

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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RE: Community Services Consortium, Polk Youth Program

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## **CSC Youth Project with Local Partners Reconstructs Residential Sidewalks in Independence**

Independence, OR - This week, a team of youth from the [Community Services Consortium \(CSC\)](#) Polk County youth education program finished reconstructing a 75' x 5' strip of residential sidewalk, under the supervision of experienced staff and owners from [Allied Concrete and Drilling](#). This is the first in an on-going series of reduced-cost sidewalk projects for Independence homeowners as part of a collaborative initiative between CSC, the [City of Independence](#), [Willamette Workforce Partnership](#) and Allied Concrete and Drilling.

The sidewalk project is not only valuable work experience and educational experience for the CSC program students, and support of a local business, Allied Concrete and Drilling, but is also an opportunity for City of Independence homeowners to have their broken sidewalk fixed for a fraction of the cost, as they only have to pay for the concrete and avoid the highest expense, labor. As a win, win, win, this project has been celebrated by many and is already in plans to be mirrored in other nearby towns and counties.

The students involved in the project, Damion Dritchas, Jamaika Quiring and Peter Orozco were lead by CSC Crew Leader, Nichole Rose, and worked long hours for multiple days with the owners and staff from Allied Concrete and Drilling. During this time, they were trained in the steps of removing, framing, pouring and finishing sidewalk.

The CSC Polk County Youth Program has provided hundreds of local students with opportunities to learn a wide breadth of skills through hands-on alternative education. Some of the topics of focus include career path trainings, like this project, GED test preparation, gardening, culinary skills, 3D printing, laser cutting, entrepreneurship & marketing training, college preparation, financial literacy, résumé development and more.

“[These] students are walking away with the first step in job skills to go out and get a family wage and meet a workforce need”, said John McArdle, Mayor of the City of Independence, regarding this collaborative project. “This is a victory, not just for us, but for other places throughout the region that will benefit from programs like this.” McArdle concluded.

With the successful completion of this first project in the series, the CSC students and Allied Concrete and Drilling will proceed to provide this service for more youth and families across Polk County.

For more information about Community Services Consortium and their youth programs, visit the [CSC website](#). For more information about Allied Concrete and Drilling, visit their [website](#) or call (503) 623-7911.