



## DOL Working for You

### LA Fellows Program Helps Long-Term Unemployed Find New Careers

The LA Fellows program combines professional development and volunteerism as a meaningful path to reemployment for the long-term unemployed. The program, established in 2010, is a partnership between the Los Angeles Valley College and the City of Los Angeles Workforce Board, which receives funding from the department.



LA Fellows helps people by reducing résumé gaps and building professional networks through nonprofit service work, while also providing new job search techniques for career or industry transitions. Richard Tom was an attorney at a corporate law firm for 20 years until his division was eliminated. He was out of work for 21 months and out of options when he learned about LA Fellows. Tom enrolled in the program and learned new job search techniques and is now deputy city attorney for the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power. Christine Stenberg lost her job in IT management, but with the help of LA Fellows, she revamped her résumé and landed an IT management job with the National Notary Association. Gigi Nang, after starting a family, found it challenging to get back into the labor market. She became an LA Fellow, volunteered at the Center for Nonprofit Management, and then was hired by the center as a project assistant. Dana Chotiner had a successful career as a producer and editor in the entertainment industry before enduring an 8-month stint of joblessness. Through LA Fellows, she volunteered at a startup nonprofit called Operation Gratitude, sending care packages to military service members and veterans. Chotiner was then hired full-time and is now the center's director of corporate relations and events. "LA Fellows is an innovative, win-win model that is achieving lasting results for mid-career, long-term unemployed individuals, while also benefiting the larger community and employers in search of great employees," said Ben Seigel, senior policy advisor at the Employment and Training Administration.