News for the Week of April 24, 2017

YOUTH SOURCE CENTERS DRAW FUTURE CITY EMPLOYEES TO RECRUITING EVENT

Dressed in their best interview attire, students from nine of the City of Los Angeles’ 13 YouthSource centers attended Engage LA: Pathways to Public Service, an event held Tuesday April 25 to encourage young people in LA to join the City of Los Angeles’ workforce. The event drew more than 150 students from the YouthSource and FamilySource Systems, LAUSD, and Alliance College-Ready charter schools to teach them about civil service employment opportunities and core City youth development programs like Hire LA’s Youth and LA College Promise. Held at Getty House, the official residence of Mayor Eric Garcetti, students participated in interactive games and were exposed to 15 City Departments and bureaus projected to have a high number of vacancies in the next few years. Participating departments ranged from the Bureau of Engineering to Los Angeles World Airports. An estimated 46 percent of the City’s workforce is eligible to retire in 2018 and the program is part of a wider response to Mayor Garcetti’s Executive Directive No. 15, which calls for the recruitment, hiring and training of a new generation of public service employees, especially those with skills for the 21st century.

WEST VALLEY BUSINESSSOURCE CENTER HELPS ENTREPRENEUR OPEN RESTAURANT

After years of working for others in the restaurant business, Jorge Castillo fulfilled a long-held dream of opening his own restaurant and being able to say, “I am the owner of this business.” With the help of the West Valley BusinessSource Center (WVBSC), along with help from family and friends, Mr. Castillo opened “El Antojo” in January 2017. Mr. Castillo has since hired two employees for his Northridge-based restaurant and is planning to hire more once business picks up. WVBSC organized a Grand Opening and ribbon cutting ceremony in a show of support and will continue assisting Mr. Castillo on an ongoing basis. Attendees included Quentin
Strode, President and CEO of the Valley Economic Development Center, Mayor Eric Garcetti’s West Valley representative Kevin Taylor, Ruth Garcia-Corrales of the West Valley Business Source Center and Sylvia Perez of the Great Streets Initiative.

**EWDD REPRESENTS WORKFORCE ISSUES AT CLEAN TECH FORUM**

The SED2017 Clean Tech Forum brought together state agencies, tech firms and workforce groups to find solutions to ‘green tech’ access barriers. From left, Samuel Diaz of the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research, EWDD General Manager Jan Perry, Alisa Burger of the Center for Sustainable Energy, Rory Cox of the California Public Utilities Commission and Sherri Pitman from CalCEF.

Economic and Workforce Development Department General Manager Jan Perry spoke on workforce barriers in the clean tech industry as part of the 2017 Sustainable Earth Decathlon (SED2017) Clean Tech Forum. Held at the Los Angeles CleanTech Incubator (LACI) on April 26-28, Ms. Perry participated in two panels. The first panel covered access barriers to ‘Green Tech’ in emerging communities while the second panel explored strategies to promote STEM education and tech incubation. The event was sponsored by CYPHER (Conscious Youth Promoting Health and Environmental Resilience), an incubator of grass roots clean tech. Other panel attendees included representatives from the California Public Utilities Commission, Center for Sustainable Energy, Low Income Oversight Board and Studica. Ms. Perry emphasized EWDD’s efforts, through its WorkSource, BusinessSource and YouthSource centers to provide clean tech career training in LA’s disaffected communities and pair workers with clean tech employers. “People with opportunities for education, they’ll be fine no matter what,” she said. “It’s our responsibility to reach back and make sure our community is not left behind.”

**SOLAR CAREER FAIR HIGHLIGHTS GREEN TECH CAREERS**

Hundreds of people interested in careers in the Solar Industry attended the GRID Alternatives Solar Career Fair at Los Angeles Trade Technical College (LATTTC) on April 27. EWDD General Manager Jan Perry delivered opening remarks welcoming job seekers and highlighted how the EWDD is working with employers such as GRID Alternatives to provide more training to LA’s disaffected communities in order to explore “green tech” careers. GRID Alternatives is a national non-profit that installs solar panels at no-cost for families in underserved communities. In LA, GRID Alternatives has trained 814 volunteers to install solar systems, which resulted in the installation of 203 systems in low-income households. More than 70 trainees ultimately found permanent jobs in the solar industry. Earlier this year, GRID Alternatives established a partnership with the Los Angeles Regional Initiative for Social Enterprise (LA: RISE), which invests in social enterprises that earn revenue while providing a supportive work environment that offers on-the-job training and skill development for hard-to-serve populations, including those recently released from prison, the homeless and disconnected youth. Grid Alternatives will serve as a training provider, sector intermediary, and an employer to provide career placement opportunities. LA: RISE is working with GRID to facilitate a solar training that will begin later this year.
BUSINESS METRICS:

LABSC’s Not Reporting: None

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<td>Workshops: Number of Clients Attended</td>
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WORKFORCE METRICS:

(Arrows indicate weekly trend)

JobsLA (online and mobile)

- Page Views: 110,450 (Up 12.1%)
- New Visitors: 34.8% (Down 1.4%)
- New Sessions: 5,452 (Up 7%)
- Registrations: 594 (Down 1%)

WorkSource Centers

- Enrollments: 1,714 (Up 4%)

“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.