



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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Contact: Eileen Force
414-286-8504

**BARRETT ANNOUNCES MPS TO FUND 300 ADDITIONAL
SUMMER YOUTH JOBS**

1500 teens now being employed through Mayor's Earn & Learn Program

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett thanked the members of the Milwaukee Public School Board of Directors for authorizing yesterday \$400,000 in funds towards the Mayor's Earn & Learn Summer Youth Jobs program.

The money will be used immediately to hire 300 additional teens to work at a non-profit or faith-based organization. The additional funding means that a total of 1,000 teens will start a summer job on July 1st in a community-based position. With the additional positions through MPS, a total of 1,500 teens are working either in a city internship, a community-based job or a private sector position this summer. More than 3,000 teens applied for a summer job through Earn & Learn this year.

"Teens across the country are struggling to find a summer job in a challenging employment market and I'm thrilled that Milwaukee Public Schools will join in my campaign to connect teens to a critical first job experience," said Mayor Tom Barrett. "This program makes a difference in connecting our teens to work skills and a path towards careers. I want to especially thank MPS Board Director Michael Bonds for his leadership in identifying these funds for the Earn & Learn program."

Mayor Barrett launched the Earn & Learn program in 2005 to give teens an opportunity to make money and expose them to job skills and career possibilities. The program, administered by the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board, creates and places teens in summer jobs with city government, community organizations and in the private sector.

Earlier this week 172 teens started their jobs in city internships and a total of 330 positions were created in the private sector so far. Mayor Barrett added that it's not too late for other companies to take on a teen. Businesses interested in hiring a summer youth worker should contact 286-5894.