

**SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM -
FINAL REPORT**

Southampton County, Virginia
Summer Youth Program-2010
Summary Report

Over the past several months Southampton County provided work readiness skills training through a partnership with Opportunity Inc. of Hampton Roads to local youth in our county. This program was made possible with funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). As the program name implies, this program invested in our youth while providing a local stimulus to the economy.

We hosted two participants this year, a young lady, Ms. Bianca Britt, 17, and an out-of-school youth, Mr. Claude Murphy, 23. Each of the participants also received work readiness training during the summer of 2009, making this summer a continuation of their previous training. It has been remarkable to see the growth in their maturity levels as the students learned first-hand the importance of arriving at their worksites on time, being respectful towards their co-workers, performing their assignments efficiently and communicating regularly with their supervisors.

Our program lasted eight (8) weeks, beginning on June 21st and ending on August 13th. Each participant earned \$7.25 per hour. Ms. Britt assisted in our custodial division of our Buildings/Maintenance Department. Her responsibilities included keeping the Administration Center building organized and presentable as well as providing general directions to citizens when needed. These tasks are important due to the numerous residents that utilize the Administration Center each and every day. Ms. Britt had the opportunity to be mentored during this time by our senior custodial employee, Ms. Anne Darden. This relationship helped Ms. Britt appreciate the importance of education and the opportunities for future employment. Ms. Britt will be graduating high school this year and is considering joining the United States Air Force.

Mr. Claude Murphy assisted in our Public Utilities Department this summer. As an out of school youth, he is aware of the challenges of finding full time employment, especially in a difficult economy. His responsibilities included lawn care services at our various facilities and performing regular maintenance on the equipment he operated. He earned respect from his co-workers and supervisors by maintaining a positive attitude despite all of the extreme weather this summer. As a result of his dedication and hard work this summer, his work experience training was extended an additional two weeks until August 27th. His future plans include finishing his education and training in heavy equipment operations.

Southampton County is very pleased with the progress that both individuals have shown during their respective summer youth program experiences. This program has helped both participants improve their self-confidence, improve their communication skills and has opened their minds to the future possibilities that exist in the world. To summarize, this program has increased their work readiness skills and increased their understanding of the characteristics necessary to be successful in life.