

# SummerWorks Annual Report

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"The internship broadened my horizons"



"I got to learn how to use different office equipment"

"My supervisor was kind and always willing to teach"



**work.**  
systems

The Portland Metro Workforce Development Board

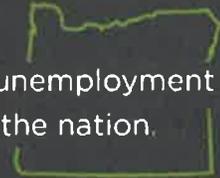
# WORK MATTERS. SUMMER MATTERS. SUMMERWORKS

A summer job is more than a paycheck. Young people today are **3x** as likely as their parents to be out of work. Investment in summer employment helps bridge classroom learning, gives youth experiences in a professional work environment and reduces the achievement gap attributed to summer learning loss. Moreover, it is a key component to creating the pipeline of homegrown talent employers need.

**#1** WORKFORCE CONCERN:  
**YOUNG WORKERS**  
Regional Manufacturers Survey 2012



Oregon has the **9th** highest youth unemployment rate in the nation.



## UNDERSTANDING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT



**1** youth ages  
**16-19** currently  
**4** has a job

**33,760**

**YOUTH ARE BOTH  
OUT OF SCHOOL &  
OUT OF WORK IN  
THE PORTLAND  
METRO REGION**

For African-American  
males the  
employment  
rate is even  
lower at **12%**

**YOUTH EMPLOYMENT RATE HAS DROPPED FROM 44% TO 26%  
OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS**

Oregon continues to experience unprecedented levels of youth unemployment-especially those who are low-income and youth of color. At the same time, industry is calling for new workers. Over the next ten years there are projected to be **50,000** replacement openings in critical local industries that need qualified youth.

## A JOB IS THE SOLUTION

Because research shows youth employment:

- ◆ Leads to higher graduation rates and increased college entry
- ◆ Develops critical workplace skills and connections with employers
- ◆ Contributes to regional competitiveness in the global economy
- ◆ Boosts spending in the local economy
- ◆ Early work contributes to long-term success
- ◆ Reduces likelihood of engaging in criminal activity
- ◆ Increases probability youth will have a job in subsequent years
- ◆ Reduces need to access other forms of public assistance

# THE MODEL—Learning & Earning

SummerWorks is a public/private partnership that supports youth through their first work experience. Youth need opportunities to learn critical workplace skills that can only come through real work experience. Even as the economy has improved, young people ages 16-24 continue to be locked-out of the job market. Missing out on these early work experiences can have long-term negative effects on future employment and lifetime earnings.

SummerWorks makes it easy for business and other community members to work collaboratively to address this crisis. SummerWorks provides a turn-key, coordinated system of training, screening, support and employer of record services that benefits both youth and employers:

- **Convenient & Cost Effective:** SummerWorks does all the upfront training and screening. In addition, as employer-of-record, the risk and expense of hiring youth directly is significantly reduced.
- **Productivity:** Youth come ready to do real work. All youth apply for the program and must complete a rigorous screening process, including 15 hours of work-readiness training
- **Staff Development:** Supervising a youth intern is an opportunity to develop the leadership and mentoring skills of frontline staff.

## THE RESULTS

**672 youth worked a total of 104,913 hours earning \$970,446**

### Outcome:

- **77%** of youth successfully completed (meaning the youth completed complete 80% of planned hours with positive supervisor evaluation)
- Over **90%** of SummerWorks "worksites" indicated the program is a worthwhile investment for their organization and would encourage their colleagues and other business partners to participate.

### Youth Profile:

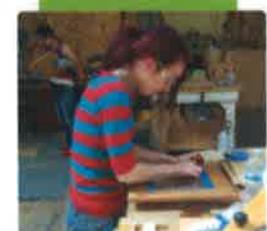
- **81%** Low income
- **74%** Youth of Color
  - **35%** Black/African American
  - **31%** Hispanic/Latino

### Youth Survey Results:

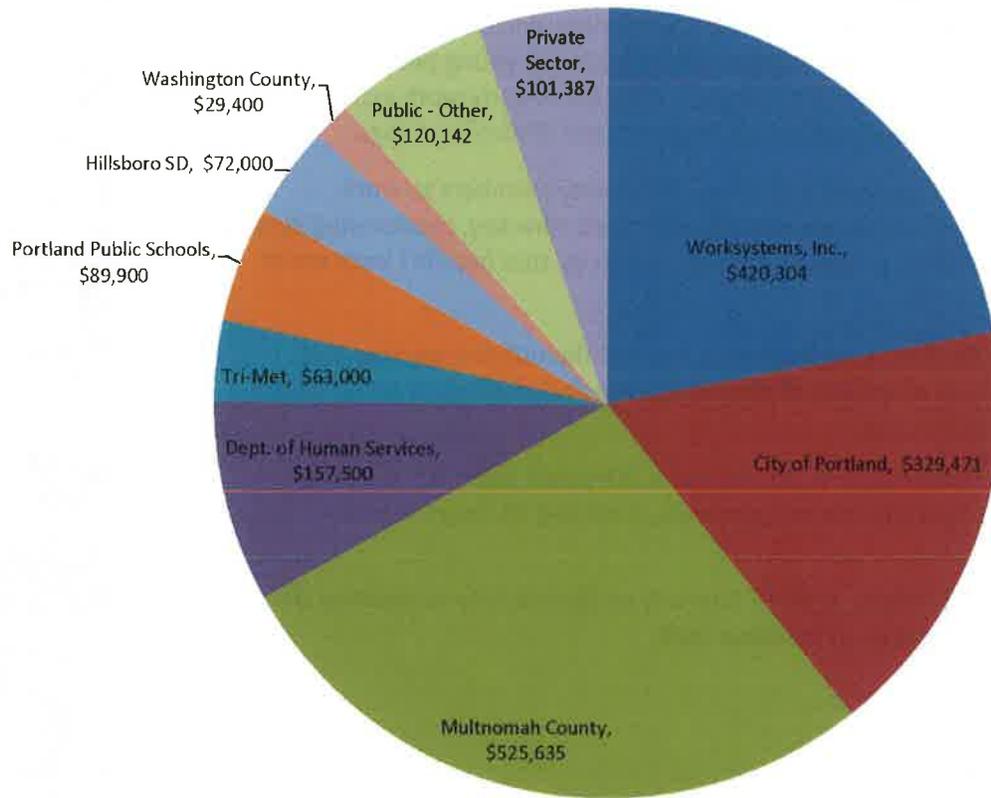
- **89%** Satisfied with their summer job
- **81%** Report Supervisor created a supportive work environment
- **77%** Reported SW Specialist supported their success on the job

### Post Program Plans:

- **44%** Returning to high school
- **37%** Returning or enrolled in post-secondary education or training
- **9%** Obtained employment



# THE MAJOR FUNDING SOURCES



Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors

## SummerWorks 2015 Sponsors

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## ABOUT WORKSYSTEMS

Worksystems, Inc. is an experienced non-profit that pursues and invest resources to improve the quality of the local workforce. Worksystems designs and coordinates workforce development programs and services delivered through a network of partners to help youth and adults get the skills training and education they need to go to work or advance in their careers.

Worksystems / 1618 SW First Ave., Suite 450, Portland, OR 97201 / 503-478-7300 / [www.worksystems.org](http://www.worksystems.org)

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