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U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin Recognizes County Youth in Summer Work Experience Program

Thirty-two (32) Anne Arundel County Youth were honored today for their participation in the YouthWorks! Summer Work Experience Program. The six-week program, coordinated by Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation (AAWDC), ended in a Closing Celebration that included recognition from U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin and motivational words from Charles Duckett, owner of a local consulting company that focuses on diversity.

“The Anne Arundel County Workforce Development’s summer jobs program has given 32 young men and women the experience they will need to pursue jobs of the future,” said U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin. “Too many barriers exist to employment for our young people and these real work experiences will open the door to later success.”

AAWDC partnered with the Department of Social Services and the Division of Rehabilitation Services to provide work experiences for foster and disabled youth. Additional youth participated through Workforce Investment Act and the Governor’s Summer Youth Connection funds. Participants were between the ages of 14 and 21 and from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds. They

were placed in 17 worksites representing companies, organizations and government agencies throughout the county, where they learned valuable work skills and expectations of the workplace.

“YouthWorks! is just the beginning of our focus on helping our county youth,” said Kirkland J. Murray, President and CEO of AAWDC. “This is about teaching them the skills necessary for their success in the workplace, while helping our businesses and organizations invest in a new generation of workers.”

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AAWDC operates seven One-Stop Career Centers and specialized programs that offer services to businesses and job seekers. Services include recruitment, retention and training funds for business; and job search guidance, workshops and training assistance for job seekers.