

Job Opportunities for Youth

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Question: *What could you or will you do to help create job opportunities for youth?*

We all know that about 31% of teens in New Mexico dropout of high school. It's a problem because teens are at risk for dead-end jobs, poor health, doing drugs, or joining gangs. The big question is: why are so many teens dropping out? Well, 47% of teens say that classes are not engaging, and some say that most classes don't help them with what they need or want to learn for their careers. 81% of dropouts mention that opportunities for real-world learning experiences would have improved their chances of staying in school.

Santa Fe News 2015:

“Another national survey has rated New Mexico among the bottom 10 states in a measure of prosperity, this time regarding the number of teenagers and young adults who are either working or attending school.”

“The Social Science Research Center, a national research group, released a study of “disconnected youth” in mid-June stating that nearly 5.5 million young Americans between the ages of 16 and 24 aren't working or attending school. That's nearly 14 percent of the nation's young adults.”

“New Mexico, where the rate of idle youth is nearly 17 percent, ranked 44th among the 50 states and District of Columbia.”

“In New Mexico, nearly 46,000 young people don't have jobs and aren't in school, the study found. In Santa Fe County, nearly 16 percent of youth are without work or current involvement with education. That's about two percentage points higher than the national average.”

Final Thought: In Santa Fe youth face a system that does not set them up for success in their working future.

Source:

Study: New Mexico's rate of 'idle youth' surpasses national average

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By Chris Quintana, The New Mexican

<http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/business/study-new-mexico-s-rate-of-idle-youth-surpasses-national/article_1d3fc5a6-a12d-5d56-9f8b-df0b94945d8a.html>