

News for the Week of August 28, 2017

LA:RISE PARTNERS CELEBRATE SUCCESSES AND EXPANSION TO LA COUNTY

More than 1,000 people have found work through the Los Angeles Regional Initiative for Social Enterprise (LA:RISE), a five-year program designed to serve the populations hardest to place in jobs, including



Representatives from more than 40 partners gathered last week to celebrate LA:RISE achievements and the expansion of the program to LA County

the homeless, those with histories of past incarcerations and disconnected youth. On Thursday, August 24, 2017, LA:RISE partners, supporters and participants celebrated the program's early successes and the expansion of the program into the County of Los Angeles with an event at the historic Kim Sing Theatre in LA's Chinatown. LA:RISE is administered by the City of Los Angeles Economic & Workforce Development Department (EWDD), in partnership with REDF, a venture philanthropy that supports employment social enterprise and the County of Los Angeles Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) Department. REDF sponsored the event, which was attended by more than 50 people. EWDD General Manager Jan Perry emphasized how the partnership between social enterprises and the City's workforce development strategy allows partners "To strengthen the breadth and depth of what we do in addressing the needs of so many people who historically have been left



LA:RISE helped Charles Bailey (right) find work after being released from prison. (Left) EWDD General Manager Jan Perry

out of the system.” Launched in 2015, the innovative LA:RISE program integrates employment, social enterprise and specialized homeless service providers within the City’s Workforce System. Participants are placed in entry level jobs with potential for growth, such as food service, janitorial, street maintenance and office work. Participants also receive personal support services to stabilize their lives to help them maintain employment, such as financial literacy training and healthcare, along with career training services. Initially funded through a \$6 million U.S. Department of Labor Workforce Innovation Fund Grant, thanks to its early successes the LA:RISE model is now a \$15 million initiative funded locally by the City of Los Angeles General Fund and Los Angeles County Measure H. Successes to date include: nearly 800 individuals in transitional employment and more than 200 individuals in competitive employment. Ten additional social enterprises also recently joined LA:RISE, expanding the model’s reach to Venice, South Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley. LA:RISE participant Charles Bailey shared his story at the event. Released from jail last

year, through LA:RISE, Charles took job classes, learned about writing a resume and prepared for interviews. LA:RISE partner Chrysalis gave him a transition job on a highway maintenance crew. He has since moved on to a full-time job at a warehouse. “I’m making my own money and feeling confident about myself,” he said. He also thanked LA:RISE partners Chrysalis and Goodwill SoCal for giving him the opportunity to move on beyond his past. “Thank you for believing in me and being part of LA:RISE.”

VERNON CENTRAL WORKSOURCE CENTER HELPS RE-ENTRY WORKER JOIN UNION

After serving 28 years in prison, Chris S. is rebuilding his life and starting his dream career in construction, thanks to help from the Vernon Central WorkSource Center (WSC). Chris was recently paroled and had trouble finding work due to his criminal background. He heard about an employment program for the re-entry population offered at Los Angeles Trade Tech College (LATTC) through the Vernon Central WorkSource Center, which is run by EWDD partner Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCD). Through the program, Chris also received support from Friends Outside Los Angeles County, a group that specializes in social services for the previously incarcerated and their families. Chris participated in a 20-hour workshop known as “Parole to Payroll,” which consists of career assessment, job seeking, job retention and supportive services. Chris’ dream was to pursue a career as a construction worker for a union that would offer him great compensation and benefits. Following the workshop, Chris was offered an opportunity to enroll in an LATTC apprenticeship program geared for individuals who were



A fresh start: Re-entry worker Chris S. is starting a new career in construction

previously incarcerated. The apprenticeship program is part of a partnership between LATTC and the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC). After a long journey, Chris graduated from the program on August 29, 2017 and was accepted to the Local 300 Carpenters/Construction Union with full time employment. The Vernon Central WSC and Friends Outside Los Angeles County also provided Chris with work boots, transportation tokens and assistance with paying union dues. Chris said he is very thankful for the opportunity to begin a new life with a good paying career. He said he feels blessed by the services provided.

WANT YOUR RESTAURANT TO SIZZLE? WEST VALLEY BUSINESSSOURCE CENTER HELPS ENTREPRENEUR LAUNCH RESTAURANT SUCCESS CENTER

The West Valley BusinessSource Center provided assistance and guidance to a seasoned food industry veteran, helping her turn her experience into Restaurant Success Center, a full service restaurant consulting service. Celeste Young-Ramos' passion for the foodservice business began with a grade school lemonade stand. During her 20s, Celeste operated her own family style restaurant then joined a Fortune 500 family restaurant chain. She quickly progressed from store manager, to Area Manager, and went on to become a Regional Management Training Consultant responsible for operations management and leadership development across 55 restaurants. Celeste decided to share her knowledge with restaurant startups and guide them through the difficult process of developing a restaurant idea and taking it live. Celeste attended more than 15 workshops at the West Valley BusinessSource Center to learn how to start her business. West Valley BSC staff assisted Celeste in establishing her DBA and worked closely with her to establish her business plan. Today, Celeste is CEO and Founder of Restaurant Success Center, a full service restaurant consulting, human resources, and training company that helps start up restaurant owners in planning and opening restaurants and assists existing restaurant with putting systems in place to attract and retain highly satisfied customers and employees. She is currently giving workshops for restaurant pre-startups.

VERNON CENTRAL WORKSOURCE CENTER OFFERS CULINARY TRAINING TO VETERANS



Veterans and their family members are taking culinary training at Bob Hope Patriotic Hall

The Vernon Central WSC recently created a partnership between Bob Hope Patriotic Hall and LATTC to train veterans in the culinary arts and professional baking. Culinary Arts staff at LAATTC is training students in securing their ServSafe Certificate-Manager level while simultaneously teaching them the fine arts of food preparation and cooking. Training began in mid-July and is scheduled to be complete on October 6. The current cohort is eight students, including five veterans and three family members of the veterans. Several of the veterans experienced long-term unemployment and other barriers and the program provides an opportunity for them to transition into a fulfilling civilian opportunity.

BUSINESS METRICS:

LABSCs Reporting: North Valley, West Valley, South Valley, South LA, East LA, Mid City, Central West, Hollywood and Harbor	
LABSCs Not Reporting: N/A	
Pre-Startups Enrolled	45
Pre-Startups Assisted	51
Start-ups/Operating Businesses Enrolled	23
Start-ups/Operating Businesses Assisted	32
Workshops: Number of Clients Attended	139

WORKFORCE METRICS:

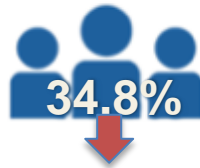
(Arrows indicate weekly trend)

JobsLA (online and mobile)



Page Views

(Up 19%)



New Visitors

(Down 0.6%)



New Sessions

(Up 1.3%)



Registrations

(Down 9%)

WorkSource Centers



Enrollments

(Up 10%)

"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.