



EWDD UPDATES



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News for the Week of May 29, 2017

LA FELLOWS GRADUATES READY TO RE-ENTER WORKFORCE



Class of 2017 – On May 19, 2017, 18 people graduated from the LA Fellows program at Los Angeles Valley College

On May 19, 2017, Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC) celebrated the graduation of 18 people from its LA Fellows program, a job training program that combines professional development and volunteerism as a meaningful pathway to employment. Three have obtained jobs, including roles as a Job Coach at Build Rehabilitation Industries, as Counsel at Disney Technology Solutions and Services and as a host at Norms Restaurant. Funding for this group was provided by the City of Los Angeles Workforce

Development Board (WDB) and the City of LA’s Economic Workforce Development

Department (EWDD) through the Underrepresented and Underserved Population grant which includes mature workers age 40 and over. The LA Fellows program is unique because it works with individuals who might have professional degrees. The Wilshire-Metro, West Los Angeles and Canoga Park-South Valley WorkSource Centers filtered participants into the program, working closely with LAVC to enroll and code participants. Graduates received nine weeks of training and were required to volunteer 100 hours of their time and professional expertise in a project based role at a variety of nonprofits, including Create Now, HoldYou Foundation, The Midnight Mission and The Salvation Army HAVEN Southern California Division. Two of the graduates are veterans. The average length of unemployment for participants was 13 months.

CENTRAL WEST BUSINESSSOURCE CENTER HELPS LAUNCH COMET MOTEL REMODEL

The Central West BusinessSource Center recently aided a local entrepreneur in securing the financing to upgrade his South Los Angeles motel. In 1989, Mr. Bharat Bhakta launched the Comet Motel, located in South LA. He and his wife live on the premises and oversee the day-to-day operations of the facility. In 2015, seeking to expand his business, Mr. Bhakta began listing the Comet Motel on the

travel booking sites Expedia and Booking.com, leading to more than 800 bookings that year. When customer reviews said that the facility needed a major makeover, Mr. Bhakta jumped into action and began remodeling the motel. However, the remodel proved to be more costly than expected and Mr. Bhakta was only able to upgrade four out of the 16 rooms. With insufficient funds to complete the project, Mr. Bhakta turned to the Central West BusinessSource Center for assistance, where he met with a loan counselor who guided him through the financing process. Mr. Bhakta successfully secured a \$170,000 loan from the Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE) in February 2017. Mr. Bhakta used the funds to pay off a \$100,000 high interest private loan and used the remaining \$70,000 to complete the remodel. As a result of the newly upgraded rooms, the Comet Motel has received an uptick in positive online ratings, increased demand and greater revenue. "I look forward to helping more customers," Mr. Bhakta said. "I am thankful for the Central West BusinessSource Center's assistance with helping me secure a loan!"



Mr. Bharat Bhakta, proprietor of the Comet Motel in South Los Angeles.

CATHAY BANK GRANT PAVES WAY FOR 11 SLOTS IN HIRE LA’S YOUTH PROGRAM



The Cathay Bank Foundation delivered a \$25,300 grant to the City of Los Angeles Workforce Development Board (WDB) on May 22, 2017, providing funding for 11 slots for low income inner city youth to have their first job experience through HIRE LA’s Youth Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). HIRE LA’S YOUTH is open to youth and young adults ages 14 to 24 who live in the City of Los Angeles. The program provides each youth participant with 120 paid hours toward a first work experience at a supervised worksite, along with basic financial literacy training and skills for entering the workforce. This year’s grant represents a 21 percent increase from Cathay Bank Foundation’s \$20,000 donation in 2016, reflecting the increased cost of wages for each youth due to the City of LA’s minimum wage increase from \$10.50 per hour to \$12.00 per hour, effective on July 1, 2017. The City’s Workforce Development Board is scheduled to recognize the Cathay Bank Foundation and additional financial donors to HIRE LA’s Youth at its Youth Council Quarterly and Nonprofit meeting in July 2017.

BUSINESS METRICS:

LABSCs Reporting: North Valley, West Valley, South Valley, South LA, East LA, Mid City, Central West, Hollywood and Harbor	
LABSCs Not Reporting: None.	
Pre-Startups Enrolled	50
Pre-Startups Assisted	27
Start-ups/Operating Businesses Enrolled	29
Start-ups/Operating Businesses Assisted	29
Workshops: Number of Clients Attended	237

WORKFORCE METRICS:

(Arrows indicate weekly trend)

JobsLA (online and mobile)



Page Views

(Down 22.3%)



New Visitors

(Up 3%)



New Sessions

(Down 18.6%)



Registrations

(Down 7%)

WorkSource Centers



Enrollments

(Down 21%)

"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.