



Media Contact: Angie Duntz
Phone: 316.771.6606
Cell: 316.708.7159
aduntz@workforce-ks.com

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**WICHITA WORKFORCE CENTER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROJECT
RECEIVES GRANT FROM CITY OF WICHITA**

WICHITA, KS - The Youth Employment Project (YEP) has received a \$25,000 grant from the City of Wichita to support young adult interns. The grant from the City of Wichita will be leveraged with funding from the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas. The goal for 2016 is to serve up to 200 young adults and at least 50 work experience opportunities. The grant was approved by the Wichita City Council on July 12.

“Youth work experience is a great way to develop a pipeline of skilled talent and our future workforce,” said Mayor Jeff Longwell. “We would like to encourage employers to get involved and hire more young adults.”

The Youth Employment Project is an opportunity to assist young adults in finding employment. Services to young adults through the YEP include assistance in resume creation, job search, preparing for interviews as well as education in soft skills, customer service and money management.

“There are not enough job opportunities these days for young adults,” said Keith Lawing, president and CEO of Workforce Alliance. “Too many attempt to enter the work force without real life employment experience.”

The Workforce Center has been involved in promoting young adult employment and work experience opportunities for at-risk young adults (16-21) since 2009. The strategy was initiated by funding from the federal government in 2009 and 2010, and the WA has leveraged Workforce Investment Act resources, proceeds from the Jobs FORE Youth Golf tournaments and contributions from employers to support youth work experiences from 2011 to 2015.

The Workforce Alliance is the Administrative Entity, One Stop Operator, and Program Administrator for Local Area IV in Kansas, which includes the counties of Butler, Cowley, Harper, Kingman, Sedgwick and Sumner. Operations for Local Area IV are directed by the Local Workforce Investment Board (LWIB). The daily operations of the LWIB are carried out by a professional staff, led by a President and Chief Executive Officer. For additional information on the Workforce Alliance please visit www.workforce-ks.com.

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