

# EWDD UPDATES



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News for the Week of December 11, 2017

## LEARNING TO FLY– EWDD FUNDS DRONE TRAINING AT EAST LA COLLEGE



*ELAC UAV Academy Students Keanu Paar (left) and Elisa Arauz (right) download an app to fly drones. Elisa is one of three women enrolled in the program.*

For 10 weeks, nearly 40 individuals spent their Fridays and Saturdays devoted to honing their math skills and learning three computer coding languages to learn how to program and fly Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), otherwise known as drones. “I never expected that the City and Community Colleges would offer a program as good as this,” said Oscar Vasquez, 23. “It’s offering more opportunities to explore different careers. It’s great!” EWDD funded the UAV Academy at East Los Angeles College (ELAC), offering an opportunity for qualified students to introduce them to an emerging key growth industry. EWDD and the City’s Workforce Development Board funded a similar program at the Boyle Heights Technology YouthSource Center earlier this year. Recruiting efforts for the program included a targeted push to encourage women to enroll in the ELAC

UAV program. Of the 36 enrollees, three are women, six students have disabilities and five students are veterans, said Jessica Espinoza, Business Services Coordinator at ResCare, the EWDD partner running the Boyle Heights/East LA WorkSource Center. “It’s not zero women, which is a step in the right direction,” she said. For several students the UAV Academy represents an opportunity for a career change in an up-and-coming field. “I clean houses for a living and I wanted a change, something different,” said Abigail Espinoza, 27. “I feel like if I could do a good job, it will be a life changing experience.” Abigail added that there are challenges with being

one of the few females in the course, but she is positive that women can succeed in STEM careers. “I just want the next generation of women to know they can do anything they put in their mind,” she said. “If you are a woman, you can accomplish anything.” Abigail also receives moral support from her husband Kelvin Guirre, who is also enrolled in the class. Kelvin said he appreciates that the City offers the program free of charge and it’s an important opportunity for the local community. “I’m really into technology. I like a lot about drones,” Kelvin said. “It’s going to be the future.” Kelvin, 25, is also studying civil engineering at Los Angeles Valley College and thought the class would be good training, especially since



*ELAC UAV Academy students Abigail Espinoza (left) and Kelvin Guirre (right) prepare to fly drones.*

organizations such as the LAPD are using drone technology. Students learned the computer programming languages Arduino, Python and JavaScript and flew three different types of drones: Parrot AR.Drone 2.0, 3DR Solo and DIY drones they could build themselves. “Fortunately, we only had two crashes,” said UAV Academy instructor Sangbum “Sam” Choi. “Students learn from these things. If they don’t have failure, there is no success. Crashes are OK as long as you don’t get hurt.” The class introduces students to hobby-level drones, an experience that will allow them to decide if they want to pursue drone-related jobs in film, photography and real estate, he said. Student Keanu Paar said he was excited he learned three programming languages and experienced being a ‘Pilot in Command’. “It’s hands on experience in a field that is about to blow up,” he said. “It’s great.” Keanu, 25, is currently homeless and said he appreciated the Boyle Heights/East LA WSC and ELAC for giving him the resources to attend the class and help him succeed. Keanu said he is earning credits to transfer to CSU Los Angeles or CSU Long Beach and hopes to someday work for the City’s Department of Water and Power. In the meantime, Keanu said the program gave him an opportunity that he did not think was possible. “For people who can’t afford these things, we realize hey, we can do this. It’s not out of our reach,” Keanu said. “We’re pretty good at it too.”

## VERNON-CENTRAL/LATTC WSC HELPS CLIENT FIND A JOB AND REBUILD CREDIT



*Flora Gibson (left) received financial empowerment training from CRCD Senior Financial Coach Treasure Owens (right)*

Flora Gibson recently attended a Financial Empowerment Workshop at the Vernon-Central WorkSource Center at Los Angeles Trade Technical College (LATTC), where staff helped her find a job and taught her how to rebuild her credit. Flora wanted to learn how to deal with creditors and how employers view the credit of potential new hires. Working with Senior Financial Coach Treasure Owens, Flora began rebuilding her credit while looking for work. After two months, Flora was placed at a job and was approved for a Capital One Secured Credit Card that will help her establish credit. The Vernon-Central/LATTC WSC also helped Flora enrolled in the SaverLife program, where for six months she will receive matching funds for

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each dollar she saves. Flora also received coaching on saving for emergencies and establishing good saving habits by recording spending triggers. The Vernon-Central/LATTC WSC staff, run by EWDD partner Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCDD), said they are dedicated to helping clients remain positive during their job hunts and helping them reach successful outcomes.

