

EMPOWER MISSION

The mission of the EMPOWER Program is to empower young adults to make informed decisions by providing self-awareness, options, and accountability that lead to successful employment.



TO QUALIFY, YOU MUST:

- Be 17-21 prior to enrollment
- Meet federal low-income guidelines

and be either

- Basic skills deficient
- School dropout
- Homeless, runaway or foster youth
- Pregnant or parenting
- Offender
- Disabled

as well as

- Have all documents necessary to work
- Attend an orientation and a series of other workshops

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- Prepare resumes and cover letters
- Complete job applications
- Interview skills
- Refer to job leads
- Job retention strategies
- Career path exploration
- Local labor market information
- Childcare resources
- Assistance with transportation
- Paid/unpaid work experience
- Job shadowing
- Assistance to complete High School diploma or GED



EMPOWER PROGRAM
SERVICES THROUGHOUT
MERCED COUNTY

CONTACT INFORMATION

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ORIENTATION IS SCHEDULED ON:

September 12, 2008

November 7, 2008

January 9, 2009

March 13, 2009

May 8, 2009

9 a.m.—12 p.m.

Merced County Office of Education
632 W. 13th Street
For more information call
(209) 381-5920



Denise Karina Perez attended Le Grand High School where she graduated in June 2006. Denise learned about the EMPOWER program from her career planning class teacher, Mr. Ramiro Govea. He gave her

a brochure on the EMPOWER program and encouraged her attend the EMPOWER workshops in the fall of 2006. Denise was so grateful to attend the workshops where she had the opportunity to create an employment portfolio, practice job interviewing skills and learn how important is to create a first impression with a future employer. Denise enrolled into the EMPOWER program in January 2007 and then enrolled into Basic Accounting and Computerized Office Technology class. She admits that there were times when she wanted to drop the class, but with the encouragement and motivation that she received from her Advisor, Roberto Rivera, she was able to finish the course. On January 31, 2008, Denise received a Basic Accounting Certificate of Completion from the Merced County Regional Occupational Program and on February 3, 2008 Denise was hired as a full time Administrative Assistant at New Castle Family Health Care Center in Atwater.



Luis Araujo entered the Empower Program on June 19, 2007, a nineteen year old high school graduate who had attended college for a short time, and had very little work experience. Luis has dealt with on-going issues and challenges, but he never loses sight of his goal to become an Attorney. As

soon as Luis joined the Empower Program, he voiced some concerns to his advisor regarding his financial aid. A few phone calls to the college Financial Aid office were made and all the issues holding him back were cleared. Luis is now attending Merced College taking 15 units. Luis also had some challenges with the Justice System; he needed a fingerprint clearance to start his Empower Work Experience. Luis and his advisor spent hours on phone calls, sending emails, and even sent letters to the local Superior Court. All the time and attention to these problems helped to successfully clear all court related issues and Luis could now receive his fingerprint clearance. Luis was placed at a worksite here at MCOE's Media Center; assisting staff, stocking shelves, and learning computer programs. Luis now walks around the MCOE campus wearing a BIG smile on his face, and shows his gratitude to everyone connected to this program and his worksite. Luis says after working hard picking crops in the fields and in janitorial cleaning; he never believed he would have such a great job! Luis has applied and was accepted to attend CSU Stanislaus and has been enrolled since the spring semester of 2008.

THE EMPOWER PROGRAM CAN ASSIST WITH:

Basic Education

GED/ High School Diploma

Job Shadow

Career Technical Education

Work Experience

Workshops

(team building, interviewing, job survival, money matters, and more!)

JOB

EMPOWERED!

Designed by Juan Olvera, EMPOWER Participant



Lee Andersen

Merced County Superintendent of Schools

Merced County Office of Education

632 W. 13th Street

Merced, CA 95341



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Equal Employment Opportunity