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*Workforce Development Council
of Seattle-King County*

New employer partnership to put \$3 million of stimulus money and 850 King County youth to work this summer

SEATTLE – The Workforce Development Council (WDC) of Seattle-King County and U.S. Sen. Patty Murray announced at McKinstry Co. today that an infusion of \$3 million of federal stimulus money will be used for summer jobs for more than 850 low-income and at-risk youth in King County. The event highlighted Dean Allen, CEO of McKinstry Co., the host of today's announcement event and employer for Youth@Work.

The [Youth@Work 2009](#) Summer Youth Employment Program is an opportunity for employers to participate in America's economic recovery effort while growing the country's youngest skilled workforce. It pairs youth ages 16 to 24 with local businesses for a six- to eight-week summer internship. The youth receive invaluable work experience and businesses gain eager workers whose wages are subsidized.

Youth@Work 2009 is part of \$1.2 billion of funding from Congress aimed at putting youth to work in the national recovery effort. Sen. Murray has been a major proponent of youth employment funds during the federal economic stimulus debate.

"Youth@Work 2009 is a great example of recovery money being put to use to help families, create jobs and boost our economy," said Sen. Murray. "This program not only helps local businesses immediately, but it gives young people the opportunity to earn money while gaining valuable experiences and skills to succeed in the 21st century workplace."

The City of Seattle and King County currently have youth employment programs in place, but not at the scale supported by the stimulus funding.

"At the City of Seattle, we make youth employment programs a priority because we know that early work experience for our young people helps them get on the right pathway for future success," said Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels. "This infusion of funding will greatly enhance our ability to provide work experience and job readiness training to youth and young adults who face higher barriers to employment, such as those who are homeless, young parents, in the foster care system or involved in the court system."

The WDC of Seattle-King County is conducting an extensive employer outreach program to ensure local businesses and nonprofits benefit from the program. The program handles the logistics so employers can focus on mentoring the youth. All participating employers are provided with the tools to create a meaningful work experience and partnering service providers meet with each employer one-on-one to assess the organization's needs.

"This summer's Youth@Work is just the beginning of what our community can accomplish on behalf of youth and employers alike," said Marléna Sessions, CEO of the WDC of Seattle-King County. "Thanks to Senator Murray, this recovery funding will jump-start a sustainable, community-driven summer youth employment program that will continue to grow in future years."

There has been an overwhelming response from youth looking for summer jobs through the program. The WDC of Seattle-King County is hoping to match the demand for youth jobs with eager employers.

Youth@Work is currently looking for interested employers. Partnering service providers will help match the best workers for each employer and youth's needs. For more information, visit www.youthatwork.info.

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The Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County (www.seakingwdc.org) is a nonprofit workforce "think tank" and grant-making organization that oversees employment-related programs for youth, the adult workforce and employers in King County, with the goal of a strong economy and self-sufficiency for every resident.

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