



South County Community Action Agency

Helping people. Changing lives.

South County Community Action Agency
E-Newsletter

July 2013

South County's GED class graduates in June

Class of 2013 ceremony took place June 26th at U.R.I.



On June 26th, the South County GED class of 2013 held their graduation at the U.R.I. Memorial Student Union Hall. The 40+ graduates were joined by family and friends along with principle speaker Douglas Wardwell, who is a professor of communication studies at the University of Rhode Island. Other staff members from South County Community Action Agency included Justin Waranis and Joseph Neri.



The GED (General Educational Development) Tests are the gateway for an out-of-school student to achieve the High School Equivalency Diploma. To help those who haven't finished high school, the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) funds not-for-profit agencies to provide GED and other Adult Ed related programs to improve Work Force Readiness, Family Literacy, and Career and College Mobility. South County Community Action Agency offers educational programs for students to prepare for the GED tests. These include academic assessment and educational services to help individuals prepare for the state GED exam. Classroom training, individual sessions, tutoring, and computer assisted learning are available. Classes are offered so that any level learner can begin in the program and proceed at the speed best suited for them. Teachers offer classes in Math, Reading, and Writing. Beginning in January of 2014, classes will include Science and Social Studies to best incorporate the subject matter that will be required in the new GED tests currently in development. The small sized



ensure that students follow through with the program and attain their goal of completing the GED program and move forward with their goals.

SOUTH COUNTY LINKS

South County's Summer Youth program begins in July

Youth between the ages of 14-24 recruited



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South County Community Action Agency has enrolled a number of youth ages 14-24 in a Summer Youth Employment and Training program designed to provide work readiness, career development, hands on work experience, financial literacy, credential attainment and portfolio development.

Employment activities will operate for a six week period beginning July 8, 2013 and ending August 16, 2013.

The youth will participate in one week of Work Readiness activities designed to prepare them for entry into the work force. Topics will include job search and labor market information, resume development, interview skills, appropriate work place behavior, job safety and labor laws. These topics will be delivered through use of the state's employri.org website as well as through a variety of curriculum collected by South County over the past 25 years of delivering youth employment-related programs.

Upon completion of their week of Work Readiness, all youth will participate in 5 weeks of hands-on work experience at a local business or public facility within one of the 9 Industry Sectors identified by the Governor's Workforce Investment Board. Specific industries targeted include Hospitality and Tourism, Technology, Health Care, Marine Trades, Manufacturing and Construction. Work experiences will occur four hours per day for four days per week (16 hours). One day each week youth will continue to participate in classroom and training activities designed to reinforce lessons learned at the work-site as well as to deliver additional instruction such as financial literacy (delivered through the FDIC-developed Money Smarts for Young Adults), and to work toward attainment of an OSHA-10 hour General Industry Safety credential.

All youth will complete a Career Development/Work Readiness Portfolio which will include lessons learned and competencies achieved throughout the summer program which can be used to present to future employers. Youth will receive minimum wage for 20 hours per week for five weeks of activity and a \$100 benchmark upon completion of their first week of training.

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