



El Dorado County Office of Education

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PRESS RELEASE

April 7, 2009
2 pages

El Dorado County School Districts Bid For Federal Stimulus Funds To Employ Local Youth

Soon, we will find out which of fifteen proposed youth employment programs will be funded for this summer. For example, one group of youth will be setting up and networking computers in a school library, while another will be retrofitting an electric cart to run on solar power for on-campus use at their high school. The bids, which provide for 35,600 hours of paid work experience and work-readiness education, were submitted by the Black Oak Mine Unified School District, El Dorado Union High School District, Lake Tahoe Unified School District and the El Dorado County Office of Education.

With just over a week to prepare proposals, local school districts geared up quickly to bring recently announced Federal stimulus funding to youth programs in El Dorado County. "This is an amazing opportunity to provide paid work experience to our youth," exclaimed Sheila Silan, El Dorado County Foster Youth Services Coordinator. Silan attended an informational meeting in March, and recognized the huge potential, but was concerned about a short two-week deadline for submitting bids. El Dorado County Office of Education Superintendent Vicki Barber immediately began working with her staff and the Superintendents at the three school districts with high schools to prepare bid packages.

According to their website, "The Golden Sierra Workforce Investment Board (WIB) anticipates receiving \$2.9 million for Program Years 2009 and 2010 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)." Just under \$1 million is allocated for funding this summer for programs in Placer, El Dorado, and Alpine Counties. El Dorado County school districts have proposed 15 programs providing work for seven to 22 students each, for a total cost of just over \$600,000. The programs will serve youth from low income situations.

"Our County educators have demonstrated creativity and skill, along with dedication to the future of

our youth, in putting together these bids so quickly. I appreciate and congratulate the many people who grasped this opportunity to benefit the youth and young adults in our County,” said El Dorado County Office of Education Superintendent of Schools, Barber. Selection of bids will be announced by the Golden Sierra Workforce Investment Board on or around April 17, 2009.

Barber also congratulated Rob Schamberg who was instrumental in leading the effort to draft the 15 proposals and working with all the high schools in the county to craft the bids. For further information regarding the bids developed in El Dorado County, email Rob Schamberg at rschamberg@edcoe.org. Information regarding the Golden Sierra Workforce Investment Board and the ARRA are available at <http://goldensierrawib.com>.