



# American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Report

YPIC

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## The Taste of ARRA—Culinary Arts

The Culinary Arts project is one of the most exciting Summer Youth projects that Yuma Private Industry Council has created in several years. The project has 15 participants between the ages of 16 to 19 years of age. Of the 15, two are girls. The project began with the instructor planning to have the youth in a classroom setting, learning from text books for three days a week; one day cooking and one day touring local restaurants. When she talked with the Yuma Civic and Convention Center about a tour, the food manager told her he had a better deal for her and offered to let the Summer Youth participants work with him four days a week, actually cooking and serving lunch for the local Golden League Baseball Team.

Now four weeks later, this project has been a big success. The youth arrive each morning and cook breakfast for themselves, then begin preparing the meals for the baseball players.

The food manager has required that everything be cooked from scratch and has been a great instructor and mentor to the youth. Having owned three restaurants over the last 40 years, the food manager has taught the use of different spices, portion control, the value of food, time and the exploration of food from many cultures.

One assignment was for the youth to make a foreign dish and bring it in to share with the class. The food manager did not let the youth stick to what they are familiar and comfortable with, but had to make something new..

The baseball team will end their season on July 24, and the Culinary Arts

project ends on August 7. So in addition to cooking for the team, the participants are catering other events. On August 4, they will cook and serve a plated meal for a final celebration of their training. Their families and local dignitaries have been invited. They will also cater other project celebrations on July 30 and August 5. The Taste of ARRA is truly a unique program in our community.



(L to R) Eduardo, Brandin and Daniel mash potatoes to serve at lunch.

## Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club

Louis Galaviz, Executive Director of The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club said that as a youth he was in the Summer Youth program and now he has been working with Summer Youth participants for at least 12 years at the Boys & Girls Club. Louis stated, "I like to hire young people who are interested in working with children, such as becoming teachers or want a job in the child development field. These

kids bring new ideas and keep us up-to-date with the current trends and fads. We give them the opportunity to develop any ideas they bring to us, to have a fun job and get paid for it. It also helps them decide what they want to be or maybe what they don't want to be. I think this program benefits everyone!"

This summer, the Boys & Girls

Club is working with seven Summer Youth participants. Joanna, one of the Summer Youth participants said, "I like working here. I get to interact and help the kids. They talk to me a lot about their problems. I think I've helped them." Joanna further explained that she believes the Work Readiness class she completed prior to beginning her job helped her get the job and will help her in the future.

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### Numbers

Spending of ARRA funds to date:

- Youth: \$856,615
- Adult: \$133,098
- Dislocated Workers: \$45,564
- Rapid Response \$10,867

66 staff were hired over the last three months to work the Summer Youth program, many of those being Dislocated Workers.

## Success for Past Summer Youth Participant



Rosa Miller, past Summer Youth participant and now 23 year employee of Yuma County

**“Through Summer Youth, I saw that there were many opportunities out there for anyone that wanted them; ones I had never knew existed.”**

Rosa is a great example of how the Summer Youth program helps young people prepare for the world of work. Rosa started participating in the Summer Youth program when she was 14 years old and Summer Youth was through the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA); that was in 1984. Rosa said she was very excited to have a job for the

summer and kept coming back year after year. Rosa worked at the Yuma County Senior Nutrition Center and was rehired by that Center, year after year.

The summer Rosa graduated from high school she worked for the Yuma County Superior Court and really enjoyed the job. After Summer Youth ended, she became a student at the local

community college and went to school full-time. When she graduated two years later with her Associates Degree, she saw an advertisement for a position at the Superior Court. She applied, using her Summer Youth supervisor as a reference and she got the job. Rosa has now worked for the Superior Court for 23 years.

Rosa said when she was in the Summer Youth program she learned punctuality, the value of money, how to deal with people and she overcame her shyness and learned many social skills. Rosa said there were four kids in her family and her mother was a single mom. Rosa reported she spent her summer earnings on clothes and helping her mother with the bills.

Rosa said if it had not been for the Summer Youth program, the work environments and people she was exposed to, she does not know where she might have ended up. “I saw that there were many opportunities out there for anyone that wanted

them; ones I had never knew existed. I wanted them for myself and that is why I continued my education after high school.”

Rosa is now the Executive Assistant to the Human Resource Manager of the Court. She is married, has one child and one grandchild. Rosa said she is happy to still see young people getting the same opportunities she received and hopes the program continues.

Side Note: While I was gathering this information and talking to other worksites and Yuma Private Industry Council staff, I heard many similar stories of Yuma residents who began in JTPA Summer Youth programs and are now successful in our community. Many of these citizens attribute some of their success to the program and are now in positions to have Summer Youth participants work for them and they are mentors and encourage the participants to succeed.

## Yuma County Superior Court - Summer Youth Employer



Jordan & Christina filing at Yuma County Superior Court

The Yuma County Superior Court has been participating in Summer Youth activities for as long as they can remember. Ron Corbin, HR Manager, said the Court enjoys having the young people work with them because it is beneficial to both. Ron reported that the court can always use the extra help and they enjoy teaching young people about the qualities they would look for in someone at an entry level position. Ron said, “We are probably a more intense

worksite because of the kind of work we do. We have higher standards, requiring unquestionable ethics, we have a very strict dress code and require great customer service skills at all times. If a young person can survive here, they can survive anywhere.”

Esi Gonzalez, a Program Manager for the Superior Court of Yuma County stated she has been working with Summer

Youth participants for 23 years, since she began working for the County. Esi stated that the participants “help with special projects and help the staff catch-up on their work after the busy winter months.” She said she has seen a number of Summer Youth participants hired after working for the county and that she hopes this continues. This year Esi has two participants working with her.

