

## SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SYEP) SUMMER OF 2009

- ❖ Over 125 youth were placed in more than 60 worksites across Penobscot, Piscataquis and Hancock Counties
- ❖ Youth ranged in age from 16-24 years of age
- ❖ Their homes ranged from Bar Harbor to Dover Foxcroft to Mattawamkeag
- ❖ Work experiences included both private and public sector jobs in the following areas:
  - Private: communications,
    - construction
    - tourism
    - retail
    - agriculture
  - Public: weatherization
    - healthcare
    - higher education
    - community agencies
    - green sector
- ❖ The goal of the program; to provide “real world” work experience, based upon their areas of interest and to couple this with Friday workshops which enhanced their soft skills and helped in areas such as resume writing, cover letters and work place standards
- ❖ Worksites offered
  - Specific skills training
  - Supervision/mentorship
  - Structured “real world” environments with priorities and deadlines
  - Weekly paychecks

- ❖ In school youth completed the program as of Aug. 28, 2009, but many of the out of school youth have the opportunity to continue on with this work experience, as well as to work on goal attainment for their futures
- ❖ We offered specialized training to 11 youth who took a week long course in weatherization and are now part of weatherization teams in the Tri County area
- ❖ We are currently putting together a 2<sup>nd</sup> weatherization crew specifically for Hancock County
- ❖ All participants were given pre and post assessments on their work readiness skills. All youth who showed an increase in these skills throughout the summer received a certificate. 93% of this year's participants received the certificate.
- ❖ End of year program was celebrated on Friday August 28, 2009 at Penobscot Job Corps in Bangor, and included Commissioner Fortman and representatives from Senator Snowe's and Senator Collins' offices, as well as supporting area businesses and organizations