

Summer Job Programs Help Young People Find Work

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

With the school year drawing to a close, it's time to think about getting a summer job. A number of programs exist locally to help young people find work for the summer. Some of the programs are limited to low-income youth, but not all.

Following is a listing of some of the major programs available.

The Summer Youth Program at the Employment Security Commission has no economic guidelines; anyone can apply. According to Ann Givens at the ESC, 16 to 21 year olds can go to the office and fill out an application. Applicants are later called in for a personal interview to match them up with a prospective employer.

Most young people are placed in fast-food, clerical, construction, retail, or janitorial positions. Youngsters who say, "I'll do anything," are often referred to fast-food jobs,

an industry that relies heavily on teen-age workers.

Last year, according to Givens, about half those referred were actually placed. She attributes the relatively low placement rate to the fact that the program was also trying to serve 14 and 15 year olds.

May through mid-June is when most college students are placed, Givens noted. "They need to get placed early because a lot are paying their own way through school," she explained.

High schoolers are placed in June and July. And Givens added, "If they do a good job, they don't have to worry next year because they'll have a job."

Another program related to the ESC is the JTPA Summer Youth Employment Program. This is funded by the federal government and operates on strict income guidelines.

According to Linda Burton, youth

from 14 to 21 are placed in work experiences with non-profit agencies where they work up to 30 hours per week. May 19 was the deadline to apply, but you might keep this program in mind for next year.

Young workers are placed in groundskeeping, custodial, clerical, recreation, and day care jobs for eight weeks beginning June 11. They're paid \$3.35 an hour.

Of the 3-4,000 who apply, the program can place only 755. "We base it on their skills, their need, and who can benefit the most from the work experience," Burton stated.

In addition, the program also tries to include handicapped students, who do not have to meet income guidelines.

The Community Relations Committee's "Hire-A-Kid" program is cranking up again this year. Explained Beverly Hollingsworth, "Hire-A-Kid" is meant to benefit low income youth between the ages of 15 and 18. Workers are placed in "summer job opportunities, not full-time jobs," Hollingsworth stated. "We match young people with individual citizens for odd jobs such as yard work and household chores. Also, some businesses have expressed an interest."

Youngsters are available to work between June 16 and August 15. Last year, the 68 who were assisted in finding jobs earned a combined total of \$15,000.

Hollingsworth praised the program for helping both young people experience their first job and community citizens who need assistance in performing various chores.

Anyone interested can call Community Relations to apply. This year, 80 slots are available.

A fourth possibility is the Private Sector Summer Youth Program, better known as the Mayor's Summer Youth Program. This program placed 232 17 to 21 year olds last summer. This year's goal is 300, said Bernie Mazycka, job developer with the City Employment and

Training Department.

Mazycka explained, "Those who are job-ready are sent out immediately. Those who need counseling or training are referred to a job-readiness course at CPCC." The two-week course teaches job-getting and job-keeping skills.

Workers are typically placed in such fields as fast-foods, construction, and such giants as IBM and Duke Power.

Youth can participate more than once, providing they continue to meet criteria.

Because the program is sponsored by the City, not the federal government, economic criteria are not as stringent, Mazycka stated.



The fast-foods industry is one primary source of summer jobs for youth. (Photo by Audrey Lodato)

Wingate Offers High School Clinic

"Sink Or Swim." That's what the first year of college is like for most students. Sadly, one reason many students flunk out or do poorly that first year is that they've never been taught how to "swim."

To address that problem, Wingate College in Wingate, N.C., is offering a new clinic for rising high school sophomores, juniors and seniors this summer called "Get Set for College."

The five-day clinic, to be taught by members of Wingate's faculty and staff from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. August 4-8, will help answer the questions most commonly raised by college-bound students.

How do you go about choosing a college? What's the secret to reading those thick and confusing college catalogs? What financial aid is available and how can you get it? Who gets scholarships and how do you apply? Answers to those questions and more will be explored in a workshop on "Setting Priorities for Success," one of four workshops the clinic will offer. Students will also be taught how to take notes and study effectively, how to read and understand tests, how to manage stress during test-taking, and how to manage their time.

Another workshop on "Communication" will help students learn how

to listen effectively, to organize their ideas, and to present reports orally to a class. These and other techniques are invaluable to success in college studies.

Still other workshops will focus on improving verbal and math SAT scores, so important to acceptance at the college of your choice.

Wingate College Communication instructor Gwen Ferguson says the clinic may well be "the best favor you can do for your college-bound son or daughter this summer." The basic registration fee for the five-day clinic is \$125 per student, with slightly lower fees for groups of five or more from the same high school. Those wishing to register or desiring more information should call Ms. Ferguson either at Wingate College (233-4061), or in Charlotte (553-2224), or write her at 1723 Wensley Dr., Charlotte, NC 28210. A \$25 late registration fee will be charged for registering after June 1.

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South Meck Senior Wins First Place In Art Competition

A piece of art by a senior at South Mecklenburg High School will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year after winning first place in the Fifth Annual Congressional Art Competition. The entry submitted by Jennifer Howren is a realistic pastel drawing of a parrot on a lamp.

Jennifer will receive \$100 and three round-trip air tickets to Washington. Her art will be displayed in the main lobby of the NCNB Building uptown until May 17, after which it will be sent to Washington. For more information, contact Deborah Cooper, CMS visual arts specialist, at 379-7195.

Charlotteans Win Scholarships For Wingate College

Eighteen students received G.M. Stewart Scholarships to attend Wingate College this fall. The group awarded contains 13 North Carolina natives in which two are Charlotteans. The two students are Kimberly Dawn Beveridge of Independence High School, daughter of Donald and Wanda Beveridge and Jeffrey Travis Royston of Independence High School, son of James and Jeannie Royston.

UNNUI Forms Groups

The United Neighborhoods for No Utility Increases (UNNUI) announces formation of groups to oppose Duke Power rate increase requests at a press conference Friday, May 23, 10 a.m., 2300 E. 7th St. (CCP offices next to D.G. Martin headquarters).

UNNUI is a coalition of neighborhood groups and individuals who actively oppose Duke Power's 14.7 percent rate increase request filed in March 1986. UNNUI opposes this increase proposal because the consumer will pay this increase three times: in increased household electricity bills (an additional \$143 per year for the average residential customer), in increased government spending, and in increased costs of consumer goods and services. The group opposes this increase because it raises Duke Power's profit, which was in excess of \$487 million in 1985, at too high a cost in hardship to consumers, i.e., senior citizens and low income families.

UNNUI is a group of Charlotteans, a non-partisan, non-profit agency which provides staff support, training, and informational resources to low income neighborhood organizations and issue groups in Charlotte.

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