



Tiffani Ybarra, left, at the Ralphs store in Granada Hills, where she has been working for one full year.

TIFFANI YBARRA: “THE IDEAL EMPLOYEE”

Tiffani’s story with Bridges began in late 2012 when she first met with ER Noe Valenzuela. Tiffani’s TPP Teacher, Jennifer Hubbard, had informed Noe that Tiffani was a great student but that she was going to need some additional support in attaining employment. After meeting with Tiffani and sensing her determination, Noe was convinced she had what it took to achieve her goals.

During their early days together, Noe and Tiffani worked on building her resume and developing her job searching skills. They then began to focus on her communication skills and her ability to speak up and maintain

eye-contact. Tiffani worked hard for many weeks by doing practice interviews with her friends and family. Noe also worked with Tiffani on her presentation and took her clothes shopping to help her pick out a sharp new outfit.

Dressed for success, Tiffani obtained an interview with the Ralphs grocery store in Granada Hills. Tiffani surprised even herself by acing the interview, and her interviewer told her that she was impressed by Tiffani’s ability to give clear and detailed answers to every question.

Tiffani was hired as a Courtesy Clerk in October 2012, and this October

marks her one-year anniversary on the job!

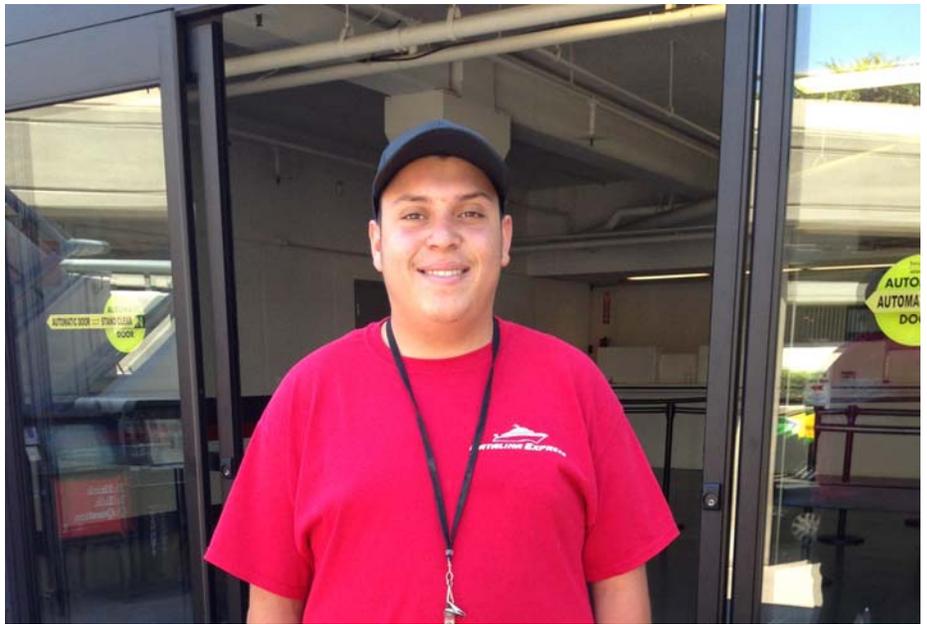
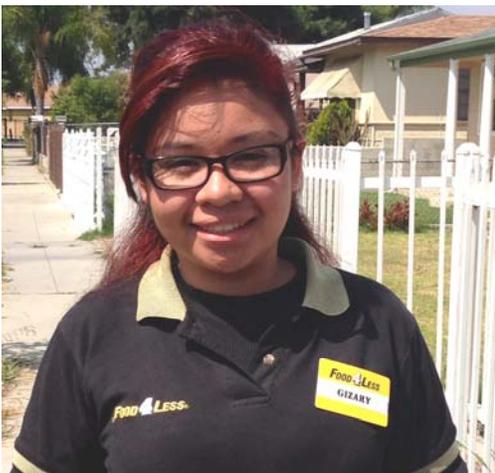
Tiffani’s supervisors are thrilled to have her aboard, and they always mention to Noe that they would like to see her develop within the company. “Tiffani is the ideal Ralphs employee,” they say.

Tiffani attends community college, where she plans to pursue her dream of becoming a screenwriter and film director. Tiffani’s mother expressed her gratitude to the Bridges program for “investing time into my daughter and helping her enter into the professional world.”

GIZARY LICEA

Gizary Licea has worked at the Food 4 Less grocery store in Bell Gardens since July of 2012. With support from her ER, Brianna Garner, she was hired as a part-time Courtesy First Clerk, and has done well enough to merit two raises and a promotion to the deli department. Gizary loves having increased responsibility, and now works a full-time schedule, plus overtime hours when needed. Her supervisor, Adrian, says he sees management potential in her. Gizary says that Food 4 Less has been a great opportunity to learn new skills and gain work experience while going to school.

When Gizary first enrolled into Bridges, she had dropped out of high school due to family issues. With a newfound sense of responsibility she gained through working, Gizary graduated from high school this past June. She is currently attending community college, and she hopes to save enough money to buy her first car.



MITCHELL PEREZ

Mitchell Perez joined the Bridges program in February of 2013. From day one, Mitchell was always punctual for his workshops with his Employer Representative, Lenah Hilal. He always completed his assignments on time, worked diligently on his job applications, and practiced his interview skills at home and with Ms. Hilal. His persistence and practice paid off and he eventually landed a job as a dishwasher for Catalina Express, a boat service that transports guests to and from Catalina Island.

Mitchell immediately impressed his supervisors by working his own shifts as well as taking on additional ones. They liked him so much that they put him in charge of training a new employee in his department. Originally scheduled to work in the

kitchen at the San Pedro Terminal, Mitchell is now entrusted with working at the Long Beach terminal as well.

Ms. Hilal recently received some feedback from his supervisor, Laurel Lyman, and was told that, "Mitchell actually looks for things that need to be done rather than simply waiting to be told what to do. In addition, Mitchell has never missed a single shift and even comes in at the last minute when others call in sick."

In recognition of his efforts, Mitchell was recently awarded a pay raise. Mitchell is now approaching his 9th straight month of employment with the company, and he hopes to further develop his career with Catalina Express.