

Youth Cultural Competence

Program Description

Recognizing that youth involvement, popular culture and positive peer influence play an important role in successful education and employment programs, Goodwill Youth Services has begun a new strategy called **Youth Cultural Competence**, a growing movement in workforce development to identify more effective methods of retaining, engaging and educating youth.

With Youth Cultural Competence, the goal is to make Goodwill's youth education and employment services more friendly to young people so they want to stay connected to Goodwill.

Youth Cultural Competence emphasizes future economic opportunities rather than short-term fixes and increasing the number of young people staying on the job and completing education programs. Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana is the only organization in the state currently implementing this strategy.

Current and former Youth Services program participants have been hired part-time as **peer support workers** to lead employment workshops, develop strategies to recruit more youth for services and work with case managers to improve programs.

This model will be presented at two locations: Goodwill's Youth Learning Center, 1635 W. Michigan St., and the Marion County Juvenile Center, 2401 E. 25th St., where Goodwill operates the Day Reporting Program, an educational and employment services for youth who are on probation.

For more information: Contact the Youth Learning Center at (317) 524-4333 or info@goodwillyouth.org