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Job hunt: Many students, few businesses sign up

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Area businesses seeking young employees need look no farther, as the Eastern Colorado Workforce Center now offers a program to link area youth with employers throughout Morgan County.

Dovie Moya, community worker for the Colorado Workforce Center, said more than 400 students from throughout the county have registered and are eager to work, but most businesses in the area have shown little or no interest in the program.

With only seven employers currently participating, Moya is concerned that businesses don't understand that local youth are capable of becoming dedicated, long-term employees.

Moya said the Governor's Summer Job Hunt can provide young employees to businesses that are seeking summer labor and those looking for people to fill permanent positions.

"They don't realize that permanent employees can be made of these teenagers, as long as they're willing to work around their school schedules when they go back to school," she said.

The program matches young people's skills and interests with employers throughout the county at no cost to the businesses or potential employees.

"The Governor's Summer Job Hunt is a vital link between classroom learning and actual on-the-job experience," Moya said.

She said participating employers will have the opportunity to provide mentorship to help youth develop skills with long-term educational and vocational benefits for the future.

"A summer job prepares them to learn personal finance, empowers them to make future career choices, and equips them with the skills needed to have an active role in their community," she said.

Moya said she hopes to offer students a variety of jobs, including clerical, customer service, labor and sales.

The participating employers will receive free recruitment and screening services, and the job applicants will get job listings, resume samples, interviewing tips and computer and Internet access, among other

services.

The program is open to any job-seeker age 14-21, and the positions currently available include full- and part-time jobs with wages ranging from \$6.85 to more than \$10 per hour.

After participating students are interviewed by a Workforce Center representative, the job counselor will help them match their skills and interests with a job opening.

When an appropriate match is found, the individual employer will contact the student to schedule an interview and choose the candidate that best fits.

Moya said economic circumstances are not considered for program registration, and proof of age and citizenship is required.

Job seekers interested in employment can visit the local Summer Job Hunt Office at the Fort Morgan Workforce Center, 411 Main St., or contact Moya at 867-9401 ext. 22.

Businesses that wish to participate may submit job orders to Moya by phone or by e-mail at www.dovie.moya@cwfc.net.

The Governor's Summer Job Hunt, which was established by the Colorado Workforce Center in 1981, has provided jobs to more than 220,000 young people throughout the state. The program received presidential awards in 1983 and 1993 and has been replicated in several cities throughout the United States.

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