

MWCA Best Practices

WIB Name/WSA **Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council**

Submitted by **Eriann Faris**

Through the PIC's Outreach to Schools Grant we have been able to provide career exploration for Marshall East Campus Alternative School (Marshall, MN), Red Rock Ridge ALC (Windom, MN), and MN River Valley Education District's Alternative Learning Center (Montevideo, MN) juniors and seniors. The Outreach to Schools Program is a partnership between the WSA/LWIB/Youth Council and local educational agencies which addresses a major unmet need: a strategy for delivering effective career counseling and labor market information to the region's youth and families. Thus far for the 2008 year we have been able to refer eligible youth to the MN Workforce Centers in their area for work experiences and customized training, for example, two young females who are seniors at the Montevideo ALC have completed Certified Nursing Assistant certification classes. As well as spreading the word about our Workforce Centers we have also been able to register these youth on the MN Job Bank. It is clearly being explained that once the youth is off to college in any part of MN they are able to access the job bank to search for available job openings. Other career exploration criteria being done with the area (schools mentioned above) junior and seniors are career assessments, resumes, mock interviews, filling out job applications, and information on high demand/high paying positions in SW MN (by using the swmncareers.org website); college planning has also been made possible and easier for those schools' juniors and seniors, for example, filling out college applications, college essays, college scholarships, financial aid, and scheduling campus visits have all been completed. As the school year quickly approaches the end we have planned some field trips to businesses in the above mentioned schools' area and this staff member (Eriann Faris) will be doing some classroom activities focused on career exploration with the juniors and seniors while collaborating with the careers teachers/counselors.