



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 17, 2010**

Contact:

Hanna M. Greer, Commissioners, 462-5848

Dan Williamson, Mayor's Office, 645-5300

Bridget Imwalle-Tyson, COWIC, 614-559-5067

### **Franklin County, Columbus and COWIC Unite to Give Youth Employment Experience**

Thanks to partnership among the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, the City of Columbus and the Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corporation (COWIC), 3,000 Franklin County youth will have the opportunity to get real-world job experience to develop the skills, attitudes and commitment necessary to succeed in today's work force.

Franklin County and the City of Columbus jointly will provide nearly \$6 million to support the summer employment program and participating youth, ages 14-24 years, will receive hands-on training in communications, office administration, construction, advertising, marketing, graphic design and green energy, while developing a credible work history for future employers.

"Investing in our youth is an investment in the future health and stability of all of Franklin County," said Commissioner John O'Grady. "We are pleased that this year Franklin County is able to invest over \$5 million to help area youth obtain the skills and hands-on experience which will employers look for when filling vacancies.

"Job creation is one of our top priorities, especially as we fight our way out of this recession," Mayor Coleman said. "I want to thank COWIC and Franklin County for their leadership as they join us to give thousands of young people a chance to grow and learn in a work environment and preparing them for a bright future."

The Summer Youth Employment Program kick-off this week features three mini job fairs; one in Westerville, Groveport and Downtown Columbus. Participating employers will be on-hand at the job fairs to meet with prospective new hires. Local businesses, organizations and governmental agencies will serve as host worksites for the Summer Youth Employment Program.

"Developing work skills and career knowledge is key to getting Central Ohio back to work. Over 3,000 youth will be productively engaged in summer jobs and that's wonderful, particularly in this economy," said Commissioner Paula Brooks.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to engage our youth this summer so they have a chance to earn some money, gain meaningful work experience and participate in a focused way towards achieving their goals," said Commissioner Marilyn Brown.

“Success of the Summer Youth Employment Program is due to the strong partnership we have with the City, County and local community-based organizations,” said Suzanne Coleman-Tolbert, President & CEO of COWIC. “This year, the summer “Workit” program is fortunate to have 12 partners including Goodwill Industries, Columbus State Community College, Godman Guild, H.A.N.D. and the Columbus Urban League,” she said.

Employment spots are still available. Franklin County youth who have had little or no income in the last six months and are between the ages of 14-24 should contact the Youth Services Department at 614.559.5037. Young people, ages 18-24 can also attend one of the following jobs fairs:

- Wednesday, June 16 from 10-2 p.m. at the Westerville Recreation Center, 350 N. Cleveland Ave.
- Friday, June 18 from 10-2 p.m. at the Columbus State Community College, Workforce Development Center, 315 Cleveland Avenue,
- Tuesday, June 22 from 3-7 p.m. Groveport Town Hall, 648 Main Street.