

PRESS RELEASE

South Central Tennessee Workforce Board _ #8 Public Square, 2nd Floor _ Columbia, TN 38401
Phone: (931) 375-4201 Fax: (931) 381-7643

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Contact: Paige Liggett
Phone: (931) 375-4209
Fax: (931) 381-7643

Pulaski Youth Gets a Jumpstart to Her Career

The sounds of hairdryers and hairspray fill the air as 20 year old, Essence Gregory gets started on her first client of the day at TJ's Mane Attraction. Just a few short months ago, Essence began to think that this was the kind of work she would like to make into a career for herself. She began taking her required courses at a Cosmetology school , but was having trouble finding a job to pay the bills while in school. "I was in the Career Center in Pulaski, just trying to find a job...any job," Essence stated. "Luckily, one of the career advisors asked me if I would be interested in signing up for the summer youth employment program. They gave me a career scope test and it nailed my interests on the head!" Because of her interest in cosmetology, Essence was placed through the "Hire YOUth" program with TJ's Mane Attraction Hair & Nail Salon. "Working at TJ's really helped me in passing my state board exam."

The Hire **YOUth!** Summer Program has provided eligible youth ages 14 to 24 from Giles, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Marshall, Maury, Perry, and Wayne counties with paid workplace experiences at area businesses for up to eight weeks during the summer of 2009. These internships have given young people a taste of the working world, exposure to career opportunities and an understanding of how school is connected to economic success. The Summer Youth Employment Program has been directed by the South Central Tennessee Workforce Alliance.

Not only has Essence graduated from Cosmetology school, but she has been hired full time by TJ's Mane Attraction. "This is exactly what we want," Tonja Garrett, Summer Youth Employment Program Coordinator said. "For the youth to work eight weeks in a desired field and then be hired."

As the summer winds down and the Summer Youth Employment Program comes to a close, Essence begins the next chapter in her life with a new career and a great outlook for the future.

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