

### **California State Youth Council Awards “Architects of Change”**

Sacramento, CA. – On November 20, the California Youth Council Institute and the State Youth Council presented Ronda Adams and Gayle McLevich, representatives of the Yolo Youth Opportunity Council, with the “Architect of Change” award. The Yolo Youth Opportunity Council, YYOC, is one of 28 local Youth Councils around the state to be recognized for implementing the “All Youth-One System” framework within their respective communities.

“All Youth-One System” outlines what is needed for a community to offer effective, high-quality services for all youth. In an “All Youth-One System” community, the local Youth Council adopts a comprehensive approach to ensure academic excellence, provide career preparation, enhance youth development and support, and foster youth leadership. The YYOC has created and implemented the Yolo County Workforce Investment Board approved Work Ready Certificate program. The program helps employers identify students who have met a set of criteria and have demonstrated that they are ready to join the workforce. Another exciting YYOC achievement is the Annual Career Youth conference which is the culminating event for the month long Job Shadowing event. Youth leaders from the five school districts in Yolo County plan and conduct the youth Conference under the leadership of the YYOC.

“These local Youth Councils have shown real leadership in their communities, and have had a significant impact on the youth they serve,” said Steve Trippe, President of New Ways to Work, the managing partner for the Youth Council Institute. “Their innovative approaches to addressing the many needs of young people throughout California serve as powerful models for the entire nation.”

Ronda Adams, YYOC Chairperson, who accepted the award on behalf of the Yolo Youth Opportunity Council said, “The Yolo Youth Opportunity Council members are a committed group of individuals striving to ensure success for all students in Yolo county. We are proud to receive this award and specifically want to thank the high school students who serve along side of us.”

The award ceremony was held at the Delta King Hotel in Sacramento, in conjunction with a meeting of the State Youth Council (SYC), at which SYC members discussed state and local issues with the representatives of the 28 local Councils. Notable speakers were Dr. Jorge Ayala, Ed.D., SYC Chair and Superintendent of the Yolo County Office of Education, and Andrew R. Baron, Executive Director of the California Workforce Investment Board (State Board). Dr. Ayala and Mr. Baron presented the awards on behalf of the SYC and the State Board.

The Youth Council Institute (YCi) was established by the State Board in July 2001 to assist all of California’s 50 Youth Councils in creating comprehensive, local youth-serving systems. YCi is supported by the State Board and managed by New Ways to Work and the California Workforce Association.

For more information about the Yolo Youth Opportunity Council, contact Ronda L. Adams, Assistant Superintendent Yolo County Office of Education, (530) 668-3770

# # #

November 20, 2003

## List of Youth Council Institute “Architect of Change” Awards

City of Anaheim Workforce Development Division  
Foothill Employment and Training  
Fresno County Workforce Investment Board Youth Council  
Humboldt County Workforce Investment Board Youth Council  
Workforce Investment Board of Imperial County  
Greater Long Beach Workforce Investment Board Youth Council  
City of Los Angeles Youth Council  
Madera County Youth Advisory Council  
Marin County Youth Council  
Mendocino County Youth Council  
Merced County Department of Workforce Investment  
Napa Valley Workforce Investment Board  
Orange County Workforce Investment Board  
City of Richmond  
Riverside County Council for Youth Development  
Sacramento Employment and Training Agency  
San Benito Youth Employment Programs Council  
San Diego Workforce Partnership  
San Joaquin County WorkNet  
Santa Ana Youth Council  
Workforce Investment Board of Santa Barbara County  
Workforce Santa Cruz  
SELACO Workforce Investment Board  
Sonoma County Youth Education and Employment Services  
Tulare County Workforce Investment Department  
Ventura Youth Council  
Verdugo Youth Workforce Council  
Yolo County Youth Council

