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PEPNet Honors Stellar Programs

More than 300 guests joined the National Youth Employment Coalition and the U.S. Department of Labor in honoring 27 youth programs from across the country at the eighth annual Promising and Effective Practices (PEPNet) awards ceremony in Washington last month.

PEPNet recognizes programs that demonstrate excellence in preparing youth for adulthood through community involvement, education and career development.

PEPNet winners say the awards help them offer potential funders proof of their achievements, bring them into a network of youth development programs, and enable them to serve as models and resources for other organizations.

"We are a small local program, so this is something that helps us get a national perspective internally and gain recognition in our local community," said Carole Smith, executive director of Open Meadow Alternative Schools in Portland, Ore., one of this year's winners. "It helps us step beyond the bounds of what we are doing on the day-to-day basis and gets people excited about new ideas, new initiatives and how to get better at what we do."

Following are this year's winners (asterisk indicates renewal winners):

- ACS In-School Youth Power Program, Sanford, Fla.
- Bank of America Youth Job Program, Seattle.
- Cassadaga Job Corps Center, N.Y. *
- Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services; Career Exploration Project, New York. *
- Center for Career Alternatives; Snohomish County Youth Programs, Everett, Wash.
- Center for Employment Training-Youth, San Jose, Calif.
- Civic Works, Baltimore. *
- Conservation Corps of Long Beach, Calif.
- Grossmont Union High School District Young Adult Program, East County Career Center, El Cajon, Calif.
- Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection; Hillside Family of Agencies, Rochester, N.Y.
- Ho'ikaika Youth Opportunity Program; Moloka'i Community Service Council, Kaunakakai, Hawaii.
- In-School Youth Employment Consortium; Seattle Human Services Department, Wash.
- Latino Stars Program; Near Northside Partners Council, Fort Worth, Texas.
- Los Angeles Youth Opportunity Movement; Los Angeles Community Development Department, Calif.
- Marin Conservation Corps, San Rafael, Calif.
- Mayor's Youth Employment and Education Program; Japanese Community Youth Council, San Francisco. *
- Moving Up Program, Vocational Foundation, Brooklyn, N.Y.
- Open Meadow Alternative Schools, Portland, Ore.
- Orange County Conservation Corps, Anaheim, Calif.
- Project Opportunity; Bryant Adult/Alternative High School, Alexandria, Va. *
- San Francisco YouthWorks; Japanese Community Youth Council, Calif.
- San Jose Conservation Corps and Charter School, Calif.
- San Jose Job Corps Center, Calif. *
- South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corp. Youth Development Center, N.Y.
- Texas Youth Commission's Project RIO-Y, Austin. *