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MEDIA CONTACTS:

John Beauregard
EWIB
(860) 859-4100 x14
beauregardj@ewib.org

Virginia Sampietro
EWIB
(860) 859-4100 x13
sampietrov@ewib.org

Peg Stroup
TRCC
(860) 885-2310
mstroup@trcc.comnet.edu

EWIB BEGINS FIRST OF ITS SUMMER JOBS PROGRAMS

FRANKLIN, CT - While most of the state awaits the outcome of CT's application for federal Recovery Act funds that will provide job opportunities for CT teens, sixty (60) area youth got started this week.

The Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board (EWIB) is beginning its summer 2010 Jobs Programs with its fourth year of Youth Pipeline Programs. The Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board (EWIB), working through their youth program providers - EASTCONN, Norwich Youth & Family Services, and New London's Office of Youth Affairs, has teamed up with Three Rivers Community College (TRCC) and the Employment & Training Institute (ETI) to provide 60 Eastern CT youth an up-close view into three (3) career pathways: Healthcare, Green Jobs, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) careers.

Sixty youth from across Eastern CT descended on TRCC Thursday, July 1st to begin seven (7) days of learning and preparation activities before they move into work experience sites to match their areas of interest. Their daily activities at TRCC will include online learning provided by ETI with course content chosen to match the three (3) career pathways, as well as provide students with work on the "soft skills" that all employers value. They will attend classes given by TRCC instructors that range from "Nursing Roles & Responsibilities" in the Healthcare Pathway, to "Build A Solar Collector" in Green Jobs Pathway, to "Lasers/Holograms" in STEM.

"We all know about the economic impact on our state's future when our students become 'disengaged' or possibly even drop out ' These programs give young people an opportunity to learn job readiness skills and see career opportunities first hand ~ plus earn money." John Beauregard, EWIB Executive Director said. "It also gives youth a first hand look at Community College life and the programs that they offer."

After completing training at Three Rivers the students will be placed in individual job sites that match their pathways such as: area hospitals for Healthcare, landscape assistants for Green, and engineering assistants for STEM where they will complete a five (5) week work experience.

EWIB expects additional funding that will provide summer jobs across the region for an additional 600+ youth planned to begin the second and third week in July and continue throughout the summer. *“This additional funding will provide wage reimbursement of nearly \$1 Million dollars to the youth in this region at a time when unemployment for youth is higher than it’s been since World War II,”* Beauregard stated.

The Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board is a not-for-profit organization that oversees public investments in employment and training strategies throughout a 41 town area, and guides the operation of four (4) CTWorks-East Centers ~ located in Danielson, New London, Norwich, and Willimantic.