



# Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board

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“Building Partnerships for Workforce Solutions”

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## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HEADLINE: County Executive and DCWIB Chairman Visit Summer Employment Program Youth**

**Poughkeepsie, New York, July 31, 2006** – This afternoon County Executive William R. Steinhaus and Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board Chairman Thomas Sipos visited 10 youth at Children’s Media Project (CMP), 7 of the youth are summer youth employment participants through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds awarded by the DCWIB. These youth are developing ten TV shows for CMP’s DROP TV by developing storyboards, filming and editing the story for final production.

County Executive Bill Steinhaus enjoyed greeting the young people and quizzing them about their future dreams. “Summer youth employment programs,” according to Steinhaus, “provide the young people the opportunity to learn discipline, time management, writing skills, and working with diverse people – all portable skills as they advance in their education and career exploration. These programs also provide a safe environment for youth to be with their peers with caring staff over the long summer hours.”

The TANF Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) avails youth between the ages 14 and 21 of part time summer employment; the first workplace experience for many participants. Over the course of the six week program youth gain valuable hard and soft employment skills through hands-on work and career-based instructional opportunities while earning an income. Sipos added, “These learned skills will help the youth begin to form a foundation of work experience they can build on into adulthood.”

Worksites include a variety of profit and not-for-profit sites coordinated by the Cornell Cooperative Extension, Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-kill in conjunction with Martin Luther King Cultural Center and North East Community Center, Dutchess ARC, Mill Street Loft, Children’s Media Project, and Nubian Directions, the recipients of this year’s funding. Job responsibilities include everything from stocking shelves and washing dishes to harvesting produce and painting public murals.

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*Workforce Investment Boards administer federal funds for job counseling and training, and are advocates for workforce issues to help employers and employees improve their competitiveness in business.*

*The programs provided by this agency are partially funded by moneys received from the County of Dutchess, the New York State Workforce Investment Board and the New York State Department of Labor.*

*EOE/P, auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities*