



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

# MEDIA ADVISORY

**FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION**

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Contact: Tracy DeFore (619) 595-4627

## **FOSTER YOUTH GRADUATE FROM COUNTY WORK SKILLS ACADEMY** *They Have Acquired Skills That Will Help Them Better Qualify for Jobs*

- WHAT:** San Diego County Workforce Academy for Youth (WAY) Graduation
- WHEN:** 3:00 – 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 4, 2011
- WHERE:** County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 302, San Diego, 92101
- WHO:** 18 foster youth graduates, some of whom will be available for interviews; their Workforce Academy coaches will also be available.
- WHY:** Few of us are ready to support ourselves at age 18. For foster youth, it's even harder. They're trying to make the transition from foster care to independence but they're less likely to get a job than others their own age, and even if they do, few make enough money to be self-sufficient. The County's Workforce Academy for Youth (WAY) is trying to change all that. The program provides six-month paid internships in a variety of County departments. Each intern is assigned a Job Coach and a Life Skills Coach. The intern learns job skills for a successful career and how to handle their finances, matters of transportation, housing, health care and more. The WAY program started in 2006 and more than 100 foster youth have graduated. Many have gone on to obtain permanent jobs with the County or similar jobs.
- VISUALS:** Graduation ceremony for 18 foster youth

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