

Teens Prepared for Real-world Jobs

Who cares

At-risk high school students who are behind academically need positive experiences in the work world to prepare them to be productive citizens.

What was done:

Through the Workforce Preparation Program, which is overseen by Sussex County 4-H, students were placed in part-time jobs at non-profit organizations during the summer. Transportation was provided for participants in rural areas, which allowed students who were less than 16 years old or had no access to a vehicle to hold jobs. The participants worked at 19 worksites in Sussex County, including seven schools, two eldercare centers, four childcare centers/day camps, one fire station, one animal rescue center, one state facility for the mentally retarded, one second hand clothing center, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Sussex County, and one town office. Worksite supervisors charted individual success using weekly evaluations. New enrolled students also participated in summer school classes to ensure academic continuity over the summer months.

Impact

Because of the 2002 program, 58 high school students were able to work 7,361 hours, earning \$46,624.95. In addition 12 returning students used their experiences to find their own jobs in for-profit businesses. The program provides students with real-work experience on a daily basis, reinforcing the importance of reporting to work as scheduled and teamwork involved in doing a good job. Several of the worksite supervisors commented on how they could not have completed the necessary tasks this summer without the extra help from the students.

Funding

The Delaware Workforce Investment Board funding grant

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