NEWS RELEASE

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RACINE COUNTY YOUTH EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING PROGRAM KICKS OFF JUNE 21ST AT UW-PARKSIDE

Racine – The Racine County Workforce Development Center (WDC) kicks off its Youth Employment and Training Program at 8 a.m. on Monday, June 21, 2010, at an event hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Parkside in the Student Center Cinema.

Kick-off event participants will include Racine County Executive Bill McReynolds, Racine Mayor John Dickert, UW-Parkside Chancellor Deborah Ford, and a representative from Gateway Technical College, as well as other leading figures in workforce development.

Partnering with a dozen local agencies, including UW-Parkside, WDC developed a program that uses American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, along with local contributions, to provide “green” jobs to more than 150 young people ages 14 and 24 years at locations throughout Racine County and at the UW-Parkside campus.

This event begins the Youth Employment and Training Program’s two weeks of training, which emphasizes development of "soft skills" such as communication and teamwork. The program then transitions into six weeks of work experience at more than 25 work sites in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors.

The keynote speaker at the kick-off event will be Hasan Davis, Deputy Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice in Lexington, Kentucky. Hasan will provide inspiration to the young people and their mentors during his keynote speech. The event also features an

interactive exercise demonstrating the interconnections the youth will make as a result of their green work experience.

UW – Parkside is among the many community partners planning and implementing the program. Others include the Racine County Human Services Department, Gateway Technical College, the City of Racine, Racine Unified School District, Burlington Area School District, United Way of Racine County, Racine County Cooperative Extension Office, Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce, the Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Racine/ Kenosha Community Action Agency and the Racine Family YMCA.

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