



News for the Week of Sept. 21, 2015

LA:RISE JOBS INITIATIVE BRINGS 500 JOBS, SUPPORT SERVICES TO ANGELENOS



The Sept. 22 launch of LA:RISE marked the beginning of a new, structured career path for 500 City of Los Angeles residents. Funded by a \$6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, LA:RISE focuses on helping people who have significant job barriers, including disconnected youth and those with a history of homelessness and incarceration. Through this grant, individuals will receive training and permanent placements through EWDD’s WorkSource centers, in partnership with social enterprise employers such as

Goodwill Industries, Homeboy Industries and Chrysalis Enterprises. Justin Sealie, 26, reminded the launch audience why the program is important when he rose to tell his story. He’s a maintenance worker at the Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCDD), one of the LA:RISE employment partners. But two years ago he was an unemployed high school drop out. “Before CRCDD, I was just chillin’ in the neighborhood,” Justin said. “They taught me mental toughness and how to respect myself and others.” Justin went on to earn his high school degree and gain full-time employment. His long-term goal is to study photography. LA:RISE will be nationally evaluated for its effectiveness.

Employers offer positions at LATTC job fair: An open house and job fair at Vernon-Central/LATTC WorkSource Center drew about 200 job seekers, with many scoring on-the-spot interviews. Participants also updated resumes, were fitted for interview clothes and sent out online job

applications. Nineteen employers were on site; Culinary Staffing hired 13 applicants during the event while other employers said that they will make hiring decisions soon for the busy holiday season.

Byron Scott addresses EWDD staff: On Sept. 23, Lakers coach and three-time NBA champion Byron Scott gave a rapt EWDD audience an hour-long talk on teambuilding—both on the court and in the office. He credited former teammate Magic Johnson, known as “Buck” to Lakers players, for showing him early on that success is more about the team than any individual. During a question and answer period, Scott said that Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is the best basketball player he’s ever seen and that his family keeps him grounded. Mr. Scott’s talk, provided gratis, was held in the auditorium at the Garland Building and was attended by more than 100 EWDD staff.



Pathways to Success: EWDD workforce staff were busy this week putting the finishing touches on “Pathways to Success,” a one-day education and jobs event set to take place Sept. 25 on the Los Angeles Trade Tech College campus. Up to 300 youth recruited from YouthSource centers and this year’s summer jobs program will take part in daylong workshops aimed at college enrollment and getting jobs. Representatives from eight employers are seeking to fill more than 600 vacancies.

BusinessSource RFP released publicly: EWDD on Sept. 21 released its Request for Proposals for its BusinessSource centers. The RFP seeks operators who can assist small businesses with start-up and operational guidance at nine BusinessSource Centers located across the City of Los Angeles. A bidder’s conference is set for Oct. 6, proposals are due Nov. 2, and EWDD expects to execute contracts in early April 2016.

Other economy-building events:

- **The South Valley BusinessSource Center**, operated by ICON, Inc., held its first week of an entrepreneurial *Startup Bootcamp*. Held Sept. 15 at the state building in the Van Nuys Civic Center, South Valley BusinessSource staff presented the how-to’s of building a small business from the ground up. The boot camp attracted 29 participants.



- **The South Valley BusinessSource Center**, operated by ICON, Inc., held an *Access to Capital Workshop* on Sept. 16. Topics included how to apply for an SBA loan and different ways to access capital. The workshop was held at the South Valley BusinessSource Center in Panorama City with six business operators present.
- **The North Valley BusinessSource Center**, operated by VEDC, held a Sept. 17 workshop on how to make financial projections at the North Valley BusinessSource Center in Pacoima. The workshop was conducted in Spanish and attracted three business operators.
- **The West Valley BusinessSource Center**, operated by VEDC, held a *Business Plan Essentials Workshop* on Sept. 17 at their offices in Reseda. Topics included identifying market goals, sales, distribution, management and finance. The workshop was attended by 11 business operators.

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