

Trident Workforce Investment Board
Credit Recovery as Part of a Summer Youth Employment Program

The Trident Workforce Investment Board (TWIB) in Charleston, South Carolina, received almost \$1.8 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to operate a Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), providing youth aged 16 to 24 with employment and educational experiences from May 1 to September 30, 2009.

The TWIB placed more than 560 youth in over 275 work sites across the entire tri-county area. Of these 560, about 34 youth, aged 16 to 18, participated in a credit recovery program that allowed them to earn high school credits combined with traditional paid work experience or virtual paid work experience with Microburst in Berkeley County. All youth received pre-employment work maturity skills training.

The credit recovery program operated Monday through Thursday for up to six weeks, with youth spending 15 hours per week in class, and 25 hours per week in work experience. The students received a structured educational program, consisting of online and directed teaching components taught by certified teachers at their respective high schools, as part of their summer experience. Students were able to complete a variety of courses in the credit recovery program, including math, English, U.S. history, physical science, economics, and government.

All of the 34 youth who participated in the credit recovery program completed the program, with more than half of them successfully completing all their required coursework. Most of the youth attained enough credits to advance to the next grade or graduate on time. All of the youth appreciated the opportunity to make up coursework and participate in a paid work experience. It is certain that most of the youth's earnings went back into the local economy.

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