

Dream It. Believe It. Achieve It.

The Need – Staff Perspective

- Increased number of youth with low basic skills and language barriers
- Difficulty meeting youth program standards
- Youth had a strong desire to work

the Need - Region

According to the Greater Mankato Diversity Council, minority population in South Central expected to grow 156.5% from 2005-2035

Mankato Area Public Schools:

- 34 primary languages
- Graduations rates
 - Entire district - 81.8%
 - Black students - 53.3%
 - Hispanic students - 50%

the Need - Youth

Youth Focus Group:

Opportunity

Parents to understand what they were doing

Employers to understand their culture

Partners

African Family and Education Center

Greater Mankato Diversity Council

LA-MANO, Inc. - Latin American Multi-Ethnic Association for Networking and Opportunities

Life-Work Planning Center

BEW Local 343

MRCI WorkSource

MN Council of Churches Refugee Services

Mankato Area Adult Basic Education

Minnesota Valley Action Council

South Central College

South Central Service Cooperative

South Central WorkForce Council

YWCA Mankato

Dream It. Believe It. Achieve It.

Funded by Youth Competitive Grants since 2012

Serves youth ages 14-24 from communities of color

- Career Exploration
- Career Counseling
- Case Management
- Develop a Career Plan
- Work experience
- Work readiness workshops
- Field trips and college visits

Parent Involvement

Youth counselors meet with parents

Parents are invited to attend individual meetings and group activities/workshops

Cultural Awareness



- Worksite Supervisors participate in cultural diversity training.

Annual Event

Youth and families
Dinner and program
Inspirational speakers
from communities of
color – role models
Interactive activity
Family photos



Outcomes

“Dream It. Believe It. Achieve It.” Outcomes State Fiscal Year 2014-2015	# of Youth
Total Youth Served	142
Participated in a Work Experience	93
Gained Work Readiness Skills	77 (83%)
Received Academic Credit	26
Graduated from High School	18
Entered Post-Secondary Education	32
Entered Unsubsidized Employment	28

Impact

Youth

- Couldn't get a job on their own
- Learned things that you don't learn in school
- Language skills improved
- Unsubsidized employment

Parents

- Have same needs as youth
- Inspired one parent to return to school

Employers

- Changes to staff training

Success Story

HS senior at Tri-City United Public School

First job at the local floral shop through a work experience

Interested in healthcare so did another work experience/internship at a nursing home as an activities assistant, which lead to unsubsidized employment.

Second Year of High STEP Science Academy

Applied and accepted to U of M - Minneapolis

Success Story

19 year old male from Somalia

Graduated from high school

Participated in the Tour of Manufacturing event
and interest in Mechatronics blossomed

South Central College for Mechatronics

Success Story

Struggled to attend high school and interact with any adults respectfully.

Program participant for 2 years

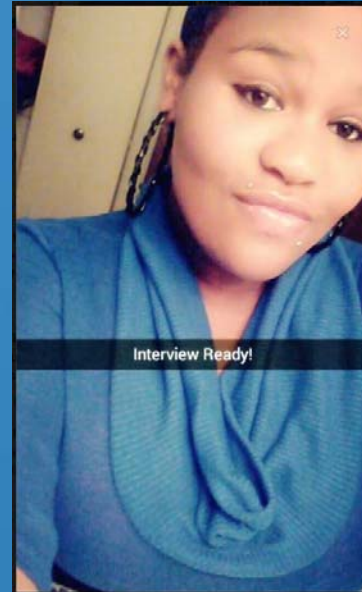
After several work experiences, found her own part-time unsubsidized employment.

On track to graduate December 2015

Planning to attend post-secondary training

Problem solving situations on her own

Attitude towards adults greatly matured



Improvements

Specialized services for youth with disabilities –
23% of participants

Interest in hands on occupations – engage local
labor unions and community college for
apprenticeship opportunities

Leadership opportunities to inspire youth

Questions

Maather Gleason

Assistant Director

South Central WorkForce Council

6 N. Victory Drive

Wankato, MN 56001

7-345-2418

gleason@workforcecouncil.org