

Youth Employment Program

The Small Business Center is under a contract from DeKalb County Workforce Development Agency will manage a seven week youth employment training and enrichment program for 75 “at potential” young adults ages 18 – 24. The program is funded by a grant of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, also known as stimulus funds. It targets young adults who have “special needs”.

Each participant will be required to complete 25 hours of pre-employment training to help prepare them for their work assignment. Topics covered in this training include Developing Brand YOU, safety in the workplace, business etiquette, customer service, professional communications, personal appearance and individual strategic planning to focus on setting short and long-term goals. Each participant is also given a MARTA card with a 30-day unlimited ride pass to provide them with transportation throughout their work experience. They will also participate in other enrichment activities such as the “Lunch N Learn” sessions, “The Breakfast Club” and career/life skills training to include courses such as “Basics to Computers”, “Financing Your Future”, “Conflict Resolution”

Other aspects of our program include:

- Parents Special Interest Group (“PSIG”)
- Dress for Success Fashion Show
- High School Graduation Boot Camp
- Field trips and/or team building events
- Scholarships for a Certified Nursing Assistance (CNA) program, a construction apprenticeship and a course at the Jewell Jackson McCabe Emerging Leaders Institute



Students engaged on the first day of pre-employment training

Our program is more than just giving a job to a youth. It's an opportunity for us to help our 'at potential' youths with enhancing their employability and life skills so they may have more possibilities to secure employment for a longer period of time.

Every aspect of our program is designed to help develop the skills of our future leaders so they may become the solution rather than the problem.

My vision is that one day these participants develop into community leaders and entrepreneurs who develop innovative solutions that will help increase our small business retention rates.

**Charlette Wynn,
Program Director
The Small Business
Center**

What the program participants have to say about why they're here....

- *I just want a chance. Everybody deserves an opportunity.*
- *I want to be financially able to take care of myself.*
- *I need to make a change. I don't have any time for games. I have to make this happen.*
- *I want a better life for me and my baby.*

For more information or to become a contributor, please call 404- 294-7774 or visit us on the web at: thesmallbusinesscenter.org

The Small Business Center
4151 Memorial Drive
Suite 208F
Decatur, GA 30032
404 294-7774 (office)
404 294-7776 (fax)

Our Plan

Milestone	8/3	8/10	8/17	8/24	8/31	9/7	9/14	9/21	9/28
Project Kick-Off & Planning									
Counselor Orientation/Planning									
Worksite Identification/Orientation									
Pre-Employment Training - Wave 1									
Pre-Employment Training - Wave 2									
Pre-Employment Training - Wave 3									
Wave 1 Begin Employment									
High School Graduation Boot camp									
Wave 2 Begin Employment									
Career/Life Skills Training									
Wave 3 Begin Employment									
Mid-Point Review & Recognition									
End of Program Event									
Scholarships Awarded									

Our Worksite Partners

- MSA Global, a call center and help desk outsourcing organization that supports clients such as AT&T Global and other Fortune 500 companies, has requested ten (10) interns
- Reunited Counseling & Training has requested five (5) interns
- Other worksite partners such as Allstate Insurance (McCarthy Agency), Be Present, CERM, DeKalb County Planning & Development, East DeKalb Boys & Girls Club, Family Care of Hillandale, Impact Sports and Women Watch Afrika, Inc. have also signed worksite agreements to engage participants
- Companies and organizations such as City of Decatur, DeKalb Medical Center. Georgia Tech and Marta are also on our worksite pursuit list

Our Wish List

- Guest speakers for our "Lunch N Learn" sessions
- Volunteers to mentor young men and women
- Donations of worksite appropriate attire (new and used) for both men and women (clothes, steel-toed boots, scrubs, etc.)
- Opportunities for job shadowing, ongoing internships and permanent full-time employment
- Donations for breakfast, lunch and snacks given during training and High School Graduation Test Boot Camp
- Donations to supplement the end of the program/recognition event that will take place on September 30, 2009