

IN THIS ISSUE:

Annual Data from High School/High Tech Sites

Summary of High School/High Tech Data Collection for School Year 2001-2002

E-Blasts of Note Sent in September

- Next Generation Grants
- The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
- The Public Welfare Foundation
- RFK Fellows Program

HS/HT News and Announcements

- Secretary Of Labor Announces \$15.3 Million In Grants Supporting The Employment Of People With Disabilities

National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth)

1001 Connecticut Ave., NW, #310
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone: 877-871-4748
Fax: 202-872-4050

E-mail: collaborative@iel.org
<http://www.ncwd-youth.info>

This publication was prepared by InfoUse under the Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy cooperative agreement E-9-4-1-0070
<http://www.dol.gov/odep>
<http://www.disabilityinfo.gov>



Annual Data from High School/High Tech Sites

For the past few months, data collected from High School/High Tech (HS/HT) sites concerning the 2001-2002 school year has been included in the Bulletin to illustrate particular issues. In this Bulletin, we will present a summary of all the data collected during the 2001-2002 school year.

These data will help those of you writing proposals who want to discuss the breadth of HS/HT nationally. Others can present these data to potential customers (students, schools, companies, or employers). The number of HS/HT sites and the number of students being served may surprise some of you, while others may gain a deeper understanding of the breadth and dedication of the community doing work like your own.

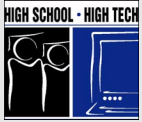
Summary of High School/High Tech Data Collection for School Year 2001-2002

Participating Sites

- 47 out of 58 sites reported (81%).
- Of the 47 reporting sites, 26 sites were developing sites, 15 were fully developed sites, and six were reorganizing sites.

Customers (Students)

- 1,629 students were served in the 2001-2002 school year by these 47 sites (averaging 34.7 per site).
- Males participated at twice the frequency of females (66.9% were males). Individual site populations varied from 28.6% male to 100% male.
- Almost one-third (32.4%) of the students participating were seniors; juniors accounted for an additional 27.1%. Two programs served only students who were out of school.
- Over half (53.9%) of HS/HT students were white non-Hispanic, while about one-fourth (25.5%) more were black non-Hispanic students.



- More than two-thirds (67.3%) of students had a specific learning disability. The next most frequent disabilities reported were emotional disturbance (6.9%), mental retardation (4.2%), and orthopedic impairments (4.2%).
- About one-fourth (23.1%) of students were clients of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), while nearly the same amount (23.0%) were clients of Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

Customers (High Schools)

- The 47 programs reported working with 278 high schools, averaging almost six schools per site.
- The range was from 1 to 20 schools for a site.

Customers (Companies)

- Forty-six programs reported working with 773 companies, ranging from 1 to 87 companies in a site. The most common industries represented were Education and Training (18.5%), Telecommunications (16.7%), and Health Services (13.3%).
- Altogether, 185 of the companies (25.8%) worked with HS/HT sites to provide career preparation activities.
- Most companies (69.3% of all companies) assisted HS/HT sites in Design Feature III: Work-Based Experiences, while 26.6% of companies assisted in Design Feature IV: Leadership Development, 25.6% assisted in Design Feature I: Career Preparation, and 14.7% assisted in Design Feature II: Connecting Activities.

Activities

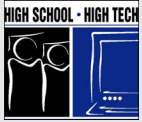
- Within Design Feature I: Career Preparation, 50.2% of all HS/HT students (818 students) received career assessment, 65.3% (1,064) received opportunity awareness, and 71.9%

(1,171) received work-readiness skills from the HS/HT programs.

- In Design Feature II: Connecting Activities, HS/HT sites provided linkages to workforce preparation to 44.3% of all HS/HT students (722), transportation to 36.8% (599), linkages to post-secondary education to 32.7% (533), academic tutoring to 11.7% (191), and assistive technology to 6.8% (110).
- For Design Feature III: Work-Based Experiences, HS/HT sites provided industry visits to 60.3% of all HS/HT students (982), job shadows to 29.0% (473), and paid internships to 20.7% (337).
- Paid internships averaged \$6.25 per hour for 20 hours per week for six weeks. The highest reported wage was \$9 per hour. The lowest reported wage was \$5.15, the federal minimum wage (seven sites reported this wage). The longest duration was 22 weeks. The longest work week was a full 40 hours. The shortest duration was three weeks and the shortest work week was four hours.
- For Design Feature IV: Leadership Development, sites provided goal setting for 44.3% of all HS/HT students (722), self-advocacy to 41.6% (677), role models to 24.7% (402), conflict resolution to 19.3% (314), leadership training to 18.7% (305), and mentors to 18.4% (300).

