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Summer Work Experience Improves Participant's Work Habits

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Labor provided 20-year-old single mom Char Green a summer work experience opportunity with Siouxland Libraries-Callie Branch Library in Sioux Falls.

Green was among nearly 800 young people, ages 14-24, who benefited from \$2.9 million in federal stimulus funds South Dakota received for job-training opportunities through the Summer Youth Work Experience program. The program helped them establish work histories, gain references, acquire new skills and build good work habits.

Green received her GED from Southeast Technical Institute in October 2008, but had switched jobs several times since. She needed to improve her work history and gain good references if she hoped to gain permanent employment in the future.

As a circulation assistant, Green was responsible for inspecting and shelving library materials, using a computer system for checkouts, updating records, sorting books and locating items for customers.

She also acquired skills related to interviewing, active listening, communication, time management, job retention and customer service.

Green's supervisor says she was a quick learner and was very pleased with her performance. There were no issues with her attendance, work quality or childcare. As a result, Green now has two professional references to use in her job search.

Green says it was a great experience and is now attending Kilian Community College full time. She would like to become a nurse and work in pediatrics.