

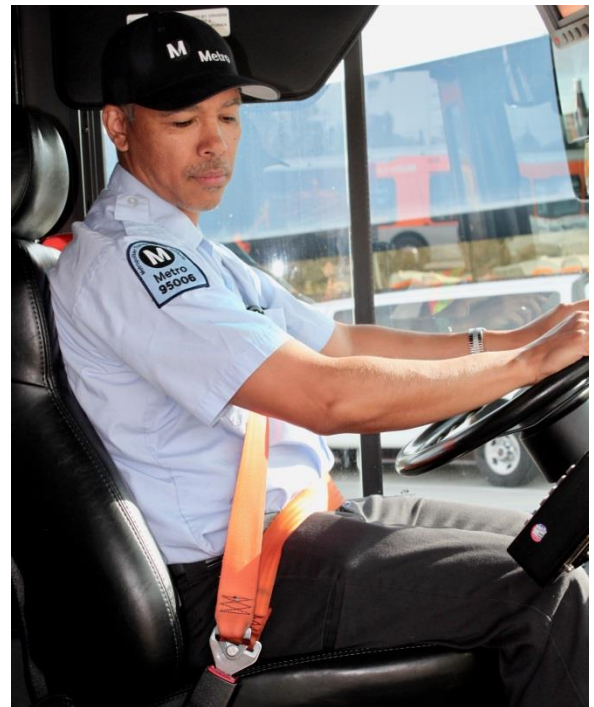
EWDD **UPDATES**



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**News for the Week of April 2, 2018**

**BEHIND THE WHEEL – METRO BRIDGE ACADEMY GRADUATE ENJOYS NEW CAREER**



*(Left) Metro Bridge Academy graduate Ivor Bok stands in front of a 40 foot bus he drives from Warner Center to the Burbank Airport. (Right) The program prepared Ivor to become a bus operator at Metro*

In a corporation yard in Chatsworth, Ivor Bok reviews his pre-trip checklist, the steps he takes to prepare his 40 foot bus to drive passengers traveling from Warner Center to the Burbank Airport and stops in-between. “It’s a nice, long route,” he said. “Lots of turns.” Ivor is a graduate of the Los Angeles Valley College Metro Bridge Academy, a 70-hour training program designed to help job seekers become bus drivers for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro). The City of Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) provides funding for the program, a key transportation training program at the City’s Workforce Strategy Center at Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC). “It’s been a God send for us,” said Don McKenzie, manager of transportation operations for

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Metro Transportation Division 8 in the San Fernando Valley, where Ivor is assigned. “You’re a fine operator,” he said to Ivor. “He makes us proud.” Ivor learned about the Metro Bridge Academy in early September. Ivor has a bachelor’s degree in business from California State University Northridge and worked for 17 years in administrative roles in the finance industry, but he was living on savings after losing a sales job. The program came at just the right time for Ivor, who as his family’s sole breadwinner, worried about how he would provide for his wife and their two sons, including a son with special needs. “I ran out of money,” he said. “Things were getting really tough.” The opportunity with Metro opened a whole new career pathway for him with room for growth, he said. Last November, Ivor passed the interview to train at Metro’s Operation Central Instruction to become a bus operator. He is close to finishing his probationary period and is currently taking a class provided by Metro on contemporary issues related to electric vehicles. With the Olympics approaching in 2028 and Metro’s role in preparing transportation for the event, Ivor said working for Metro offers him a chance to be part of a larger purpose. “I’m excited about the future,” Ivor said. “I feel like I’m part of something big.”

