



(L to R): Bridges ER Jessica Serber, Food 4 Less Store Director Enrique Mercado, Richard Marriott, Food 4 Less Store Director Fidel Banuelos, Food 4 Less Assistant Store Director David Hernandez, & Bridges Senior ER Nancy Chamberlain

2011 EMPLOYER RECOGNITION EVENT

By JESSICA SERBER

Every year, the Marriott Foundation Bridges program celebrates its success with all of its supporters and employers. The 2011 Employer Recognition Event (ERE) was held at the beautiful Marina Del Rey Marriott on September 26, with over 150 guests in attendance.

Bridges participant Jeremiah Watson won the Student of the Year award for his hard work, dedication, and success as a custodian at the Los Angeles

Superior Courthouse. The Leadership Award went to Craig Siqueland, Regional Vice President for Orchard Supply Hardware (OSH), for his continued dedication to the Bridges program. In 2011, OSH hired 35 Bridges participants, and it continues to seek out new employees for its many locations throughout Los Angeles.

Food 4 Less was the recipient of the Employer of the Year Award. In program year 2011, all five Bridges participants that the company hired achieved three or more months of

continuous employment. These employees have all enjoyed working for the company for many reasons—room for growth, supportive managers, and the opportunity to learn new skills. Since the ERE, Food 4 Less has hired six more participants, and is currently in the process of hiring one more.

The Bridges program is extremely grateful for the generous sponsorship of the 2011 Employer Recognition Event by the Los Angeles Marriott Business Council, and it looks forward to many successful future events.

COME VISIT US ON THE WEB!

- <http://www.bridgestowork.org/>
- **Get involved.** Get information on how to become a Bridges employer or a program participant.





ALEJANDRO MORENO

Alejandro Moreno continues to excel at the JW Marriott L.A. Live after being hired as a Lobby Attendant in December 2009. From day one, Alejandro's punctuality and diligence impressed his supervisors. In December 2011, Alejandro was named 4th Quarter 5-Star winner and Employee of the Year! Hoping to advance his career with Marriott, Alejandro recently interviewed for a promotion and aspires to be an engineer for the company.



DEMONDRE BROOKS

Demondre Brooks started working at AMC Theaters in Universal City in December 2011, where he has impressed managers with his strong work ethic and his willingness to help in any way possible. General Manager Heidi Gilles says of him, "If you look up 'hard-worker' in the dictionary, Demondre's picture is there."



Edith Gonzalez at the Vons in Studio City, where she has been working for almost two years.

STUDENT PROFILE: EDITH GONZALEZ

Edith Gonzalez has had a rewarding journey with the Bridges from School to Work program. When she first enrolled with us in February 2010, she was still learning how to be confident and assert herself. With the help of her Employer Representatives, Sara Ambrose and John Nave, she obtained a position at the Vons store in Studio City.

Edith's first six months on the job were a learning experience, and she wondered if she could keep up with the demands of her position. She was unaccustomed to the pace of the job, but with Sara's encouragement, Edith persevered and is now approaching two years of employment with the company.

Edith has matured into a responsible young adult and now understands the importance of being a consistent and dependable employee. She has since enrolled in Los Angeles Mission College where she has been taking courses in photography and animation. She hopes to pursue a career in the arts.

Edith recently called Sara to express her gratitude for the support and guidance she has received since joining the program, saying that "without the Bridges program, I would not have been able to learn how to find and keep this job." We look forward to hearing from Edith in the future and are confident she will continue to be successful.