



# Summer Youth Employment Program

A partnership between the Spokane Area Workforce Development Council, Career Path Services, Goodwill Industries of the Inland Northwest and Educational Service District #101

**Spokane Consortium Update**

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## USDOL representative tours Spokane SYEP

Representatives from the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) and the Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD) visited with Spokane Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) leaders Thursday, July 16.

The visit included tours of Goodwill Industries, Riverfront Farms (a green jobs cooperative), and film production company, North by Northwest Productions.

Yanis Elksnitis, ESD Program Coordinator and Holly Watson, ESD Deputy Assistant Commissioner, accompanied Dana Durfee, USDOL Employment and Training Administrator from San Francisco while visiting the various worksites.

“We really appreciate all the work that you have put into the summer youth program,” Durfee wrote in an e-mail. “It really showed in talking with the youth and supervisors.”

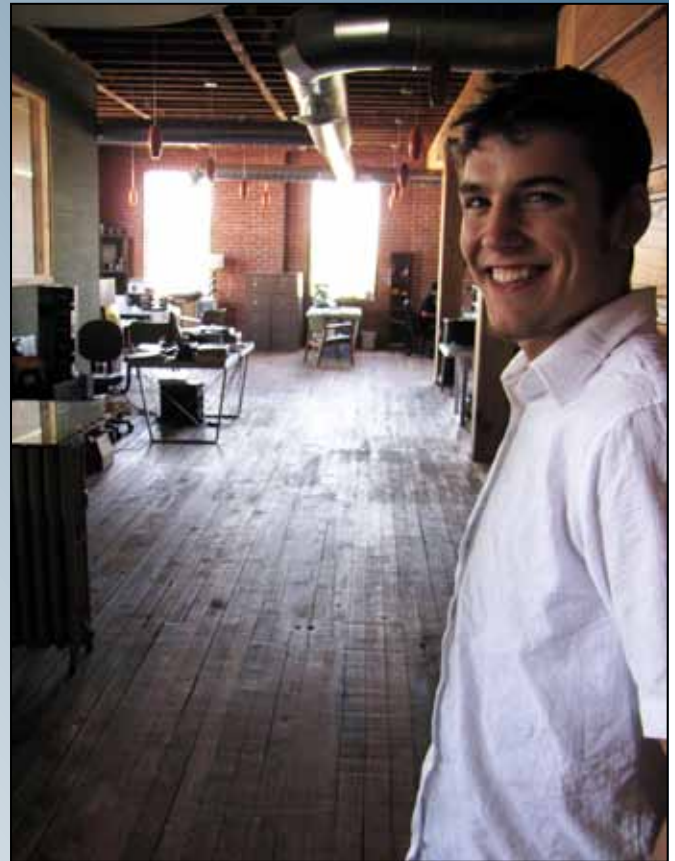
Worksite interns and leaders spoke at each location, giving those on the tour a more personal view and narrative of what SYEP meant to them and the doors it opened.



**A Riverfront Farms intern.**

One participant sported a shirt at Riverfront Farms, located near the county courthouse, that read, “Green jobs, not jails.” At Goodwill Industries, SYEP interns spoke of the leadership lessons they were learning and how much they enjoyed working together. One of their many recognized efforts, *TEConnections*, a Spokane Public Schools program, not only teaches youth how to refurbish computers, but once the computers are functional, students give the computers to underprivileged youth. Over 1,000 computers within the last three years have been distributed.

While visiting North by Northwest, interns led the group around



**A summer youth intern outside an office at North by Northwest, a film production company located in Spokane.**

the facilities and shared their enthusiasm that they were working at a premier film studio in the Northwest. One intern excitedly said, “Do you know who John Carpenter (renowned director of, among others, *Halloween*, *Escape from New York*, *The Thing*) is? He’s working on a film here and I got to shake his hand. I’m never going to wash it again!”

Overall, the tour proved what many know and interns are learning; that internships can be life-changing and the opportunities offered might never occur without SYEP.

## Youth job placements remain on target; enrollments rise

- As of July 15, Spokane SYEP is expected to be at 100 percent of its 400-placement goal in August.
- Total enrollments (July 15): 370.
- Total number of youth currently in work experience (WEX): 180.

## Some ‘stimulating’ SYEP statistics

- Spokane SYEP staff have given out 1650 packet applications and over 600 have been returned.
- Demand has been so high that 80 youth are now on our wait list for intake.
- Of the 180 worksites, 110 are public and nonprofit and 70 are private businesses.



**Spokane Area WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

This program is funded through the Spokane Area Workforce Development Council by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). ARRA was created to preserve and create jobs, promote the nation's economic recovery, and to assist those most impacted by the recession. Our goal this summer is to provide over 400 low-income youth living in the Spokane area with the opportunity to earn money and gain work readiness skills. Spokane Area Workforce Development Council is an equal opportunity employer and provider of employment and training services. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to persons with disabilities.