Outcomes

- One hundred and sixty-seven students had completed two years of the HS/HT program at the end of the 2001-2002 school year.
- Ninety-one students enrolled in vocational training after the 2001-2002 school year.
- Seventy-four students enrolled in two year colleges.



- Twenty-two students enrolled in four year colleges.
- Of those students who did not enroll in post-secondary education, 55 were employed full-time six months after the end of the 2001-2002 school year. Another 32 students were working part-time.
- The average monthly wage for those with no postsecondary education who were employed full-time ranged from \$800 to \$1,500. The average monthly wage for those with no postsecondary education who were working part-time ranged from \$200 to \$945.
- The average monthly wage for those with postsecondary education who were employed full-time ranged from \$900 to \$2,500. For part-timers, the average monthly wage ranged from \$200 to \$974.
- Thirty-five HS/HT graduates returned to be mentors for their HS/HT program.
- Fifty-four HS/HT graduates were hired by companies that helped the HS/HT program.

Resources

- Forty sites reported budget information. The total budget for all reporting sites in 2001-2002 was \$2,253,365. For 2002-2003, 38 sites estimated the total budget to be \$2,228,793.
- The average budget for the 40 reporting sites in 2001-2002 was \$56,334. For 2002-2003, the 38 reporting sites estimated an average budget to be \$58,652.
- The highest budget for 2001-2002 was \$298,290. For 2002-2003, it was estimated to be \$330,000.
- Employers were estimated to have volunteered 1,707 days in 2001-2002. Parents volunteered 362 days; board members volunteered 130; other volunteers added an additional 374 days.

E-Blasts of note sent in September

Next Generation Grants

The Corporation for National and Community Service announces the availability of approximately \$4,000,000 to award Next Generation Grants to eligible nonprofit organizations. The purpose of these grants is to foster the next generation of national service organizations by providing seed money to help new and start-up organizations, and established organizations proposing new projects or programs, to plan and implement new service programs that have the potential of becoming national in scope. These grants will fund innovative strategies to engage volunteers in service effectively, resulting in measurable outcomes to beneficiaries and participants.

The Corporation is seeking innovative models that fall under at least one of three service areas: programs that engage individuals in an intensive commitment to service in communities (defined as serving at least 40 hours per week), volunteer programs for seniors (age 55+), and programs that connect service with education.

Organizations may focus on various issue areas including, but not limited to, education, environment, health and human services, homeland security, public safety, or other critical areas.

Eligible applicants for this funding are nonprofit charitable organizations such as public charities, community organizations (faith-based and secular), private foundations, and individual schools. Applicants other than individual schools will generally have an annual operating budget of \$500,000 or less.

The Corporation must receive concept paper, budget, IRS form 990, and a completed Survey



Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants by
5 p.m. EST on November 17, 2003.

You can find more detail on this opportunity at
the following website:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/14mar20010800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2003/03-23525.htm>.

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation is accepting letters of inquiry for its Community Partners Program. The focus is primarily on issues related to children and families, civic participation, cultural life, educational and economic opportunities for all residents, and housing and community development. Proposals are accepted throughout the year and are reviewed on a rolling basis. For more information, go to the Knight Foundation website at

<http://www.knightfdn.org/default.asp?story=cpp/index.html>

The Public Welfare Foundation

The Public Welfare Foundation is accepting letters of inquiry from groups that provide services to disadvantaged populations and those working for lasting improvements in meeting basic human needs. The foundation makes grants in the areas of community and economic development, criminal justice, disadvantaged elderly and youth, environment, health, human rights, population, and technology assistance. Most grants range from \$25,000 to \$50,000 and may be for general operating support or a specific project. The application deadline is open. For more information, go to the Public Welfare Foundation website at

<http://www.publicwelfare.org/>

RFK Fellows Program

The RFK Fellows program in Washington, DC began its work in September 1997. Its goal is to empower and enable concerned young people - our next generation of leaders - to make a difference in the communities in which they live.

