

BRIDGES

From School to Work®

SPRING 2014



OMAR SANDOVAL: A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING

Omar's story with Bridges began when he was introduced to Employer Representative Caroline Chavarria through LACOE TPP Teacher Tim Smith. Tim informed Caroline that Omar was an outstanding student but would require help preparing for interviews and obtaining competitive employment.

Caroline's instruction began by coaching Omar on building a resume followed by a series of mock interviews. During one of these workshops, Omar informed Caroline that he would be interested in working at a movie theatre, but was unsure of the job functions as he had never been to a theatre.

As a part of his school curriculum, Omar completed vocational training in hospitality, floral arrangements and computer science which created many employment possibilities

for Omar.

During the month of February, Omar and Caroline attended a job shadow event at the Manhattan Beach Marriott, where Omar learned about the different jobs and responsibilities of working at a hotel. After the event, Caroline took Omar to what he thought would be a regular day of job developing, but instead she surprised him with a tour of the AMC Theatre at Del Amo Mall.

During this trip, Omar was not only able to see the different job functions, but also was able to enjoy his first movie at a theatre. Omar instantly fell in love with the theatre and so began the journey to look for employment within cinema.

The following week, Omar applied to an AMC theatre and was called in for an interview the very next week. Caroline

contacted the manager at AMC and requested Omar have a FOCUS interview. FOCUS interviewing is AMC's integrated way of conducting interviews to assist people with disabilities. They allow for a one-on-one interview with a manager while they walk and tour the theatre.

Omar's determination and patience landed him his first job ever at AMC! Omar is now employed at the AMC Rolling Hills. He continues to excel as the ticket taker. Omar enjoys interacting with the customers and working in a theatre setting. Omar's mother has expressed her gratitude and is thankful for Bridges and the doors of opportunity that it has opened for Omar.

Omar recently graduated high school this June.

Congratulations Omar!!!





"I don't feel like I would have been lucky enough to succeed in both jobs if it wasn't for the help of my ER and the Bridges Program"- Eulises Jimenez

Eulises Jimenez

Eulises Jiménez was referred to Employer Representative Brianna Garner through his teachers at Lynwood High School. Eulises had just completed a summer film program and was very excited about finding employment while at the same time continuing his interest with film projects. After going through Bridges training with Brianna, Eulises found a seasonal job at his local Kmart as a Layaway Runner for the holidays. Kmart was so happy with Ulises that when holiday season was over they asked him to stay on board as a permanent associate.

After one year on the job at Kmart, Eulises felt that it was necessary to advance his career and turned to Brianna for assistance with applying at a Marriott Hotel in search for more work hours and a higher pay. Brianna helped Eulises with submitting applications and contacting the ideal Marriott representative to get him in for an interview. She also made sure to review and practice the STAR interview method used by Marriott. Eulises went in for an interview at the Manhattan Beach Marriott for the Banquet Houseman position and was hired right away. The Human Resources Manager was very pleased with his interview and knew right away that Eulises had a great future with the company. Eulises has been on the job with Marriott for over four months and really loves what he does.

Eulises has gone from a minimum wage part-time position at Kmart to a higher paying full-time schedule with Marriott International. While in the Bridges program, he has continued to work with film projects, attained his CA Driver's License and is now moving on to college all while working full time.

Thank You!

Bridges would like to extend their gratitude to all the Marriott Hotel properties that have participated in Job Shadow events so far in 2014:

- ❖ Manhattan Beach Marriott International
- ❖ Torrance Marriott South Bay
- ❖ JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A. LIVE/ The Ritz-Carlton L.A. LIVE
- ❖ Marina Del Rey Marriott

If your business would like to host a job shadow or mock interview day, please contact Therese Lyons or Ana Sandoval at (213) 347-0042.



New Program Year

Bridges is now enrolling for the 2015 program year beginning July 1, 2014. Please call our office for more details on eligibility criteria at (213) 347-0042 or visit our website at www.bridgestowork.org. Our staff would be more than happy to assist you.

Program Director- Therese Lyons

Grants/ Contract Manager- Ana Sandoval

Administrative Assistant- Mildred Guerra

Retention Specialist (Compton)- Sharon Toledo

Employer Representatives:

Caroline Chavarria- South Bay Region

Cynthia Gomez-Ramirez- South Bay Region

Nancy Chamberlain- Greater Los Angeles Region

Kevin Weinress- Greater Los Angeles Region

Noe Valenzuela- Van Nuys Region

Fausto Mendez- Van Nuys Region

Darin Garcia- Compton Region

Brianna Garner- Lynwood Region