

# 2009 YOUTH GROUP AWARD

## Workforce Development Council of Snohomish County “Summer Youth Employment Program”

The Workforce Development Council of Snohomish County (WDCSC) worked with community partners to ensure that American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus funds were spent in the most efficient and effective manner to serve the workforce needs of Snohomish County. The Summer Youth Employment Program was one of the programs developed.

The Summer Youth Employment Program placed youths in paid internship positions during the summer months, enabling them to gain positive mentorship and employment experience. The youth's wages were paid using ARRA funds, with a goal of providing meaningful work readiness and work experience for Snohomish County youth.

Throughout the year, The Summer Youth Employment Program helped to place 223 young people between the ages of 16 - 24, in paid internships at over 127 worksites across Snohomish County. Participants were matched to worksites, in both public and private sectors, that aligned closely with their interests where they learned work skills for many different fields, such as: construction, website design, customer service, journalism, and much, more.

Put simply, the Summer Youth Employment Program enabled youths to learn the leadership and responsibility skills they need to reach their full potential, and their countless success stories shows that participants are excited about the opportunities that the program has provided for them.

### Partners in This Collaboration

Workforce Development Council Snohomish County  
Center for Career Alternatives  
Snohomish County School Districts (Lakewood School District: *Lead Contractor*)

*Partners also included private companies, government agencies, local nonprofits and community college work-and-learn projects throughout Snohomish County.*