News for the Week of Sept. 7, 2015

YOUTHSOURCE CENTER SPONSORS ‘ROSE’ EVENT TO MODEL RESPECT FOR WOMEN

It’s a simple but powerful notion: encourage respectful behavior toward women, and young men, in turn, will learn to respect themselves and become more successful in life. That’s the idea behind a recent lunchtime rose exchange between students at Washington High School, coordinated by the YouthSource Center in South Los Angeles operated by the Brotherhood Crusade. Male students at Washington, dressed in suits and ties, presented female students and staff members with a single yellow rose and offered the women words of praise. Mykol Lewis of the Brotherhood Crusade said the Aug. 24 event models an important step in changing cultural perceptions about young men of color by changing how they interact with others. Small changes in behavior and attitude can reap success later in life, he tells the young men, many of whom are on the school’s football team. “If you want to be successful in the workplace you have to respect yourself and respect others,” Lewis said. “This is a great way to uplift our young people.” About 30 young men took part in the exercise, looked on by a crowd of 200 students and staff. Brotherhood Crusade is planning to hold weekly campus activities to continue building social awareness and community engagement among the student body.

Woo delivers Monterey keynote: Charlie Woo, chair of the Los Angeles Workforce Development Board, delivered the keynote speech at the Sept. 8-10 “Meeting of the Minds” conference of the California Workforce Ass’n. Other EWDD workforce staff were also in attendance, sharing information on L.A.’s collaborative workforce strategies and their impact on local, state and federal policies and programs.
‘On-the-spot’ hiring event nets 32 jobs: Thirty-two people were hired as delivery drivers during a daylong jobs event held Sept 4 at Los Angeles Trade Technical College and sponsored by the Vernon-Central WorkSource Center. The positions pay $10 an hour plus tips and are based in Santa Monica and Manhattan Beach. The employer is a package delivery service affiliated with tech giants E-Bay and Amazon. Over 48 job-seekers applied and were interviewed for the posts at the “on-the-spot” hiring event. Career coach Brenda Evans said those getting jobs were grateful. “One gentleman spoke of going to various events and how he almost didn’t attend because he expected the same results as before,” Evans said. “As a matter of fact, I kept getting these incredulous looks from attendees, because not many expected to get the greenlight the same day.”

Summer Youth/HIRE LA: The bulk of youth participating in this year’s Hire LA’s Youth program have finished their work experience and are back in school. Work site monitoring is continuing EWDD finalizes grant requirements. Mayor Garcetti issued an Executive Directive at the beginning of the summer asking our department to take leadership on best practices for City departments to follow in placing and mentoring young people. EWDD will be providing recommendations on how the City and participating departments can improve.

Los Angeles BusinessSource Center RFP: The City Council Economic Development Committee approved EWDD’s request for authority to release a Request for Proposals to identify Los Angeles BusinessSource Center contractors. Pending approval by the full City Council and Mayor, EWDD expects to release the RFP by Sept. 15, and will recommend and execute contracts with providers in each of the nine BusinessSource Center service areas by March 31, 2016. The Committee recommended the following amendments to the RFP: (1) update the service area boundaries; (2) add five bonus points for applicants that commit to providing regularly scheduled services in more than one location; and (3) instruct EWDD to report on the data it will use to allocate any funds received over the baseline level of funding.

Other economy-building events:

- **The South LA BusinessSource Center**, operated by VSEDC, held its *Business Plan Writing Course Level II in Spanish* on Sept. 1. The workshop included topics such as: Business Planning, Entrepreneurship Mindset, Business Environment Map, Legal Business Forms and Taxation and Project Plans.

- **The South LA BusinessSource Center**, operated by VSEDC, held its *Business Plan Writing Course Level II* on Sept. 1 and 3. The workshop included topics such as: Business Loan Case and Exit Strategies, Student Business Plan Executive Summary Presentations and Presentations of
Certificates of Completions. Sixteen City residents attended on Sept. 1 and Seventeen City residents attended on Sept. 3.

- **The South LA BusinessSource Center**, operated by VSEDC, held its *Introduction to Entrepreneurship Course Level I* on Sept. 5. The workshop included topics such as: Defining and Understanding Basic Business Concepts, Identifying Business Success Skills, Business start-ups and expansion; and Overview of Business Structures. Seven City residents attended.