



# NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA • COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
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## Career and Education Expo Points Juvenile Offenders to Positive Paths

Young people who have had brushes with law enforcement have a difficult time transitioning into adulthood and have an even harder time finding employment. Exposing these young people to opportunities and resources that can help them evolve into productive adults is the goal of the third annual *Passport to Life Career and Education Expo*. The event is designed to provide ideas, tools, encouragement and hope for the future. A consortium of public agencies is presenting the event on **Wednesday, August 10, 2011** at **San Diego City College (1313 Park Boulevard), from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

*Passport to Life* is open to youth, 14 to 24 years of age, who are on probation or have a probation history. The event focuses on higher education and work-readiness skills, and brings employers and the youth together for one-on-one interaction.

According to Superior Court Judge Carolyn M. Caietti, "This is our third year of offering our 5,500 probation youth exposure to career and educational opportunities within our community. It is inspiring and heartwarming to hear the feedback from the attendees and their parents. Such comments as "*This is the best day of my life,*" "*I can go to college,*" and "*Thank you*" make the seven different agencies who collaborate in putting on this free event all the more motivated to continue working with our San Diego Probation Youth. Last year, 700 to 800 youth attended."

(MORE)

Chief Probation Officer Mack Jenkins says, “We know that the young people we supervise are much less likely to commit another crime if they get an education, develop job skills and find employment. Events like this can provide resources to get kids on the right track toward a brighter future, which makes our entire community safer.”

As part of the program, Food Network television personality, Chef Jeff, will share his own story of overcoming a criminal past. Multiple breakout workshops will follow Chef Jeff’s presentation. Workshop topics will include:

- First Impressions
- Landing and Keeping a Job
- Pathways to Completing High School
- Education Beyond High School
- Take Control of Your Financial Future

Approximately 60 organizations representing schools, branches of the military, careers, training services and other resources will staff informational tables and provide opportunities for one-on-one interaction.

*Passport to Life* is presented by a partnership involving the following organizations:

- San Diego Superior Court
- San Diego County Probation Department
- San Diego City College
- San Diego Workforce Partnership
- San Diego County Office of Education; Juvenile Court and Community Schools
- San Diego County District Attorney’s Office
- San Diego County Public Defender’s Office
- San Diego County Commission on Children, Youth and Families;  
San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency

***Note: More than 800 young people between the ages of 14 and 24 are expected to attend. Some individuals and their parents have signed media waivers agreeing to on-camera and print interviews.***