

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

I. MID VALLEY SCHOOL-TO-WORK SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT

II. Award U-7795-9-00-88-60

III. Yakima County, Washington

IV. Contact Person: Tamara Bosler, STW Program Manager

V. Report Period: April 1, 2001 to June 30, 2001.

VI. Performance Narrative:

This Quarterly Report discusses new activities funded by the DOL Sustainability Extension Grant and their significance as they are incorporated into the StW system in the Mid-Valley StW Project. The extension monies from DOL have literally provided an increased enthusiasm for the Consortium. The Tri-County Workforce Development Council has involved the local Tri-County Youth Council (TCYC) in StW activities by transitioning and expanding the original School-to-Work Board into a youth council by involving them in discussions to further develop the StW efforts with our consortium.

Since the inception of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), the Tri-County Workforce Development Council and its subsidiary, the Tri-County Youth Council have been organized to establish a connection for youth activities related to workforce development. This is remarkably, an extension not only of the former StW Board, but also the arm of the Tri-County Workforce Development Council responsible for continued progress with youth workforce development issues.

The StW initiative gave focus and brought to the public education system a need for a practical connection to the world of work through creative intervention with students K-12.

These grant extension monies have, subsequently, been inherited by the Tri-County Youth Council in order to continue what the initial intent of the grant created.

Since receiving notice the end of January 2001 that these monies would be available to our consortium, planning moved at a quick pace. The Youth Council determined that they would request Concept Papers in three areas that had been identified as progressive, best practices from earlier school district StW projects. Each concept component is underway and on a targeted timeline to be completed by the September 2001 end date. All of these special

concept projects either has had or will soon have immediate impact on in-school and out-of-school student populations, yet they are sustainable in their own right by incorporating pertinent workforce development information in a systematic way which will make that information available to our valley youth in a variety of formats.

These Sustainability Extension projects centered on the following three concepts:

- **Teacher Internships:**

Concept – To target two industries in the Yakima Valley which have been identified by the Tri-County Youth Council (TCYC) as greatest employment need industries. They are the Healthcare and Criminal Justice industries. The internships would allow teaching staff to select an occupation within either of these industries. Project Concept included scope, goals, outcomes, work plan, and schedule. Project Management included team structure and outcome reporting responsibilities.

Status – The Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce contracted with the Tri-County Youth Council to organize fourteen (14) teacher internships (two per school district) in the Mid-Valley Consortium this summer (June 2001) and to be coordinated with the Upper Valley teacher internship (35 teacher internships) program. Internships focused on the two Career Clusters identified above. The participating teachers completed lesson plans related to the concepts learned from the 40-hour, week-long internships. They also presented worker skills necessary for success across valley industries: communication skills, teamwork skills, problem-solving skills, self-motivation skills.

- **Website Development:**

Concept – To incorporate a two-part strategy, i.e., develop a technological connection between locally identified school districts where youth Career Pathway and decision-making information can be accessed and shared. To develop enhancement to the (careerlinks.org) site which incorporates a process guaranteeing updated and current StW information for staff and students.

Status – Initial meetings and planning for the ‘Electronic Bulletin Board’ and the ‘Resource Library’ have been conducted. Site programming, navigation changes to the existing careerlinks.org site and technical coordination has begun on the electronic bulletin board and resource library. Work is underway obtaining files for the resource library. Work on the school-based enterprise (electronic newsletter) is in the planning stages. Scheduled launch date is on target for September 2001.

- **School-Based Enterprises:**

Concept – This opportunity allowed for design and/or development of a new enterprise or for expansion of an existing business. Each of the Consortium districts have already incorporated school-based enterprises in at least one grade level, e.g., elementary, middle school, or high school site. These Concept Papers requested project concept, management concept, and costs. Four school-based enterprises were selected for funding through a formal review process by the Tri-County Youth Council and Workforce Development Council staff.

Status – Planning, organizing, and staffing of the individual school/work-based learning programs is underway. Selection and purchase of equipment for the projects is underway following review by vocational staff, school-to-work coordinators, building principals, and vocational advisory committees. Four entrepreneurial projects were identified under this extension grant: Spartan Café, Spartan Steelworks, Spartan Small Engine, and Spartan Website.

- a) Spartan Café is a successful StW restaurant class which plans, prepares, and serves meals at a nominal cost to the staff and students. The class has had several job placements and employers are anxiously hiring Spartan café trainees for full-time work. This grant will double the number of students currently being trained for employment on newly-purchased food preparation and processing equipment.
- b) Spartan Steelworks will design and manufacture agricultural and industrial projects with steel product and other materials to complete farm and agricultural projects of any dimension.
- c) Spartan Small Engine will specialize in the repair and maintenance of lawn and garden equipment. The program presently is a Briggs and Stratton repair facility. The grant monies will develop a secure (cyclone-fenced), out-of-the-weather (roofed) area for work and storage of the equipment under repair.
- d) Spartan Website is being constructed with the objective to 'share' the information which these performance school-based industries learn as entrepreneurial student businesses. It will link to the Yakima Chamber job shadow site and other StW and labor market sites.

▪ **Staff-Development and/or Website Marketing:**

Concept -- Technical assistance has been identified as a back-up request option should there be a budget balance after the original three (3) Concept Paper requests have been funded. Any balance could be available to Consortium districts for staff-development strategies to provide opportunity for staff to experience job-shadowing, visitations to other district StW projects, StW in-service, internships, or other creative ideas where staff would gain StW knowledge transferable to students and peers.

Marketing of the originally designed www.careerlinks.org website throughout the rural Tri-County Workforce Development Council region has also been identified as a back-up option by the Youth Council should there be a budget balance. The careerlinks.org website, a newly developed Tri-County Healthcare Careers website, plus aforementioned Electronic Bulletin Board, Resource Library, and the Electronic Newsletter option all provide added Career Pathway benefit to students and staff only if they are readily accessible as tools connecting them to the world of work.