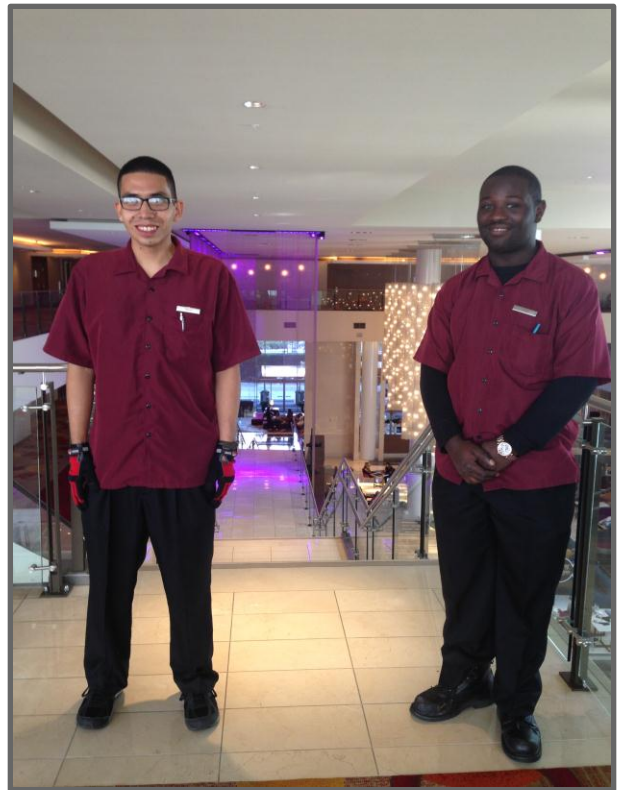


BRIDGES

From School to Work[®]

Spring 2015

Oscar Jaramillo (left) and Mark Young (right) pose during their first shift together as co-workers at the L.A. Live Marriott.



Passing on the Bridges Torch

As Bridges participant Oscar Jaramillo and Employer Representative Cynthia Gomez-Ramirez were brainstorming his job search, Oscar stated that he saw himself pursuing a long career in the hospitality industry and could not see himself anywhere else.

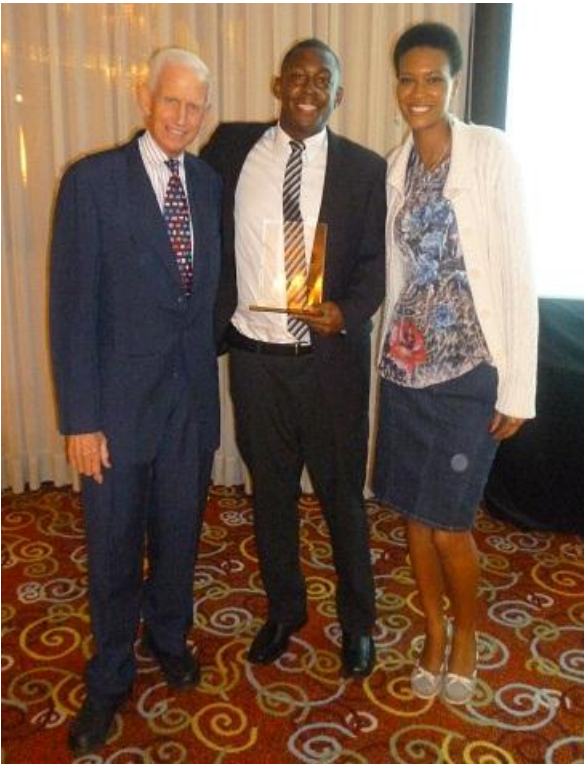
It occurred to Cynthia that Oscar might benefit from meeting another one of her participants who is currently employed at the L.A. Live Marriott as a full-time catering attendant, Mark Young. Cynthia scheduled both of them for an appointment at the Bridges office and introduced Oscar to Mark. She spoke to Oscar of Mark's journey with Bridges and his employment at Marriott. She encouraged Oscar to ask Mark any

questions he might have about working in the hotel industry.

Mark and Oscar spoke of Mark's responsibilities, the working environment, his hours and what he liked about his job. Oscar became even more excited about working in the hotel industry with every answer Mark provided. Mark asked Oscar questions about what he wanted to do. Oscar excitedly told him about his dreams of working in the hotel business and how much he liked the job Mark had described. Mark told Oscar that he thought he would do well in his department and that they were currently hiring. He also stated that if Oscar decided to apply he would put in a good word for him. After Mark left, Oscar and Cynthia

submitted an application and Cynthia immediately contacted Human Resources (HR) at the hotel to inform them of his submission. Shortly after, Oscar was contacted by HR and scheduled for an interview with Mark's manager.

Oscar was officially offered a position at the L.A. Live Marriott and began his training on April 6th. Oscar says that working in the hotel industry is his dream and he is happy that it is finally coming true. Oscar has shown immense gratitude for Mark, Cynthia and the Bridges program for assisting him with finding employment. Oscar's drive, determination, and willingness to work and learn will make him a great employee.



Above: Bridges Participant Maurice Williams poses with Mr. Marriott and his cousin after being presented with the Youth Achievement Award at the 2014 Employer Recognition Reception.

2014 Employer Recognition Reception

The reception took place on November 5th, 2014 at the Torrance Marriott. Congratulations to the following winners on their much deserved recognition:

- **Youth Achievement Award: Maurice Williams**

Maurice began his journey with Bridges in 2013 working with Employer Representative Darin Garcia and Job Retention Specialist Sharon Toledo. Maurice was hired at the Renaissance Hotel in Long Beach more than a year ago and continues to do well.

- **Employer of the Year Award: Sears Holding Corporation**

The Sears Holding Corporation has been a great partner for the Bridges Office. Several Kmart and Sears department stores have interviewed and hired a large number of youth.

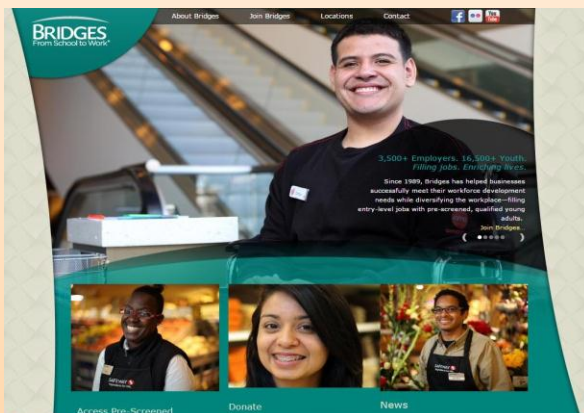
- **Leadership Award: Dave Turner with orchard Supply Hardware**

Not only has Dave hired over 25 participants in the past 4 years, but also he has become a great mentor for Bridges youth offering them mock interviews and advice on how to become successful employees.

Thank you to the team at the Torrance Marriott for a wonderful reception!

Have you visited our website?

Make sure to check out our website at www.bridgestowork.org for more information about the Bridges program and to view our previous newsletters.



Want to know more about our program?

Bridges is always looking for new participants. 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
 Employer Representatives:
 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
 Brianna Garner- Lynwood Region
 Darin Garcia- Compton Region
 Job Retention Specialist (Compton)- Sharon Toledo