



Agency Happenings

WSOS Participates in White House Summer Jobs Plus Summit



Panel at White House Summer Jobs Plus Summit

WSOS was one of two agencies from across the nation selected by the Community Action Partnership to represent Community Action during the White House Summer Jobs Plus Summit on January 4. The Summit

was a day-long event geared at developing strategies to help young people seeking summer employment. Kerrie Carte, WSOS development specialist, Kasey Peterson, a participant in WSOS's summer youth program, her mother Sherry Peterson, and her employer during the program, Oak Harbor Village Administrator Robert Pauley attended the Summit.

Kasey, a senior at Oak Harbor High School, enrolled in WSOS's summer jobs program in April 2011. She was placed in the Oak Harbor Mayor's office, serving as an administrative assistant for Mr. Pauley. Kasey worked on special projects, such as doing property research for economic development opportunities. "Kasey did a wonderful job," Ms. Carte said. "The Village of Oak Harbor would have liked to have hired her on if they had the money. Kasey loved working there too and wants to go back." Kasey will graduate this May and is planning to further her education by attending college.

During the Summit, the group heard talks from many cabinet members and business leaders, even President Obama. "We were very excited when the



President Barack Obama speaks at Summit

president came out. We didn't know he was going to be there," Ms. Carte said. "Kasey and her mom cried they were so honored to be a part of this event." The group was also able to participate in roundtables and share their thoughts and opinions on summer jobs programs, with each of them participating in different roundtable sessions. Ms. Carte was in a roundtable on working through youth barriers and recruitment of youth, Mr. Pauley was in the engagement of business and government roundtable, and Kasey and her mother were in a roundtable on engagement of youth.



From left to right: Sherry and Kasey Peterson and Kerrie Carte in front of the White House

After the Summit, the group visited Senator Sherrod Brown's office and met with his chief of staff who spoke with them for almost an hour about the reauthorization of CSBG and other local needs. They

were then able to tour D.C. and see some of the monuments. Ms. Carte said, "This was both Kasey and her mom's first time visiting Washington, D.C. and they truly enjoyed the experience."



Sherry, Kasey and Kerrie pose with rock star Jon Bonjovi, a speaker at the Summit