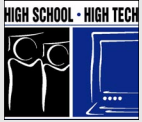
RFK Fellows work on specific projects that will do the following:

- engage young people in safe, structured, and productive after-school and weekend activities that develop an ethic of service and personal responsibility;
- assist community-based organizations targeting under-served youth in their efforts to offer needed services and broaden the impact of their programs; and
- reduce violence in the neighborhood by supporting community policing efforts and raising awareness about violence prevention.

RFK Fellows not only perform community service, but also receive leadership training addressing issues facing today's urban youth in under-served communities, as well as project-specific training.

RFK Fellows are also members of AmeriCorps, the President's national service program that provides thousands of Americans with education awards and stipends in exchange for a year or two of community service. AmeriCorps members receive a federally funded modest living allowance (augmented by RFK Memorial funds) and education awards that can be used to help pay off student loans or finance college, graduate school, or vocational training. Fellows also participate in a network of regional and national conferences and information sharing.

For more information, go to the RFK Memorial website at <http://www.rfkmemorial.org/>.



• High School/High Tech News and Announcements

SECRETARY OF LABOR ANNOUNCES \$15.3 MILLION IN GRANTS SUPPORTING THE EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Grants Promote Goals of President's New Freedom Initiative

Washington - U.S. Labor Secretary Elaine L. Chao today kicked off National Disability Employment Awareness Month by announcing the awarding of approximately \$15.3 million in federal grants that will support President George W. Bush's **New Freedom Initiative** goal of integrating Americans with disabilities into the workforce.

The department's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) awarded forty-two (42) grants, each ranging from \$50,000 to \$750,000, and totaling about \$15.3 million.

"This \$15.3 million in grants to 42 organizations will help to promote the President's goal of increasing employment of Americans with disabilities into the 21st century workforce," said Secretary Chao. "These grants will support a variety of initiatives, including assistance to homeless workers who are disabled so they get the training and housing they need, aide to youth who are disabled so they are more likely to find and hold jobs when they get older, and specialized outreach to workers who are disabled at local Career One Stop Centers."

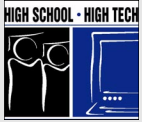
Secretary Chao added, "It is fitting that these grants are being announced during October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month. This is not only a time to recognize and celebrate the many employment contributions of Americans who are disabled, but also to focus attention on the need to increase employment opportunities of people with disabilities."

ODEP's Assistant Secretary of Labor, Roy Grizzard, whose agency administers the grants, stated, "These initiatives will go a long way towards supporting individuals with disabilities as they seek and maintain employment. Today's announcement augments ODEP's ongoing commitment to continuing grant and contracting initiatives bringing its investment in employment policy research and evaluation to approximately \$61.5 million since 2001."

Information on these and other Department of Labor initiatives are located at <http://www.dol.gov>. A list of grant recipients is attached.

Grants Awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy October 2003 Ending Chronic Homelessness through Employment and Housing Cooperative Agreements (\$ 3,121,686):

ODEP and its partners within DOL, the Veterans and Training Service (VETS) and the Employment and Training Administration (ETA), in cooperation with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), have designed cooperative agreements to increase and improve employment opportunities for chronically homeless individuals with disabilities through a local partnership with HUD housing providers. The goal of the DOL cooperative agreements is to enable persons who are chronically homeless to achieve employment and self-sufficiency, thereby preventing unnecessary institutional placements. The DOL awards to the communities listed below are supplemented by parallel HUD permanent housing grants. As a result of this coordinated support, ODEP will evaluate whether partnerships of employment and permanent housing services result to work in partnership with the workforce development system so that employment and housing services reinforce each other more



directly. These demonstration grants will begin or expand the delivery and implementation of "customized employment" strategies for homeless individuals with disabilities so that they may live, work, and fully participate in their communities.

