



# Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Employment Training Services Summer Youth Virtual Work Program

Presented by Cassie Williams  
Assistant Director WIOA  
Employment Training Services

## **TANF Directors' National Meeting**

Sessions: “Virtual Engagement: Motivating Participants and  
Providing Case Management in Tribal Communities”



# ***A Brief History of the Summer Youth Program***

## **The Original Program**

Started in the late 1970s

Approximately 200-250 youth

Ages 14-21

Native American youth

Non-profit businesses



## The Program Today

- Supplemental tribal funding added (1990s)
- Over 1,000 youth each year and steadily growing
- Ages 16-21
- Native American youth
- All businesses



# Summer Youth Program Operations

## Step 1- Recruitment

Newspaper Post  
Mailing postcards  
CNO Website  
Social Media

## Step 2- Summer Youth Counselors

Gather contracts  
Youth communication  
Site visits  
Gather timesheets

## Step 3- Application Process

Online Application  
HR process  
Job placement  
Orientation

## Step 4- Job Shadowing

5 weeks  
40 hours a week  
Training  
Mentoring



## **Adaption & Growth**

### **Step 1 – Recruitment**

**Newspaper**  
**Limited school visits**  
**Vouchers to school counselors**  
**Mailing postcards**  
**Mass emails**  
**Virtual Fairs**

### **Step 2 - Summer Youth Counselors**

**Virtual communications**  
**Gathering reports**  
**Grading assignments**  
**Workbook distribution**

### **Step 3 – Application Process**

**Online Application**  
**Collection of W-9 Forms**  
**Virtual Orientation**

### **Step 4 - Job Shadowing**

**5 weeks**  
**Up to 60 lessons total**  
**Virtual job shadowing**  
**Financial literacy**

# Topics Covered in Virtual Training

- **Goal Planning**
- **Education, Military, Apprenticeship, Employment**
- **College Finances**
- **School Comparison**
- **Scholarship Application**
- **Building Resumes, Cover Letters, and Professional References**
- **Personal Essays/Statements**
- **Interview Questions**
- **Career Exploration**
- **Productivity and Human Capital**
- **Understanding Credit and How to Build it**
- **Taxes and Paychecks**
- **Checking and Savings Accounts**
- **Saving for Retirement**
- **Loans and APR**
- **Budgeting**
- **Compound Interest**
- **Contracts**

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
Summer Youth Work Program

To whom it may concern,

I would like to thank everyone involved in the youth summer work program for the Choctaw Nation. It was a great privilege for me to be a part of the program. It was very educational and helpful for my future academically and financially. I will use the banking skills I learned from now on. I opened my first personal student checking account after finishing the program. The program also helped me realize that the career path I had in mind is one I plan to achieve through higher education. The money I receive for completing the program is budgeted for helping pay my down payment and taxes on a vehicle. I also just got a part time job and I used the interview skills taught in the course to help me get through that process.

I am so proud of my Choctaw heritage and to be a member of such a great nation. Thank you again for allowing me to be a part of the summer youth program. Everyone was very helpful and friendly.

Sincerely,  
Kenlea Vernon

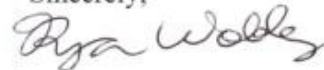
July 8, 2021

Dear Choctaw Nation:

I would like to thank The Choctaw Nation for allowing me the opportunity to plan and learn more about my career pathway. I am currently attending Murray State College and majoring in Communications. Through this opportunity I learned about all the many occupations related to the communications field. I especially appreciate Karen Burriss for all her reminders and help with the completion of all the paperwork for this program.

This was my last year of eligibility to work through the summer youth program. I just want to once again say thank you for the great experiences I have had these last 6 years.

Sincerely,



Ryan Wooley

Hi, my name is Alexander Lane Mclemore. I am a 2021 graduate of Arkoma High School. I am currently 19 years old, my birthday being April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2002. My whole life it has been me and my mom. Through thick in thin, we have been through it all. She has always pushed me to be the best I can be, to always finish what I start, and never quit.

My whole life I have attended Arkoma public schools. I have always been a top-notch student according to my teachers. Through elementary school I was in a class that was filled with soon to be drug addicts or high school drop-outs. Therefore I was held back to a class filled with excellent academically and athletically kids, I would be pushed by this class in all aspects no matter what. I would go on to finish top 5 in my class with a 4.18 GPA.

Now being graduated I have some short educational goals I want to accomplish. I am attending Northeastern State University in the fall as part of the President's Leadership Class of 2025. I want to graduate with at least a 3.25 GPA and have my degree in Health Education.

After college, I want to either become a coach for my former high school or coach for the Cherokee Nation. I love the thought of coaching a sport while molding the future for America. I also love the thought of exercising my Native American blood and work for the Cherokee Nation.

I have always been a discipline kid who worked for almost anything I have. In any point in time I gave a hundred percent effort even when I don't know the outcome. I will be a first generation college student and look to carry the Mclemore name with pride.

# Program Growth & Comparison

The Summer Youth Program has continued to grow despite challenges.

**2018**

- ***Total participants – 901***

**2019**

- ***Total participants – 896***

**2020**

- **Total participants– 1,038**

**2021**

- **Total participants– 1,107**





**Questions or Comments?**

