

# A Ladder to the Workplace

In today's forbidding job market, especially in the Delta, every advantage helps. Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center began working with a group of Marvell-Elaine High School students last month to give them a leg up on a career.

With a grant from the Foundation for the Mid South, BGACDC is working with 15 to 20 students a year to give them the skills to enter the job market and succeed. The School to Workplace Transition Program, which is patterned after a successful project in Chicago, will run for three years.



Instructor Tounya Sims works with students Sharice Fields and Web Abrams in the BGACDC computer room

"We'll be giving them the life skills they will need to succeed in college and the world of work, whether in private business, government or a nonprofit field," said Rev. Jerome M. Turner, youth and family services director at BGACDC. The students will attend Saturday sessions that will include both classroom and computer-based instruction, which will emphasize communication, interpersonal and job skills, prepare them for careers and lay the groundwork for constant self-improvement.

At the end of each school year, in May, those who complete 85 percent of the program will be channeled into paying summer internships with area businesses, government, and nonprofits.

Louis Bennett, Jr., youth and family coordinator for BGACDC, along with Connie Heart and Tounya Sims, will direct the program.



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