

San Joaquin County Office of Education

June 29, 2011

Congressman Jerry McNerney of California's 11th District toured the new green and energy efficient building renovation project of YouthBuild San Joaquin participants on Tuesday, June 28 at the school site in Stockton. He witnessed the exceptional work and progress of the students.

YouthBuild San Joaquin assists undereducated and unemployed young adults to work towards obtaining a high school diploma or GED while instilling construction and leadership skills, as well as encouraging community involvement. The 12-month training program secures apprenticeships as well as jobs within the construction industry for participants after graduating from the program.

The new building project includes green and energy efficient renovations such as rubber flooring made of recycled tires from landfills, and "cool roofs" that insulate the buildings by reflecting the sun's heat. During his visit, McNerney walked and talked with two YouthBuild graduates, interested in their experiences as well as the impact YouthBuild has made on their lives.

Since 2009, YouthBuild San Joaquin has received over \$2.2 million in funding from the Department of Labor, including a \$1.1 million grant this past May. Its successful graduate placement includes 25 students in college, 4 students working at Traylor Shea (Union Jobs), 4 in National Community Civilian Corps (NCCC), 47 AmeriCorps students, and 18 San Joaquin Regional Conservation Corps (SJRCC). The program currently has a waiting list of over 250 young people interested in joining the program.