



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SUMMER YOUTH JOBS PROGRAM BEGINS

ARNOLD, MD (June 29, 2009) ---The Anne Arundel YouthWorks 2009 Summer Program kicked off today at Anne Arundel Community College. The Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation (AAWDC) is targeting youth Stimulus funds to put seventy County youths to work at government agencies, businesses, and non-profits across the County this summer. The young people, ages 14 to 24, must meet strict eligibility requirements, participated in a day-long orientation at Anne Arundel Community College that included financial literacy training, work readiness skills, and employer expectations.

Beginning, Tuesday, June 30, the youths will begin a six-week assignment working thirty hours per week in jobs that were matched to their individual interests and abilities. Worksites include County parks, libraries and schools, Maryland Therapeutic Riding, and Boys and Girls Club summer camps, as well as local businesses.

Kris Bennett, AAWDC's Youth Programs Coordinator, commended the collaboration of many people and organizations to bring this program together. "We are so grateful for the support of County agencies and the business community in opening their doors to our young participants, and to the schools, parents and advocates who helped us to prepare these youths for this opportunity to develop their work readiness skills and their commitment to learning."

Kirkland J. Murray, President and CEO of AAWDC, stressed the value of the summer program. "The time and effort we took to match the interests of these young people to the jobs will pay off. The work skills they will acquire, combined with the experience of interviewing with the employers before beginning their work assignments, provide a strong foundation on the road to their career."

A broad range of services are available through AAWDC to prepare young people for employment. AAWDC operates a GED program in partnership with Anne Arundel Community College as well as a drop-out prevention program with the Anne Arundel County Public Schools,

organizes summer job fairs for all County public high school students in the spring, and provides job search assistance and training funds to eligible individuals. For more information, call 410-987-3890.

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