. Each member has displayed their individual talents and integrated those into the group dynamic that has kept this crew going strong and working through the challenges they faced this summer.

In addition to career opportunities and experiences, the crew has had many educational experiences and teachable moments throughout the summer. Certified teacher, Ms. Betsy Bale not only supervised the crew out in the community on their work projects but also found many ways to provide the teaching moments.

They were shown the Museum of Northern Arizona by a docent as well as allowed to take a private look inside their new LEED award winning Easton Collections Center. At Lowell Observatory, the crew was able to look at the sun through the solar telescope and participate in a tour to learn about the amazing explorations that have taken place on the grounds. At Highlands Fire Department, the crew received a

refresher course on First Aid/CPR and an introduction to use of thermal cameras in a structural fire.

Fire awareness and management have been a reoccurring theme throughout the *Youth Works 2010* program. When the Schultz fire erupted participants witnessed smoke plumes on the mountain and helicopters picking up water from tankers, the crew helped in fire management and prevention by clearing pine needles from the landscapes and firefighter 'Blue' spoke with the crew about the causes of two main fires in town this season encouraging the use of safe campfire practices.

Coconino County and the Flagstaff community are thankful for the hard work and positive role modeling from the *Youth Works 2010* crew members. This program has been a valuable experience for youth who are actively looking and applying for post summer jobs. Each participant has completed an updated resume to be used during their job search. *Youth Works 2010* encourages teen employment and builds career skills for a brighter workforce of tomorrow.

Coconino Career Center: Providing a Bridge to the Future

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.

Coconino County was awarded \$586,641 for activities authorized under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) which is being administered by the Coconino County Career Center. The Coconino County Career Center mission is:

To provide a bridge to the future, making a difference by:

- Training individuals to take charge of their career success
- Providing employers with quality employees
- Meeting the challenge of a changing work environment

We conscientiously serve the communities of our county and positively contribute to a better economy.

The Coconino County Career Center works with the Coconino County Board of Supervisors and with the Coconino County Workforce Investment Board. The Board draws its membership from the communities we serve and is made up of representatives from all areas of the public, private, and non-profit employment sectors.

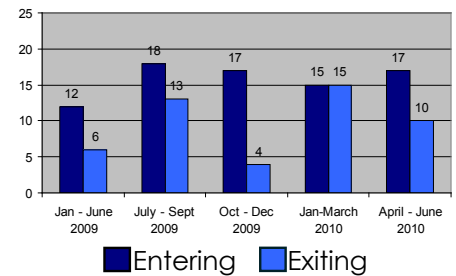
The Coconino County Career Center received \$586,641 from the American Recovery and Investment Act and is already well into the implementation of programs that put the money to work for the residents of off-reservation Coconino County.

The Career Center is focusing strongly on:

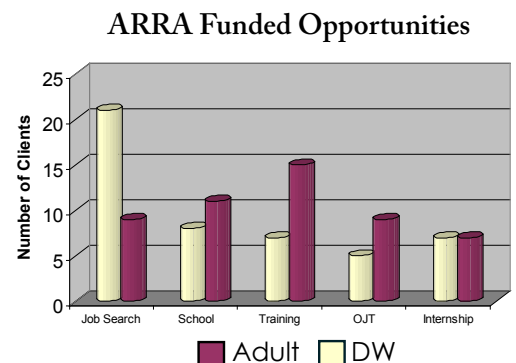
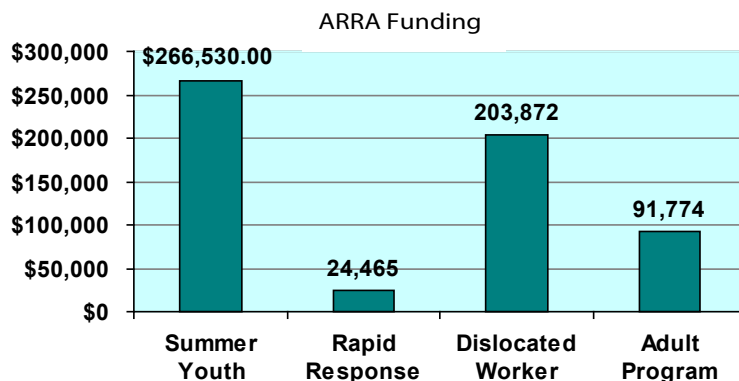
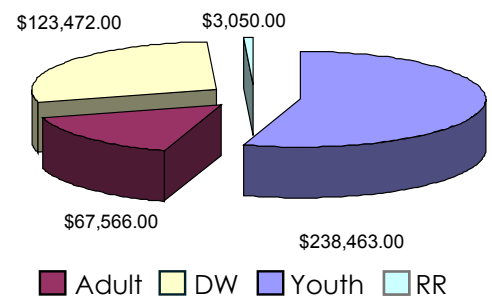
- Low-income youth employment and skills training
- Rapid Response activities to employers and their employees facing lay-off and closure
- Dislocated Worker re-employment services
- Adult programs including adult training and employment.



Adults / DW's
Entering & Exiting the Program



ARRA Dollars Spent
through June '10 by Funding Area





events & services

JOBS 2010 Impacts the Community: The new JOBS2010 website has launched and the continued community efforts to provide a variety of workshops and training programs for job seekers of all levels has been a huge success. Both those currently seeking work and those building their skills to reenter the workplace have benefited from the programs offered. The JOBS 2010 website and monthly calendar can be accessed at www.flagworks.org.



Going Green: More and more information is now available on the Coconino Career Center website. The monthly newsletter, the JOBS 2010 monthly calendar, training opportunity updates, and local workforce information is available to view online. By watching for ways to use less paper and bring our news to the communities we serve is one of the many ways we are working to become more sustainable.

EEO employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individual with disabilities.



**COCONINO
COUNTY**
A R I Z O N A

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