



COUNTY OF YOLO

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High School Summer Intern Program Recognized

(Woodland, CA) – Last week, Yolo County was honored for its High School Summer Intern Program at the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) with a Merit Award in the 2010 CSAC Challenge Awards competition. CSAC’s annual statewide awards program honors innovation in county government. This year, CSAC received nearly 250 Challenge Award entries for its four population categories. Yolo County was one of two counties to receive a merit award in the 50,001-200,000 category.

“To be competitive in the labor market with the surrounding urban counties that offer higher salaries, Yolo County relies on factors other than salary to attract applicants, such as our commitment to staff development and training,” said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Helen M. Thomson. “The High School Summer Intern Program creates a new pool of young workers who have already been exposed to working in local government. The ultimate goal is for student interns to remember their positive experience with Yolo County and to seek regular employment in public service upon graduation from high school or college.”

Yolo County’s eight week High School Summer Intern program is designed to attract high school students to careers in government, and ideally to careers in Yolo County government. The program is open to Yolo County high school students, ages 15 to 19. Program elements include weekly learning activities, assignments in departments which match future career and college goals, mentoring, and rewards and recognition which ensure participants remain excited, engaged and supported throughout the program.

To develop the High School Summer Intern program, the Yolo County Human Resources Department received a \$2,000 mini-grant from the Cal-ICMA Preparing the Next Generation committee in April of 2009. The grant covered nearly all of the \$2,511 out-of-pocket expenses for the 2009 program, not including staff time. The Yolo Transportation Management Association has been a partner since the program’s inception by donating summer bus passes for every student participant in need of transportation to his or her work assignment location and to attend the weekly learning activities. Human Resources staff has also been successful in securing donations from community partners for giveaways and raffle prizes. For the 2010 program, staff secured approximately \$600 in monetary donations. This amount includes a generous \$400 donation from the local foundation of Wells Fargo Bank.

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