

News for the Week of August 7, 2017

EWDD WORKSOURCE CENTERS

The City of Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) oversees 16 WorkSource Centers and two job portals that serve as a personal employment agency for Angelenos, providing job training services to help them find work. The WorkSource Centers improve employment outcomes for both job seekers and businesses, with Case Managers helping job seekers get job ready and Business Service Representatives connecting businesses with skilled workers and job placement services. This week EWDD highlights four success stories from the Vernon-Central/Los Angeles Trade-Tech Center (LATTC) WorkSource Center, representing all the WorkSource Centers and the vital services they provide every day.

LATTC GIVES \$300 TOOL SET TO HELP HVAC TECHNICIAN KEEP HIS JOB



(Left) Ricardo Estrada holds a brand new \$300 tool kit. (Right) LATTTC WSC Career Counselor Jessica Fuentes helped find the funds for the tools so Ricardo could keep his job.

About a year ago, Ricardo Estrada’s world was turned upside down when he was laid off from his job. Unable to provide for his family or keep up with his basic bills, Ricardo filed for bankruptcy. Ricardo decided to seek training in a new industry and after six months, earned his certification as a Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC-R) technician. Ricardo had a job lined up right after completing school but when he showed up for his first day, he was sent home for not having the appropriate tools and equipment to do his job. His prospective employers gave him an alternate start date a month later and informed him that if he did not have the necessary equipment and tools, his job

offer would be revoked. Ricardo was caught in a Catch-22 - he could not afford the expensive tools because he didn’t have a job, and he was about to lose a job because he did not have any tools. Panicked, Ricardo sought out help at the Vernon-Central/LATTTC Work Source Center. With the help of a WSC career coach, Ricardo received a tool set worth over three hundred dollars. Ricardo has now been employed with AZ Air Conditioning Inc. in Van Nuys for more than a month and he is excelling at his new job.

ONCE HOMELESS, FORMER WAREHOUSE WORKER TRANSITIONS TO OFFICE SETTING

Enrique Nuñez suffered an Achilles heel injury while working at a warehouse. Unable to work, Enrique became homeless and remained in a shelter until he was medically cleared to return to the workforce. He received a referral to the Vernon-Central/LATTC WorkSource Center and with the help of a career coach Enrique found a job at as a Call Center Representative. To help with his transition from warehouse work to his new career in an office setting, the WSC provided assistance with outfits for his first work week and a bus pass for his commute. Enrique now earns a \$17.00 hourly wage, which afforded him the opportunity to leave the homeless shelter and find permanent housing. He is now looking to work his way up the career ladder and rebuilding his life. His advice to others facing similar challenges? “Don’t give up,” Enrique said. “Cause you never know what could happen. Look at me!”



(Left) Enrique Nuñez received clothes for his new office job, which he found with help from LATTC Career Counselor Jessica Fuentes (Right)

AFTER RETIRING FROM MILITARY, WSC HELPS VETERAN FIND NEW LIFE’S PURPOSE



LATTC Career Coach Jessica Fuentes helped veteran Steven Pantola find a rewarding job

After completing military service, Steven Pantola had trouble finding satisfying work. He tried sales, banking, customer service but his search for more fulfilling work continued. He turned to the Vernon-Central/LATTC Work Source Center. With the encouragement of a career coach, Steven accepted a temporary job with the University of Southern California working with the homeless population. It was there that Steven finally found work that made him happy. After completing the job assignment, Steven found a job as an Outreach Worker with the Volunteers of America where he now refers participants to the City’s WorkSource Centers for employment resources. Steven now finds great purpose in his new line of work and he is looking to forward to contributing to other’s lives as much as he can.

A WHOLE NEW WORLD – WSC GUIDES PARTICIPANT TO NEW CAREER

Nancy Santiago was working toward an Associate of Arts degree in Child Development at LATTC but when life circumstances prevented her from continuing her studies, she turned to the Vernon-Central/LATTC WorkSource Center for assistance in finding a job. A career coach helped Nancy update her resume, polish her interview skills and advised Nancy to leverage her work experience and background in education to apply for Early Intervention Specialist positions. After a month of job searching and interviewing, Nancy accepted a position as a Child Behavioral Interventionist through Easter Seals Southern California, an organization



The LATTC WSC guided Nancy Santiago toward a new career

that offers resources for people and families living with disabilities. Nancy said the guidance she received at the LATTC WorkSource Center opened her eyes to career possibilities she had never considered. Nancy’s ecstatic and excited about her new career and is scheduled to begin work at Easter Seals this month.

HARBOR BUSINESSSOURCE CENTER HELPS SOUTH LA CAR DEALERSHIP EXPANSION



Carlos Hernandez is the owner of San Pedro Auto Sales at 400 E. Vernon Avenue at South San Pedro Street. Carlos leases the lot for his business and was exploring options to expand by purchasing an additional lot nearby. He was referred to the Harbor BusinessSource Center, where staff guided Carlos through the process to find a lender that would fund the expansion. On June 7, 2017, San Pedro Auto Sales was approved for a \$998,750 loan, which will help Carlos expand his business and hire eight additional employees.

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	26
Pre-Startups Assisted	32
Start-ups/Operating Businesses Enrolled	25
Start-ups/Operating Businesses Assisted	23
Workshops: Number of Clients Attended	120

WORKFORCE METRICS:

(Arrows indicate weekly trend)

JobsLA (online and mobile)



Page Views

(Down 26.5%)



New Visitors

(Up 1.2%)



New Sessions

(Down 5.3%)



Registrations

(Down 29%)

WorkSource Centers



Enrollments

(Down 25%)

“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.