Grant Recipient & Amount

Worksystems, Inc.
Portland, OR
\$625,000

Boston Private Industry Council
Boston, MA
\$622,912

Private Industry Council of San Francisco, Inc.
San Francisco, CA
\$624,823

Indianapolis Private Industry Council, Inc.
Indianapolis, IN
\$623,951

City of Los Angeles Workforce Investment Board
Los Angeles, CA
\$625,000

Working for Freedom, Opportunity and Real Choice Through Community Employment (WorkFORCE) Action Grant Initiative (\$1,717,036):

These grants continue ODEP's development and documentation of programs that address the capability of individuals transitioning from segregated environments, such as nursing homes and institutions to successfully participate in community employment through utilization of customized strategies. These three new grants will continue this effort, begun by ODEP in FY'02, to begin or expand the delivery and implementation of customized community employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities so that they may live, work, and fully participate in their communities.

Grant Recipient & Amount

WayStation, Inc.
Frederick, MD
\$620,646

The Arc of Tennessee
Nashville, TN
\$625,000

Columbia River Mental Health Services
Vancouver, WA 98661
\$471,390

High School/High Tech (HS/HT) State Development and Implementation Grants (\$1,586,396.00):

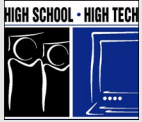
These grants assist states, working in partnership with the State Workforce Investment Board, in implementing a statewide HS/HT program, in integrating the HS/HT program into youth services funded under the Workforce Investment Act, and in ensuring sustainability of the HS/HT program through state-level management and coordination. HS/HT is career development program designed to provide high school aged youth with disabilities with an opportunity to explore careers or gain further education that may lead to technology-related careers. These programs provide both in-school and out-of-school youth with disabilities with year-round work-based learning activities, including corporate site visits, mentoring, job shadowing, guest speakers, after school activities and summer internships.

Grant Recipient & Amount

HS/HT State Implementation Grants

Michigan Department of Career Development
Lansing, MI
\$225,000

Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities
Columbus, OH



\$225,000

Delaware Department of Labor, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Wilmington, DE
\$225,000

Colorado Business Leadership Network
Colorado Springs, CO
\$224,990

The Able Trust
Tallahassee, FL
\$225,000

HS/HT Development Grants:

Bethany Public Schools
Bethany, OK
\$225,000

Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Rehabilitation Services
Baltimore, MD
\$224,997

Innovative State Alignment Grants for Improving Transition Outcomes for Youth with Disabilities through the Use of Intermediaries (\$3,856,557.00):

This grant initiative assists states to conduct resource mapping to assess their youth service delivery infrastructure in light of evidence-based transition operating principles. The grants are also intended to help states in: 1) developing, implementing, and evaluating a cross-agency multi-year state plan to improve transition outcomes for youth with disabilities through blending and/or braiding of federal, state, and community resources and the use of local intermediary organizations; and 2) conducting local pilot demonstrations to determine how, through community partnerships, intermediary organizations can best be used to ensure that youth with disabilities obtain transition services consistent with evidence-based operating principles.

Grant Recipient & Amount

Innovative State Alignment Grants

New Hampshire Workforce Opportunity Council
Concord, NH
\$500,000

State of Iowa, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Des Moines, Iowa
\$499,243

Vermont Department of Employment and Training
on Behalf of the Human Resources Investment Council, Montpelier, Vermont
\$499,131

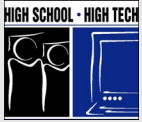
Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division Partnerships
Anchorage, AK
\$500,000

Minnesota Governor's Workforce Development Council
St. Paul, MN
\$500,000

Massachusetts State Workforce Investment Board
Boston, MA
\$500,00

California Workforce Investment Board
Sacramento, CA
\$500,000

Department of Local Affairs/Colorado Workforce Development
Denver, CO
\$358,183



Intermediary Grants for Mentoring Youth with Disabilities (\$880,710.00):

The purpose of these grants, representing a collaborative effort between ODEP, DOL's Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, and the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the Department of Education, is to build the capacity and knowledge of faith-based and community organizations to provide mentoring services to young people with disabilities through the funding of intermediary organizations. A substantial portion of the award will be sub-awarded by the intermediary to eligible local faith-based and community organizations to conduct mentoring activities including but not limited to adult and peer mentoring, e-mentoring, tutoring, job-shadowing, service learning, leadership development, and youth development. Grant funds may be used for activities that establish, implement, or support a mentoring program for youth with disabilities.