### THREE RE-ENTRY WORKERS HIRED ON THE SPOT AT HOLLYWOOD WSC JOB FAIR



Three individuals who were recently released from prison were hired on-the-spot at Hollywood WorkSource Center’s first Re-Entry Job and Resource Fair on Wednesday, March 28, 2018. A dozen employers across several industries were in attendance to recruit security officers, warehouse workers, couriers, construction workers, customer service representatives and case managers. Each employer had hiring policies that are inclusive of individuals recently released from incarceration, probationers and parolees, and interviewed them on the

*The Hollywood WorkSource Center held its first Re-Entry Job and Resource Fair on March 28, 2018*

spot. The event also included booths from resource agencies Volunteers of America, Ella’s Foundation and Downtown Women’s Center to promote opportunities in education, housing, counseling and other programs. More than 65 re-entry workers attended. One man was offered a job had been looking for work for 18 months, had not secured a job interview since

his release, and had grown weary from rejections to his job applications. He said he had become desperate and depressed because he wanted to provide for his wife and seven children. The man met a recruiter from Scoobeez Delivery Services, who listened to his story and discovered that the job seeker's hardships had molded him into a person that would be a welcome addition to the company. The individual interviewed for a position, passed an on-site drug test, and accepted a full-time courier position. The Hollywood WorkSource Center, run by EWDD partner Managed Career Solutions plans to conduct future events for the re-entry population and turn the Re-Entry Job and Resource Fair into an annual event.

## EWDD RAPID RESPONSE TEAM ASSISTS TRANSITION OF PORTS O' CALL VILLAGE

EWDD's Rapid Response Team has consistently provided support services to business owners and job seekers affected by the demolition of the Ports O'Call Village in San Pedro to make way for the San Pedro Public Market redevelopment project. EWDD Senior Project Assistant Dennis Parks has led the extensive coordination effort to alert Ports O'Call employees and businesses about EWDD's Rapid Response services, which provide free assistance with unemployment insurance benefits, registration with CalJobs, resources for mortgage payments, access to health and retirement benefits, and job search and job training resources. Dennis represented EWDD at a series of community meetings in late March, including the LA Waterfront Town Hall meeting, which provided an overview about how the new San Pedro Public Market project will redefine the LA Waterfront. EWDD has held several Rapid Response orientations for Ports O'Call Village workers and employers, and has plans for future outreach efforts.



*(Left) EWDD BusinessSource Director Richard Pallay and EWDD Sr. Project Assistant Dennis Parks, with former Council District 8 Councilman Robert Farrell at a Ports O'Call Village community event*

## NAWB 2018: CITY OF LA WDB LEADS IN YOUTH, RE-ENTRY & APPRENTICESHIPS



*(Left) WDB Executive Director Gregg Irish, with WDB Board Member and Executive Director of the LA Hospitality Training Academy, Adine Forman, and a ResCare official at the NAWB Forum 2018 in Washington, D.C.*

A delegation from the City of Los Angeles Workforce Development Board (WDB) attended the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Forum 2018 conference in Washington, D.C., where they received confirmation that LA is considered a leader in coordinating youth programs and connecting job seekers to apprenticeship opportunities. Held March 24-27, and attended by over 1,200 workforce leaders, advocates, and change-makers in business, government, labor and education, the conference addresses key issues affecting U.S. workforce development and considers the goals and policy framework affecting the future of human capital and economic growth. The City of LA WDB and the LA County WDB delegations attended a meeting with U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)

Deputy Director Daniel Villao, director of apprenticeship programs. Mr. Villao recognized the efforts of the LA City and County WDBs and its local unions being ahead of the curve nationwide in promoting opportunities and connecting jobseekers to apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship opportunities. Key conference topics included: increasing diversity in workforce talent pipelines, the importance of reaching out to re-entry workers, improving business engagement coordination, and the importance of social media platforms such as Linked-In for job seekers and employers. The WDB's upcoming draft 2018-2019 Annual Plan will address how the City of LA will approach these issues, said WDB staff.

**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	16
Pre-Startups Assisted	28
Start-ups/Operating Businesses Enrolled	27
Start-ups/Operating Businesses Assisted	26
Workshops: Number of Clients Attended	65

**WORKFORCE METRICS:**

*(arrows indicate weekly trend)*

**JobsLA (online and mobile)**



90,913  
Page Views

0.3%



30.3%  
New Visitors

1.7%



4,928  
New Sessions

2.5%



466  
Registrations

3%

**WorkSource Centers**



346  
Enrollments

27%

*"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)*