

\$[★]TIMULUS

Clackamas County program targets younger workers

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The \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will give local young workers another boost.

The Workforce Investment Council of Clackamas County has steered some of the \$805,000 in youth-targeted federal stimulus money it received to programs that help businesses attract and retain eager employees.

Money received by the Clackamas Technical Education Consortium, through the Workforce Investment Council, helped 19-year-old Alli Rose Kinnee, land a part-time manufacturing job with Oregon Iron Works Inc., a \$37.5 million Clackamas-based company.

The stimulus money also helped the council place 20-year-old Ben Barney in a part-time permanent special projects role with the North Clackamas Chamber of Commerce.

"We saw Ben could tackle any project we gave him," said Wilda Parks, the chamber's CEO.

It's not the first local program for young workers to benefit from federal stimulus money. The Portland nonprofit Worksystems Inc. previously received \$3.3 million to create summer jobs for 1,170 workers between the ages of 16 and 24.

Clackamas is one of several counties that have collected stimulus funds aimed at training younger workers.

Nearly 300 workers between the ages of 14 and 24 received job training and other services through the council's stimulus award.

Kinnee learning about safety, welding, blueprints and fabrication at Oregon Iron Works. Kinnee works at the plant Tuesdays and Thursdays and takes classes at Clackamas Community College the other three days. She's seeking a certificate in manufacturing technology.

"They're moving me around and training me in a little bit of everything," Kinnee said of her Oregon Iron Works experience. "But I'm really into the welding part of it. I really like putting things together."

Kinnee hopes to one day land a manufacturing apprenticeship.

"I've always had the idea I'd do something like this, but I'd never had the opportunity to do it," she said. "It's assured me that I want to follow this path."

• Barney is a sophomore at Clackamas Com-

munity College who's looking to gain a two-year degree in business management. During his time at the chamber, he helped plan a chamber legislative breakfast, worked on membership development projects and helped organize one of the group's evening events.

His work led the chamber to hire him to assist its transportation management group. In the role, Barney will help promote alternative transportation modes, such as bicycling, among area workers.

Barney hopes to eventually open a restaurant. He was diagnosed with liver failure six years ago and, in undergoing dialysis, found himself facing dietary restrictions. His restaurant will specialize in food for persons on special diets.

The job at the chamber helped him ride out the recession.

"The market's just horrible," he said. "I was very thankful to get a job."

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ECONOMIC STIMULUS 2009:

HELPFUL WEB SITES

FEDERAL WEB SITES

- Federal recovery site: recovery.gov
- Central contractor registration: www.pcr.gov/
- Catalog of federal domestic assistance: List of all federal programs available to state and local government and individuals: www.cfda.gov/

STATE WEB SITES

- State of Oregon recovery site: www.oregon.gov/recovery/
- Oregon State Department of Transportation (list of state and federal transportation stimulus projects): www.oregon.gov/ODOT/
- Key stimulus contacts and links to stimulus information within Oregon state agencies: http://oregon.gov/recovery/agency_links.shtml
- Oregon State Legislative Fiscal Office: www.leg.state.or.us/comm/fbo/ (information on the state stimulus package)
- State of Oregon office of Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business: www.oregon.gov/DCBS/OMWESB/index.shtml
- State of Oregon Procurement Information Network: How to register a business with the state to compete for government contracts: <http://srpn.oregon.gov>
- State of Oregon Department of environmental quality: DEQ has \$5.3 million in funding for environmental projects: www.oregon.gov/deq/
- State of Washington recovery site: recovery.wa.gov/