



JEREMIAH WATSON: 2012 STUDENT OF THE YEAR!

Jeremiah Watson accepting his Youth Achievement Award in Washington D.C. at the annual 2012 Bridges Gala.

Every year in Washington D.C., Bridges hosts its national Bridges Gala to honor the employers, staff, and students who make the *Bridges...from school to work* program possible. This year's 2012 Youth Achievement Award was given to Los Angeles' very own Jeremiah Watson!

The event was attended by over 850 guests, and speeches were given by *Hardball* host Chris Matthews and former Republican National Committee chairman Michael Steele. Mr. Marriott made an appearance and graciously thanked everyone for helping to generate more than \$1.15 million in pledges for Marriott Foundation operations and services.

This year's national Employer of the Year Award went to ARAMARK,

which has hired 345 Bridges participants in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia since 2000.

But the highlight of the evening was Jeremiah's speech, which brought the audience to its feet for a rousing round of applause. Jeremiah recounted how his many hours of hard work with Senior Employer Representative Ivonne Silver paid off when he landed a job on the janitorial staff at the Superior Courthouse in Los Angeles.

Jeremiah had never been to Washington D.C. before this event. He wrapped up his first visit to our nation's capital with tours to the White House and the Washington Monument. He was accompanied by his mother, Bernadette Watson, and Employer

Representative Brianna Garner.

Jeremiah continues to thrive at the Los Angeles Superior Court, and has taken on the role of training new staff. In addition, he assists Ms. Silver at the Department of Rehabilitation office in Compton by giving talks to other young aspiring program participants.

Congratulations, Jeremiah, on an award well-earned!



Jeremiah and his mother, Bernadette Watson, at the 2012 Bridges Gala in Washington D.C.

BIG NEWS AT BRIDGES!

Welcome New Partners

Bridges is proud to announce exciting partnerships with three respected institutions in the Los Angeles youth employment community: Archdiocesan Youth Employment Services, UCLA's Community Based Learning program, and the Watts Community Labor Action Committee.

Together with these organizations, Bridges will continue to provide the highest level of service in helping businesses meet their workforce needs and enhance employment opportunities for young people.

Out-of-school Students

In order to expand our services to those who are most in need, we are looking to enroll out-of-school youth for the upcoming program year. We are especially interested in working with youth who have dropped out of school and are actively seeking employment. If you or anyone you know would be interested in enrolling in the Bridges program, please contact Mildred Guerra, Administrative Assistant, at (213) 347-0042, or mildred.guerra@marriott.com

Staff Changes

Given these new partnerships, our team will undergo realignment, with Employer Representative Sara Ambrose moving from the San Fernando Valley to South and Central Los Angeles. Kevin Weinress will continue to work in Central and West Los Angeles, and Ana Sandoval, who was working under our Department of Rehabilitation contract with the Los Angeles County Office of Education, will move to South Los Angeles. Nancy Chamberlain will now work in East Los Angeles under our Department of Rehabilitation contract.



EMPLOYER OF THE MONTH: AMC BURBANK 16

Two Bridges participants, Fabiola Carranco and Cristian Abrego, are thriving and making valuable contributions to their team at the AMC Burbank 16 movie theatre. Both spent months looking for work and filling out job applications. When they finally scored an opportunity to be considered by AMC Theatres, both seized the moment by shining in their interviews and impressing AMC General Manager Jeff Zarrillo.

Zarrillo told Employer Representatives Noe Valenzuela and Fausto Mendez that the candidates “had a positive attitude, which is what we look for.”

Fabiola and Cristian were hired as Ushers, and both have been given superior reviews by their supervisors. After an especially busy

week, Mr. Zarrillo contacted Job Developer John Nave, who initially reached out to AMC, to tell him how happy he was to work with the Bridges program.

“I just wanted to tell you how happy we are with our two crew members. Both have worked very hard.”

*-Jeff Zarrillo, General Manager,
AMC Theatres*

Fabiola and Cristian are extremely encouraged by the feedback, and continue to work hard by taking initiative during their downtime. Mr. Zarrillo says that both Cristian and Fabiola are “eager to learn, work hard and make smiles happen at AMC for our guests.”