



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Yuma Private Industry Council

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Certified Nurse Assistant

Nidia C. graduated from the Certified Nurse Assistant program at the Regional Center for Border Health on November 16 and the very next day she started her new job at the Yuma Nursing Center. Nidia is a 22 year old who had been laid-off from a call center where she had worked for over two years as a team leader in the sales department. Nidia's sister-in-law had used YPIC's services in the past and suggested that Nidia ask for YPIC's help with finding a new job.

Nidia wanted a career change and decided to explore the nursing field. Nidia job shadowed her aunt who is a CNA and she thought she would enjoy being a nurse. Nidia also

reported that her mother is in nursing school and she thought it would be a good idea for her to become a nurse along with her mother.

During the skills assessment phase of eligibility, Nidia was given the test for Adult Basic Education and it was determined that Nidia's education levels were too low for the CNA class. The class required a minimum of an 8th grade level in reading, math and language and Nidia's scores averaged at the 6th grade level, therefore, she was enrolled in a GED preparation class to give her a refresher. In five months, Nidia raised her levels to a 9th grade and she was admitted to the CNA training.

Nidia said that on graduation day she received a call from Yuma Nursing and they offered her the job she had interviewed for the previous week. Nidia stated that it was a great feeling to know that she was going to have a job. Nidia's next step towards becoming a nurse will be to enroll in the community college and she has decided to become a licensed practical nurse (LPN).

Nidia attributed part of her success in the CNA training to her instructor Kathy at Regional Center for Border Health. Nidia mentioned enthusiastically that Kathy helped her with her studies and that they still keep in touch. Nidia is looking forward to starting the community college next school year.

Part-time Laborer Becomes Truck Driver

Alfonso G. came to the Yuma Private Industry Council in June 2009, interested in becoming a truck driver. He was working part-time for U-Haul as a laborer for 10 years and wanted a new career. Alfonso has been married for 10 years and has three children.

Alfonso was enrolled in truck driving classes through Arizona Western College in August and received his commercial driver's license on October 7. Alfonso began working for GH Processing, an affiliate of Sarah

Farms the first of December. His job with GH Processing is part-time, but Alfonso reported his supervisor told him that if he does a good job during his three month probation period he would be given full-time employment. While working for GH, Alfonso has maintained his part-time job with U-Haul.

Alfonso said he has appreciated the training and his new job will give him the opportunity for success and to make a better life for his family.



Alfonso earned his Commercial Drivers License and is now driving for GH Processing

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Numbers

ARRA funds spent to date:

Youth: Spent \$2,043,558
Received \$2,233,610

Adult: Spent \$650,914
Received \$965,357

Dislocated Workers:

Spent \$289,340
Received \$1,193,971

Rapid Response

Spent \$27,199
Received \$143,277

Workforce Economic Development Summit-Phase II

The Career Resource Center, Yuma Private Industry Council's One Stop had 1493 customers in November, down from 2238 customers in October 2009.

322 indicated they were dislocated workers

84 indicated they were Veterans

57 indicated they were Migrant workers

93 indicated they were in-school youth

307 indicated they were out-of-school youth

Yuma Private Industry Council was awarded an ARRA System Building Funds grant which will be used for a Workforce Economic Development Summit, Phase II. In early 2001, a countywide consortium sponsored a series of strategic planning sessions under the banner of the Yuma County Workforce and Economic Development Summit.

Implementation of the collaborative initiatives emerging from the summit, in addition to certain favorable economic conditions, enabled the county to make real progress in terms of growth, economic diversity, etc., that expanded employment opportunities. Updated information from Summit II will provide a forum to help restore the previous development momentum to Yuma County.

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 work force. Unemployment, layoffs, lack of skilled workers - both occupational skills and basic work readiness skills - are at an all-time high in Yuma County.

A plan needs to 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.

In addition to YPIC, partners will include Greater Yuma Economic Development Corp. (GYEDC), Arizona Western College (AWC), Yuma County, Yuma County Chamber of Commerce, the city of Yuma, the Yuma Union High School District and community-based organizations.

GYEDC will interview local employers to determine staffing needs, potential for growth in existing businesses and any emerging industries.

A series of three meetings will be held with local stakeholders, including representatives of private firms and of public and nonprofit agencies that are involved in some aspect of Yuma County's economic and workforce development efforts. Executive interviews will be held with major employers to identify existing employment recruitment methods and to obtain employer feedback on employee skill levels, work ethic and

educational preparedness. A working plan will be developed in an effort to reduce the unemployment rate and meet the needs of both existing and future employers.

The ongoing industry-led work groups will provide another forum for employers to articulate their specific needs to educators and workforce development service providers. In particular, the Summit II process will enable YPIC and AWC to design training and education programs that align with employers' most pressing needs in this challenging economy.

As for job seekers, the Summit II process will significantly enhance YPIC's understanding of the current needs and challenges of both employers and job seekers, and of the most promising opportunities for near-term job creation in the region. With this knowledge, YPIC, through its One-Stop Career Resource Center, will be better equipped to direct job seekers to appropriate education and training programs or to employers who have immediate needs for qualified employees.

Summit II is expected to be completed by February 2011.



