



Groundhog Job Shadow Day 2012 (Renaissance Hollywood): ER Mollie McLaughlin, Asia Lee, Joyce Fidler (Polytechnic High School), Victor Rios, Matthew Coral, Darnell Clayton, Yaritza Renteria, Christian Mendoza, Jessie Berzosa, and Job Developer John Nave

GROUNDHOG JOB SHADOW DAY 2012

Every year, Bridges teams up with General Managers and Human Resources Departments from Marriott properties throughout Los Angeles to coordinate Groundhog Job Shadow Day, a national campaign that gives young people the opportunity to learn about the hospitality industry through one-day mentoring experiences.

This year's events were a big success, with over 50 students in attendance at eight properties throughout Los Angeles. Students "shadowed" representatives from various

departments as they learned about the different tasks involved in a typical workday. For instance, some students received a tour of the Spa Luce at the Hollywood Renaissance, some learned about the various types of suites from Housekeeping at the JW Marriott/LA Live, and some assisted in the preparation of a lunch salad in the kitchen at the Long Beach Renaissance Hotel.

This was a valuable opportunity for students to learn about hospitality careers and whether the industry is a

good fit for them. The event also allows properties to demonstrate their commitment to community involvement. We are also thankful to the Manhattan Beach Marriott, Los Angeles Airport Marriott, and Torrance Marriott South Bay for their participation in this event.

Our students would love to learn about other careers and industries. For more information on how your business can participate, please contact John Nave, Job Developer, at (213) 347-0042, ext. 29, or john.nave@marriott.com.

WELCOME DARIN GARCIA!

In April 2012, Bridges Los Angeles welcomed Darrin Garcia to its team. He joins our staff as a Job Coach in the Compton area. Pictured here, Darrin (left) works with students such as Jesus Lopez (right) to ensure they achieve long-term success in their careers.





KARIN UC: “ALWAYS SMILE!”

During this year’s Groundhog Job Shadow Day, participants had an opportunity to hear from Karin Uc, a Bridges participant from 2003 through 2004. He has worked at the Los Angeles Airport Marriott since 2004—with a short but educational gap in between. That gap taught Karin a valuable lesson about the value of punctuality and persistence.

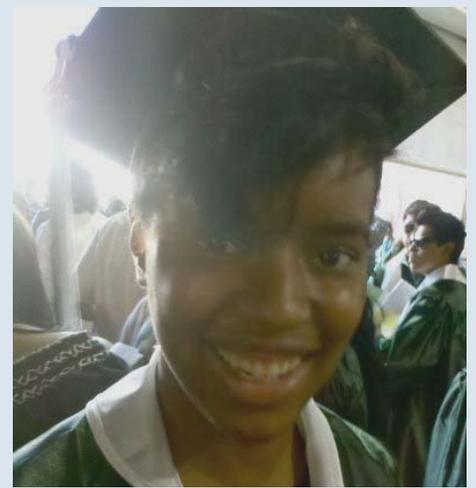
Karin began his career with Marriott as a bell stand attendant, but was let go for attendance reasons. It was only when he began working at another job that he realized what a great company Marriott was. Karin pursued employment with Marriott again for several months, and finally earned his way back into the company after impressing General

Manager Stephen Hall, who had let him go the first time.

Karin began his return to the hotel in overnight housekeeping—the most difficult of shifts. He had to vacuum, dust, and clean all first-floor carpets and marble floors on a nightly basis.

After months of hard work, he earned enough confidence to apply for a transfer to the engineering department. After a lengthy and rigorous application process, Karin was promoted to Building Engineer, where he has been ever since.

Karin directly credits Bridges for his success and gave an impromptu speech, telling our participants: “Always be on time, always be presentable, and always smile!”



KRYSTAL RICARD

Krystal Ricard was referred to Bridges in April 2011. She had recently transferred to Hamilton High School and was a bit shy at first. Employer Representative Kevin Weinress was unsure how to approach her, but together with DOTS Teacher Lynn Sabin, he met with Krystal on a weekly basis to work on her communication skills.

Krystal was slow to come out of her shell, but Kevin continued to work with her, and she showed great dedication to improving her job-readiness skills. She completed all her assignments without missing a single meeting.

Krystal began going on job interviews and was hired at Smart & Final last November. She has been with the company for six months and is now a full-time student at Santa Monica College. Congratulations to Krystal—she is truly a Bridges success story.