



PHOTO BY ISAIAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A table fills with area students filling out job applications at a Youth Employment Institution job fair in southeast Portland.

Stampeding for Jobs

Hundreds of youth waited patiently in line to get their nametag and attend a recent Youth Employment Institute job fair held at the Refugee Community Organization center at 10301 N.E. Glisan St.

Representatives from 25 employers attended the April 20 event to recruit persons from ages 16 to 24 to career paths and let the potential workers know the future can begin with their company.

The employers said excellent opportunities for younger workers exist in entry-level positions in industries such as hospitality, food service, retail, call centers and the trades.

Optimism for Self Employment

continued ▲ *from C2*

business owners and the overall small business segment," said Hadley Robbins, small business segment manager for Wells Fargo in Portland.

Survey respondents also show tremendous confidence in expectations for their company's future growth on three key success factors: revenues, cash flow and job hiring. Expectations for growth over the next 12 months exceed

the performance from the previous 12 months on all three points.

Additional findings include 63 percent of minority owners reporting they are in a good position for retirement. Forty-three percent say their company has increased its overall productivity over the past 12 months while only 19 percent say it has decreased. Also, 85 percent of minority business owners say they would become a business owner again.

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