## ALL HANDS ON DECK – EWDD STAFF ASSIST HOMELESS SERVICES JOB FAIR



*EWDD partners and staff provided resume and interview coaching to more than 700 people attended the Homeless Services Job Fair.*

EWDD's Workforce Development Division and partners came out in force to staff Mayor Eric Garcetti's first-ever Homeless Services Job Fair, with several WorkSource Centers offering jobs, resume review and interview coaching to the 753 job seekers in attendance. EWDD General Manager Jan Perry attended the event, expressing thanks to EWDD partners who helped with set-up and provided job coaching to applicants. "EWDD is proud to have been a part of this initiative to find and hire qualified individuals who will treat LA's homeless population with dignity and care, and provide the support and services they need," Jan said. The first-time event had a great turnout said Pamela Paige, Workforce Development and

Section 3 Manager at the Watts/Los Angeles WorkSource Center, whose staff helped with setting up the job fair, along with resume and interview coaching. The job fair "showed people who are homeless or in shelters that the City cares about them," Pamela said. "There was a lot of good customer service provided. I think it should be done every six months."

## CENTRAL WEST BSC HELPS ENTREPRENEUR OPEN 2<sup>ND</sup> VEGAN ICE CREAM SHOP

The Central West Los Angeles BusinessSource Center assisted entrepreneur Foulay Saelor in securing a \$100,000 Small Business Administration Community Advantage loan, allowing him to expand his Bengee's Ice Cream business and open a second location in Echo Park. Foulay opened the first Bengee's in Pasadena in 2015 to much fanfare, receiving a mention in Los Angeles Magazine and a feature in Eater Los Angeles that raved about its variety of vegan flavors (including Thai tea and Café No Lait). Still, even with publicity and Foulay's full time commitment to the business, he encountered challenges with cash flow, a common issue for small business start-ups. In the summer of 2017, Foulay met with a loan counselor at the Central West LABSC. The counselor conducted a financial analysis of Foulay's cash flow and the business. With the counselor's help, Foulay applied and was approved for a \$100,000 SBA loan in October 2017. The new Bengee's opened at 2134 W. Sunset Blvd. in early November, creating five to eight new job opportunities.



*Yo quiero Bengee's Ice Cream! EWDD helped Foulay Saelor open a 2nd location in Echo Park. Photo courtesy of @yolandi\_eats\_la*

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## BIOTECH BRIDGE ACADEMY TRAINS GRADUATES FOR MANUFACTURING CAREERS



*Biotech Bridge Training Academy students celebrated their recent graduation from the program and are now prepared for careers in biomanufacturing.*

A dozen students recently graduated from the Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC) Biotech Bridge Training Academy and are in the midst of interviews for jobs that will launch their careers in biomanufacturing. “One of the most inspiring aspects of this training academy is that the students are all in it together,” said graduate Joyce Thomas. “Bonds have been formed among strangers who are now friends and colleagues.” The six-week intensive training program, run by EWDD partner LAVC, teaches individuals, who have experienced a period of unemployment, technical and workforce readiness skills that allow them to transition into new

careers in biomanufacturing. Approximately 87 percent secure employment following the training, according to LAVC staff. The Biotech Bridge Academy is offered at no-cost to eligible individuals and is part of the LAVC Workforce Strategy Center, a pilot model where curricula are designed around an employer’s need, thereby strengthening hiring opportunities for students once they have completed training. In addition to Biotechnology, the center offers free training in Advanced Manufacturing and Transportation, also high-growth sectors in the Greater LA area. The graduates were a diverse group of people with a variety of educational levels and backgrounds in industries ranging from IT to health care to the film industry. During the ceremony, Dr. Doug Marriott, LAVC Dean of Community/Adult Education and Workforce Development, gave LAVC Challenge Coins to graduates and veterans Erwin Gregorio and Peter Depaz, medallions traditionally given to military members in recognition of achievements and to honor their service. All graduates interviewed with LAVC employer partner Grifols Biologicals. The next Biotech Bridge Training begins January 22, 2018. For more info, call (818) 947-2941 or [click here](#).



*Los Angeles Valley College Challenge Coins*

BUSINESS METRICS:

<b>LABSCs Reporting:</b>	North Valley, West Valley, South Valley, South LA, East LA, Mid City, Central West, Hollywood and Harbor
Pre-Startups Enrolled	15
Pre-Startups Assisted	18
Start-ups/Operating Businesses Enrolled	19
Start-ups/Operating Businesses Assisted	22
Workshops: Number of Clients Attended	117

WORKFORCE METRICS:  
(arrows indicate weekly trend)

**JobsLA (online and mobile)**



102,980  
Page Views

2.8%



31.8%  
New Visitors

2.4%



4,713  
New Sessions

2.9%



532  
Registrations

20%

**WorkSource Centers**



576  
Enrollments

20%

“Updates” is produced by EWDD’s communications department. If you have questions, comments or wish to contribute to an upcoming “Updates,” please contact Jamie Francisco at (213) 744-9048 or [Jamie.Francisco@lacity.org](mailto:Jamie.Francisco@lacity.org)