## Green Training—Solar Panel Installation

Seven dislocated workers from Yuma County are attending Photovoltaic Solar Panel Installation training in Tucson, AZ at Pima Community College. The training began on June 29, 2009 and will be four weeks long.

The participants will receive 24 hours per week of hands-on classroom training and three college credit hours. Students will be introduced to photovoltaic energy and photovoltaic system installation. They will learn: markets and applications, safety and electricity basics, energy efficient appliances, and

performance analysis and troubleshooting just to name a few.

This course will specifically provide preparation for the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) Photovoltaic Installer Certification exam. This program was funded 100% by ARRA funds, to include tuition, per diem and hotel cost for the dislocated workers.

Continued efforts are in effect to develop training opportunities in the weatherization arena in part-

nership with Western Arizona Council of Governments. In addition, we will continue to work with the business sector to promote use of On-The-Job Training and Customized trainings activities by educating the employer on the various benefits of utilizing these services;

The participants will take their NABCEP certification exam on August 6 and will hopefully be able to begin OJT's soon. The YPIC 7 took top honors in their class.



Solar Panel Installation training in Tucson, AZ.

## YPIC Expands Services with Reemployment Center

Yuma Private Industry Council will celebrate the opening of the new Reemployment Center located at the YPIC complex on July 31, 2009. The Reemployment Center has been designed to handle the swelling number of dislocated and unemployed workers in Yuma County. Due to the current economic climate, the One-Stop Center is experiencing unprecedented numbers of unemployed workers visiting the center with over 1,800 job seekers looking for assistance during the month of June alone.

The Reemployment Center will compliment the One-Stop Center by increasing the capacity for direct services to job seekers and employers. This new center will also include an area exclusively for Veterans, resume writers and counselors to assist with financial and emotional situations.

For job seekers, the One-Stop services will include assistance in preparing resumes, training for job skills, preparing for job inter-

views, job referrals, job listing, counseling, preparing for the GED exam, and other employment related services. Workshops will be offered to help affected laid-off employees identify transferable skills and brush up on their job seeking skills.

Resume workshops will teach the job seeker to appropriately highlight unique skills and relevant work experiences. RESUMIX workshops are provided to assist interested job seekers in applying for federal employment while additional workshops are designed to educate the customer on how to effectively sell their most positive and relevant credentials for employment.

Financial workshops will also be available to help job seekers with crisis budgeting, assisting them in developing effective financial goals and identifying the steps required to attain those goals. These services are designed to assist the job seeker in taking appropriate actions to offset financial crisis and minimize the

disruptions to their life that layoffs cause. These services are extremely valuable in helping job seekers to obtain employment and begin recovering from the economic trauma caused by the layoff. Information is provided to educate the job seeker on viable options regarding delinquent housing situations; for those that have fallen behind with their mortgage or rent.

YPIC has seen an increasing number of job seekers who are experiencing varying levels of unbearable stress due to current economic situations. YPIC has contracted with a provider who will offer counseling workshops and services designed to provide emotional support during these difficult times.

As a service for employers, the One-Stop Center will help with writing job descriptions, access to resumes, and strategies for recruiting and interviewing workers.

The Career Resource Center, Yuma Private Industry Council's One Stop had 1870 walk-ins in June 2009.

- 366 indicated they were dislocated workers
- 61 indicated they were Veterans
- 119 indicated they were Migrant workers

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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.

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## Summary of Activities and Upcoming Training / Events

June 18 – John Morales presented information on the use of the ARRA funds and SMART training to the Governor's Council on Workforce Policy.

June 30—San Luis Chamber of Commerce & Yuma Private Industry Council hosted an Employment Fair in San Luis, AZ. Twenty-nine employers and 387 participants attended. In addition to hosting the job fair, Yuma Private Industry Council staff were involved in many areas, presenting a series of workshops on resume writing, interviewing skills, dress for success and job search strategies. YPIC hosted the sign-in desk and assisted participants in completing applications.

July 6 – A financial counselor was hired to provide group or individual financial counseling to YPIC participants.

YPIC and Arizona Western College are developing an English as a Second Language (ESL) boot camp which will provide accelerated learning. YPIC is working with Interfaith groups to launch this program in August. Participants will need 4-6<sup>th</sup> grade language abilities and will be taught English for the workplace.

YPIC and the Yuma Chamber of Commerce have provided 3 SMART Trainings. The SMART Training: Strategies Mandatory at Recessionary Times is a unique approach designed to help small business make effective

financial decisions to better align business needs during this economic downturn.

Yuma Sun article, "YPIC keeps up with the demand for training: Program helping far more than usual" can be found at <http://www.yumasun.com/news/ypic-51274-help-people.html>

Yuma Sun article, "Help available to those in Yuma County who have lost jobs" can be found at <http://www.yumasun.com/news/unemployment-50979-percent-earlier.html>

Question to Summer Youth participants: Do you think differently now about the world of work?

- At first thought it would like school, but now I know it's more complicated than that.
- Now I realize why I can't have everything I ask my mom for. She makes me pay my bills first and it's hard to have money for the other stuff I want.
- It's harder than you think. It's discipline.
- I didn't expect it to be so much work. In reality it takes a lot of time and thought.
- This has been harder than I thought, so much to think about-budgets, paychecks.
- Yes, some people work outside and it's hot, but I work inside with little kids and that is hard also.