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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROJECT 2017 FINAL REPORT**

**WICHITA, KS** - The Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas has released outcomes from the 2017 Youth Employment Project (YEP).

YEP is a strategic initiative to assist young adults in finding a first job or valuable work opportunity. It is a community collaborative that includes the Workforce Alliance, City of Wichita, YMCA, USD 259, Butler Community College and other community based organizations, education providers and multiple employers. Services to young adults through YEP are leveraged from the Workforce Centers and include pre-employment career exploration, job preparation workshops and connection to employers who are hiring part-time and or temporary summer positions.

#### **YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROJECT 2017 OUTCOMES INCLUDE:**

- 727 participants attended YEP Workshops
- 1,214 badges awarded for workshop participation
- 401 participants earned a youth essential skills certificate
- 423 job placements
- 66 YEP participants completed the DollarWi\$e program

“I am very pleased how the community worked together to make the Youth Employment Project a success,” said Mayor Jeff Longwell. “We are building leaders through this project, leaders who will have an impact on our future workforce.”

More than 80 companies hired young adults through YEP in 2017, including 26 sponsoring employers who directly hired or funded positions. Additional employer partners provided a placement site for youth subsidized through agency resources. The project is financially supported from many sources including grants from Bank of America, AT&T, Delta Dental and funding from the Workforce Alliance.

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Some of the YEP 2017 employers include: Spirit AeroSystems, XLT Ovens, High Touch Technologies, Textron Aviation, Hampel Oil, and Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital. (A full list of participating employers is available.)

“I want to challenge the business community to get involved in YEP in 2018,” said Wayne Chambers, CEO of High Touch Technologies. “Providing work experience to young adults in our community is our responsibility and our chance to grow local talent.”

Planning for YEP 2018 is underway with key partners through a number of community meetings.

“Providing employment opportunities for young adults is one part of a community wide strategy to develop a strong pipeline of homegrown talent and a highly skilled workforce,” said Keith Lawing, president and CEO of Workforce Alliance.

*The Workforce Alliance Local Workforce Development Board (WA) operates employment and training programs through the Workforce Centers of South Central Kansas in Butler, Cowley, Sedgwick and Sumner Counties. For additional information on the Workforce Alliance please visit [www.workforce-ks.com](http://www.workforce-ks.com)*

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