News for the Week of April 8, 2019

DOWNTOWN/PICO UNION WSC HELPS STUDENT PURSUE DREAM CAREER

The Downtown/Pico Union WorkSource Center recently provided funding for Tomas Luna to pursue his studies as a medical assistant, and finally take steps toward achieving his dream of working in the medical field. Tomas had gone to medical school for two years in his home country of Mexico and he had also completed training as a Lab Technician before moving to the United States. However, in the United States, Tomas had worked in Quality Control for a meat company for 20 years, and prior to that, he had worked as a lifeguard and a swimming instructor for Los Angeles County. In 2016, Tomas started studying English as a Second Language (ESL) at Evans Community Adult School. In 2018, Tomas participated in an Integrated Education and Training (IET) course which focused on First Aid that reminded him of his drive to help people to live healthier lives and how he had always wanted to work in the medical field. After completing the IET class, he decided to enroll in the Medical Assistant program at Evans. Tomas said that English was his
The Vernon-Central/Los Angeles Technical Trade College (LATTC) WorkSource Center, in partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Division of Adult and Career Education (DACE), helped Tia Kirk recently complete the Computer Operator Clerk program at East Los Angeles Occupational Center. “There are a lot people all working toward similar life goals and willing to help each other,” she said. “I’m really grateful and thankful to have had this opportunity.” The program included a series of three Microsoft Office courses, providing Tia with the qualifications to obtain a job as a clerk or secretary in an office setting. Her projected starting income ranges from $12 to $18 per hour, with benefits, in a field that is projected to grow approximately 10 percent by 2024, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Tia’s training was a direct result of the partnership between EWDD and the LAUSD DACE program. Launched in March 2017, LAUSD has onsite Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Navigators at the City’s 16 WSCs to help facilitate WSC clients to adult education programs.

Tia’s career coach at the Vernon-Central/LATTC WSC connected her with a WIOA Navigator, who steered Tia toward the LAUSD DACE Abram Friedman Occupational Center and a Career and Technical Advisor at East Los Angeles Occupational Center (also an LAUSD DACE campus), which led her to the program. During her training, Tia gained valuable knowledge about operating computer applications commonly used in offices and business. Since completing the program, Tia has pursued several employment leads. She has also started taking evening classes to earn her high school diploma at the Jefferson Campus of Abram Friedman Occupational Center located near her home.
NORTHEAST VALLEY YSC CELEBRATES RENOVATED FACILITY WITH RIBBON CUTTING

Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez (center) addresses the crowd at the Northeast Valley YouthSource Center ribbon cutting March 30, 2019.

The Northeast San Fernando Valley YouthSource Center in Pacoima celebrated the renovation of its facility with a ribbon cutting ceremony March 30, 2019. Staff from the City of Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) and Bureau of Engineering attended the event, hosted by EWDD partner Youth Policy Institute (YPI), which oversees the YouthSource Center. The center is one of 14 YouthSource Centers in LA’s underserved communities that offer education and career opportunities for youth between the ages of 14 to 24 who are neither in school or working. A sampling of services include: case management, academic support, college and career exposure, personal and professional development and supportive services.
LA:RISE – HOW SOCIAL ENTERPRISES HELPS INDIVIDUALS REJOIN WORKFORCE

This week, EWDD Updates highlights two LA:RISE success stories. EWDD is a leadership team partner of LA:RISE, an innovative, collaborative partnership that unites the City and County of Los Angeles’ Workforce Development System (WDS) with non-profit social enterprises and for profit employers to help men and women with high barriers to employment get good jobs and stay employed. The City’s WorkSource Centers and LA:RISE prioritize individuals recently released from prison, the unsheltered or those at risk of homelessness, and youth ages 18-24 who are neither in school or working. After working in a transitional job at a social enterprise and leveraging training and services from the WorkSource Center, LA:RISE participants are placed at jobs in the private sector, in public-sector jobs in the City of LA, or in vocational training programs.

LA:RISE PARTICIPANT EARNS NURSING ASSISTANT CERTIFICATE, LOOKS AHEAD

“Don’t let barriers hold you back from succeeding,” said Sharnise, a participant at LA:RISE partner Homeboy Industries who was recently certified as a nursing assistant. “In life if you mess up, you still have a chance to fix your mistakes.” With the help of Homeboy Industries, Sharnise is striving to live out that ethos and set an example for her children. Prior to joining Homeboy Sharnise spent time in jail and faced a challenging background. Scared to pursue her education, she felt stuck in life and unable to do what she needed to succeed. After learning about Homeboy Industries while serving time, Sharnise decided to join the program to work on her job skills. Sharnise worked on improving her communication skills, staying focused, and listening to authority figures. Aside from gaining customer service skills and on-the-job experience at Homeboy Bakery, and no longer hindered by her past, Sharnise now has her sights set on the future and hopes to get a job as a nursing assistant. “Homeboy prepared me to not be afraid of anything,” Sharnise said. “I’ve learned to let my past go, to accept people for who they are, and to open up to people. I’ve learned to move on.”
LA:RISE PARTICIPANT FINDS FULL TIME WORK, VOLUNTEERS TO HELP HOMELESS

Eager to join the workforce after facing several barriers to employment, including chronic homelessness, Stephany enrolled in LA:RISE and joined Chrysalis. After completing a job readiness program, she was referred to Chrysalis’ Staffing Agency and quickly hired as an e-commerce associate at Goodwill. Five months later, Stephany secured a full-time job. Stephany has continued to check in with her employment specialist at Chrysalis by updating her resume with new work experience, communicating her progress in driving school, and working on computer skills. Outside of work, Stephany volunteers to support individuals facing homelessness and has a long-term goal opening a homeless shelter for youth.
BUSINESS METRICS: *DUE TO UPCOMING REPORTING CHANGES, FIGURES ARE UNAVAILABLE THIS WEEK*

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<th>LABSCs Reporting: North Valley, West Valley, South Valley, South LA, East LA, Mid City, Central West, Hollywood and Harbor</th>
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<tr>
<td>Microenterprise enrolled</td>
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<td>Microenterprise assisted</td>
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<td>Small businesses assisted</td>
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<td>Number of BSC clients who attended workshops</td>
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WORKFORCE METRICS: *(arrows indicate weekly trend)*

CalJobs *(online and mobile)*

589 Registrations
3% 🔻

WorkSource Centers

1,333 Enrollments
10% 🔻

"Updates" is the weekly report from the EWDD Interim General Manager to the Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti, and is produced by EWDD’s communications section. If you have questions, comments or wish to have a contribution considered for an upcoming "Updates," please contact Jamie Francisco at (213) 744-9048 or Jamie.Francisco@lacity.org