

Programs assist youth with summer jobs

By Damon Hodge
Sentinel-Voice

School's out.

Students breathe a collective sigh of relief at the mention of these two words. Conversely, parents shriek because they must find ways to fill their children's idle time.

For parents who can't afford to send the kids to grandma's or to a summer camp, a job is the next best answer. Nevada Business Services and Nevada Partners can help.

"The NBS Summer Youth Employment Program targets youth who are economically disadvantaged, developmentally disabled and whose families receive state support," said Clentine Coleman, Summer Youth Employment Program Manager for NBS.

Nevada Partners equips kids with the skills they need to get jobs on their own merit," said Jocelyn Oats, youth

needs assessment, then begin a three-week testing and life skills course. All applications must be in by June 30.

The first Saturday features math and reading skills testing to determine proficiency and where help should be administered. Life Skills workshops are conducted the next two Saturdays. There, the youth learn how to prepare resumes, interview, type, dress professionally among other things. At summer's end, performance evaluations grade the students productivity. June 9 is the last day for sign-ups.

Youth in the Nevada Partners program complete 20 hours of similar life skills training before hitting the job-hunt trail. They, too, have their work monitored. After completing life skills training, the youth can attend any of the job/career fairs that NP hosts.

The NP summer youth employment program lasts

"If we help one kid, we help one family. If we help one family, we help the community."

— Jocelyn Oats

service coordinator for Summer Youth Employment for NP.

Coleman said NBS partners with the casinos, the City of Las Vegas, Clark County and state entities to provide the youth with gainful employment. NBS subsidizes the 8-week program and pays the youth \$5 an hour. Though most of the jobs come from the public sector, Coleman said the NBS will canvas for private sector employers beginning next summer.

Coleman said she expects NBS to employ more than 1,500 youth this summer, up from 1,400 the previous summer. NBS aggressively seeks youth.

"We go to the kids, we don't want the kids to come to us," Coleman said.

To qualify for the federally-funded NBS program, youth must be age 14-21 and complete an introductory intake process and an application to determine if they meet the program's income requirement.

If accepted, they undergo a

from early June to mid-August. It's open to youth aged 16 to 21 and there is no income requirement. They need only two forms of identification to qualify. NP pays for sheriff's and TAM cards, if needed.

"You shouldn't have to be starving to get a summer job," said Mujahid Ramadan, executive director of Nevada Partners.

Youth work as salaried employees in the NP program, Ramadan said. Public and private funds finance the program, he said.

The last life skills workshop is June 9.

Both programs begin outreach in early Spring of each year.

Both Coleman and Oats laud their programs.

"(The SYEP) is a great program blessed with great people," Coleman said.

Oats paints a broad picture of the services Nevada Partners provides.

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Special to the Sentinel-Voice
Javoulae McGee, Maria Calata and Diamond Ross cut the cake during their federal intern luncheon.

School and city officials celebrate partnership

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The Clark County School District (CCSD) and City of Las Vegas officials officially celebrated their successful first-year experimental partnership at the Las Vegas (PAL) program during a luncheon Wednesday, May 28, at Planet Hollywood.

The program, based at Las Vegas High School, aims to provide positive work and career experience to 160 high school juniors who have all completed a one-year, non-paid apprenticeship at various businesses and government agencies across Southern Nevada. The students attended classes four days per week and reported to their job site on the fifth day.

At the City of Las Vegas' Neighborhood Services Department, a luncheon co-sponsor, students learned about the administration of federal grants to serve the homeless, low-income working families and persons with AIDS.

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- Fill out applications completely and truthfully. Type or print legibly.
- Interview: Be prompt. Dress appropriate. Be confident. Emphasize your strengths. Answer questions clearly and honestly. Prepare questions. Thank interviewer. Follow up after the interview expressing your interest in the job and again thank the interviewer.