

Tulare County Probation Department & Community Services & Employment Training, Inc. Institutional Summer Youth Jobs Program

In April, 2009 the Tulare County Probation Department and Community Services, Employment & Education (CSET, Inc) partnered to develop two youth employment projects located in the Tulare County juvenile institutions funded through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009. This unique project employs youth committed to both the Tulare County Youth Facility and the Youth Correctional Center, located in the Tulare County Juvenile Detention Facility. Funding allows for between 150-200 hours of paid labor per participant at \$8.00 per hour and will be paid upon their release from custody. Additionally, work permits were obtained from the school district and students earn education credits.



The Greenhouse Project is located at the Tulare County Youth Facility and employs eight juveniles working with a local college student who is also CSET employee. They have succeeded in renovating a dilapidated greenhouse and garden area by completing weed abatement, building greenhouse tables and benches, learning the basics of irrigation layout and plant growth. Additionally, this team is learning how to prune shrubs and roses properly, grow plants from seeds, transplant mature plants into the garden beds, lawn maintenance and the proper use of lawn equipment. These youngsters work an average of six hours per day, four days per week.



The Culinary Arts Program is located in the Juvenile Detention Facility kitchen and employs eight youth working an average of 26 hours per week under the direction of the Food Services Manager. Culinary Arts participants learn the basics of safe food handling, food cross-contamination and bacteria growth, the importance of cleanliness and commercial kitchen safety skills. They also learn to work as a team to meet serving deadlines for both the Juvenile Detention Facility and the Tulare County Youth Facility.