Jason now has his GED and is enrolled in Arizona Western College

Adult Earns GED and Enrolls in College

Jason B. relocated to Yuma to live with his family after being laid-off from a road paving company in Ohio. After a few weeks of looking for work in Yuma, Jason's sister-in-law suggested he visit the One-Stop to see if he could get any help looking for work or training. When Jason first came to

YPIC in September he was interested in taking the electrical wiring certification course offered through Arizona Western College (AWC), however the class did not begin until January 2010. Since Jason did not have a high school diploma, he decided to get his GED. Jason earned his GED six

weeks, graduating in December.

Jason has enrolled in the AWC electrical classes and classes begin in January. Jason's career goal is to become an electrician and earn his associates degree in electrical engineering.

New Providers for YPIC

Yuma Private Industry Council released a request for proposals on September 4, 2009, to serve adult and dislocated workers. Four agencies presented proposals by the deadline of October 2. With the Workforce Investment Boards approval, three of the four proposals were accepted. YPIC met with the agencies and negotiated contracts which were effective November 1, 2009. The three awardees:

- Goodwill of Central Arizona is “in the business of making a difference”. As one of the oldest and largest non-profit agencies in Arizona, Goodwill of Central Arizona is

nationally recognized as the leader in empowering people to achieve their highest level of personal and economic independence. Their philosophy is simple: Provide an environment that empowers people to believe in themselves. Goodwill helps them develop new skills so they can succeed at work, achieve their goals and eliminate barriers. At Goodwill, they believe in the power of people.

- Portable Practical Educational Preparation was founded in 1957 in Tucson, AZ. Its mission is to “improve the quality of rural life”. Services include job training, education

and skills upgrades which are provided to farm workers and their dependents.

- Campesinos Sin Fronteras (CSF) is a grassroots organization serving migrant and seasonal farm workers and other members of the low-income Hispanic community in Yuma County. CSF’s mission is to promote self-sustainability to farm workers and low to moderate-income individuals by providing and facilitating access to healthcare, behavioral health, social services, housing rehabilitation, counseling, education and workforce development.

13 ARRA participants found permanent employment in November

NAWDP Presentation – Chicago

Yuma Private Industry Council was chosen to present at the National Association for Workforce Development Professionals Youth Conference in Chicago, earlier this month. YPIC’s workshop was titled, “Creating Innovative, Collaborative Projects Using ARRA and WIA Funding”. Four partners made the trip to present, along with four Summer Youth participants.

The partners were the City of Yuma Parks and Recreation Department, Arizona Western College, GW Carver Elementary School, and City of Yuma Housing Authority.

The other presenters were four Summer Youth participants; three 17 year olds and one 21 year old made the trip. The three 17 year olds had never flown and two of them had never seen snow. The experiences of traveling, being

in a metropolitan area, and eating other types of food was a great opportunity for these young people.

The youth were greeters for the presentation and they wore their work clothes from their projects, which took them back to their summer experience.

- Rebecca represented the mural project and wore her paint stained jeans, t-shirt and tennis shoes. She reported she is now working as an art contractor, painting windows around town and working for an entertainment center where she paints backgrounds.

- Eric wore jeans, t-shirt, hard hat and work boots and carried his hammer; Eric represented the building of the Green Kinder House. Eric said, “I now know how to use my hammer correctly.”

- Olga represented the dance project and reported she received a year scholarship to the Yuma Ballet Theater and is now the assistant teacher for the 4-5 year old ballet class.

- Cris, from the culinary arts project, wore his chef jacket and hat. Cris reported that during announcements at his school a few days before he left for the trip, they announced that he would be a speaker at a national conference. Cris said his teachers and some of the other students congratulated him that day. Cris told his fellow presenters, “It made me proud.”

YPIC has been invited to present the same program at the California Workforce Association Youth Conference in Long Beach in January.



(L to R): Cris - Culinary Arts, Eric - Green Demonstration, Olga - Dance Project, and Rebecca - Mural Project

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Yuma Private Industry Council
opening doors between job seekers and employers

**We're on the
web @
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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 or 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.

Successes and Upcoming Events

- The National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) selected Yuma Private Industry Council (YPIC) as one of the winners of its contest for the best stories about the 2009 summer youth employment program. From a field of 70 submittals, YPIC and the other five winners did the best job at demonstrating the summer 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 award will be presented to YPIC in Washington, DC in March during a national conference hosted by the National Association of Workforce Boards.
- The next Lunch and Learn is scheduled for January 14. The purpose of this event is to educate and inform local employers of the services available at YPIC. Lunch as well as a tour of the facilities will be provided. As a result of the October Lunch and Learn YPIC received 4 job announcements and is negotiating a contract to provide customized training for a local call center.
- 47 private and 14 Federal resumes were completed in November.
- 9 ARRA participants successfully completed an English for the Workplace class. The class immersed mono-lingual Spanish speakers in a fast paced English learning program provided by Arizona Western College. The goal of the program was to allow participants to gain listening and speaking English skills that are relevant to the workplace and will lend to opportunities for employability. The participants also received training in Microsoft Office. The success of this pilot program is being evaluated; if successful, the goal is to duplicate the program in other areas of the county.