Grant Recipient & Amount

Partners for Youth with Disabilities, Inc.
Boston, Massachusetts
\$150,000

Oregon Health & Science University's
Center for Self-Determination (CSD)
Portland, Oregon
\$150,000

South Coast Business Employment
Corporation
Coos Bay, Oregon
\$149,967

Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago
Chicago, Illinois
\$150,000

Pangea Foundation
San Diego, California
\$149,677

Maine Mentoring Partnership, Inc.

Augusta, Maine
\$131,066

Customized Employment Grant Initiative (\$3,427,459):

The Customized Employment Grant Initiative, begun by ODEP in FY'01, provides funding support to selected Local Workforce Investment Boards, to demonstrate how the workforce development system can better serve persons who are significantly disabled. The Local Board will be the lead entity in a consortium/partnership of public and private entities, to build the capacity in local One-Stop Centers to provide customized employment services to those persons with disabilities who may not now be regularly targeted for services by the One-Stop Center system. Grants funded under this program will also provide a vehicle for Local Boards to systemically review their policies and practices in terms of service to persons with disabilities, and to incorporate new and innovative practices, as appropriate.

Grant Recipient & Amount

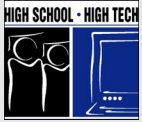
Chicago Workforce Board
Chicago, IL
\$750,000

Montgomery County Workforce
Investment Board
Rockville, MD
\$591,046

Workforce Investment Board of Herkimer,
Madison and Oneida Counties
Utica, NY
\$618,619

Genesee/Shiawassee Workforce
Development Board
Flint, MI
\$750,000

Montana Job Training Partnership, Inc.
Helena, MT
\$717,794



Home Modification Grants (\$700,000.00):

For people with disabilities and older Americans, an often-cited barrier to participation in work and community life is the lack of affordable home modifications, such as ramps, widened doorways, lowered countertops and cabinetry accessible to those who use wheelchairs. Through the President's Faith-Based and Community Initiative (FBCI), these grants facilitate a leadership role for local faith-based and community organizations to assist individuals with disabilities to remain in their homes, or to move into accessible homes. To coordinate this effort, ODEP is partnering with the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and HUD to promote the development of home modifications as a means to encourage the employment of individuals with disabilities. This unique partnership will allow the Federal government to promote both the spirit and the responsibilities of both the New Freedom Initiative and the Olmstead Executive Order, while concurrently recognizing the valuable community roles played by America's faith-based and community organizations. Moreover, these grants will assist individuals with disabilities to remain in their homes or move into accessible housing and thereby directly facilitate and provide these employment supports to further their opportunities to seek and retain employment and training in their communities.

Grant Recipient & Amount

Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers
Sierra Vista, AZ
\$50,000

CHOICE, Inc.
Arlington, VA
\$96,765

ASSIST! To Independence
Tuba City, AZ
\$100,000

Statewide Independent Living of Illinois
Springfield, IL
\$100,000

Disability Resource Center
N. Charleston, SC
\$100,000

Council for Disability Rights
Chicago, IL
\$100,000

ASSIST, Inc.
Salt Lake City, UT
\$100,000

Heartland Community Church
Oklahoma City, OK
\$53,235

The National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth is working to ensure that youth with disabilities can access high quality services that will result in future employment and independent living. The Collaborative will help to build the capacity of the nation's workforce development system and its workers to assist youth with disabilities. The Collaborative supports the goals of President Bush's New Freedom Initiative to integrate Americans with disabilities into the workforce.

As part of the Collaborative, InfoUse will e-mail a bulletin and grant announcements periodically to the High School/High Tech sites. The purpose of these materials is to provide the latest information on funding opportunities; to offer tips on grant or foundation proposal writing; to profile successes and innovations in High School/High Tech design features; to identify interesting industry connections; and to inform sites about significant program news and announcements.

The National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability/Youth is based at the Institute for Educational Leadership (<http://www.iel.org/>). It is funded through the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP <http://www.dol.gov/odep/welcome.html>). This content is provided for informational purposes only and should not in any way be considered or construed as official policy of the US Department of Labor or any other federal agency. For official policy directives and guidance, readers should consult with the appropriate agency.