



Maurice stands proud as he meets with Darin at the Department of Rehabilitation office to discuss his new position and the next steps in becoming a successful employee at the Renaissance.

MAURICE WILLIAMS: *DETERMINATION IS KEY*

In the spring of 2013, Maurice Williams joined the Bridges program and began working with Employer Representative Darin Garcia. They immediately created Maurice's resume and met on a weekly basis to practice interviewing and plan out Maurice's job search. When Maurice felt prepared enough to begin applying for jobs, Darin and Maurice set out to job develop and meet employers.

After meeting several employers and submitting job applications, Maurice interviewed for multiple positions yet had a hard time getting hired. Maurice was resilient, and never gave up on his goal. He embraced the rejection from employers and viewed each opportunity as a positive learning experience.

In late October, after submitting an application for the Banquets-Aide Position at the Long Beach

Renaissance Hotel, Maurice received a call from the Banquet Supervisor to ask if he would be interested in interviewing for the position. Maurice gladly accepted and immediately called Darin to give him the great news.

Although Maurice felt prepared for his upcoming interview, he still took the time to meet with Darin to practice interviewing. Maurice then realized that having gone on multiple interviews with other employers worked to his advantage. At that point he knew what employers looked for and had received enough feedback to know exactly what he needed to improve on.

On the day of the interview, Maurice went in very confident and well prepared. He knew what to do and what to say. In a matter of days, Maurice received the call from the Renaissance Hotel offering him the position. He was

beyond excited and relieved that all his hard work was finally being acknowledged.

Maurice was very patient and never gave up during his extensive job search. Darin and Job Coach Sharon Toledo kept him motivated and made sure he has the support he needed to move forward. His determination kept him going and in the end he was given a great opportunity.

Currently, Maurice has met 90 days of successful employment at the Renaissance and continues to do very well on the job. This job opportunity has not only benefited him financially but has given him the confidence needed to advocate for himself. He now understands that all things are possible if you believe in yourself and never give up. His next goal is to enroll in community college and eventually transfer to Cal State Dominguez Hills.

CATHERINE BARBOSA

Catherine Barbosa joined the Bridges program in March 2013 and began working with Employer Representative Noe Valenzuela. Catherine was candid about her family's struggles and made it clear that she wanted to get a job to help contribute to her family.

After various pre-employment workshops with Noe and a lot of hard work, Catherine was able to create a resume and began her job search. She was determined to find a job and was applying to multiple locations on a daily basis.

In April, Catherine was called in for an interview at AMC Theaters. Having been taught by Noe to always learn as much as possible about a company prior to an interview, Catherine knew what she had to do and immediately began doing her research on AMC to prepare for her interview.

After the interview, the manager at AMC shared with Noe that Catherine was very pleasant and was particularly impressed with her knowledge of AMC and proceeded to extend a job offer.

Needless to say, Catherine was very excited about the offer and expressed to Noe how she will always cherish the experience. This is not only a great personal accomplishment for her but also a great aide in helping her family. Catherine has been an usher at AMC for over 9 months now and continues to do well. She is excited about her future at AMC and hopes to grow with the company.



Catherine Barbosa as she prepares to set up an auditorium during a very busy shift at AMC Theatres.

AARON HERRERA

Aaron Herrera met Employer Representative Kevin Weinress in 2012. Aaron and Kevin worked side by side on a weekly basis to prepare Aaron for employment.

In January 2013 Aaron was hired at a Subway Sandwich. The constant struggle with multiple instructions and a broad variety of sandwich orders caused him a lot of frustration which then led him to quit the position five months later.

After several conversations with Kevin, Aaron was able to develop a strategy as to how to best deal with multi-tasking and prioritizing issues on the job so as to avoid overwhelming himself.

One month after leaving Subway, Aaron was hired at Vons. After only 3 months, Aaron was promoted to the bakery department for his hard work and attention to detail on the job. This promotion gave Aaron the confidence to approach a General Manager at a Whole Foods Market and pursue a position as a Sales Clerk while still working at Vons.

In November, Aaron was hired at Whole Foods. He essentially took the principles taught to him in the Bridges Program and applied them in the hiring process at Whole Foods. Aaron now only works for Whole Foods and has since professionally resigned from Von's and added a great reference to his resume.



Aaron Herrera knows exactly how to dress to impress employers and is now ready for his future.