



NEWS

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City of Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department
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ADVISORY
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JAN PERRY ON LA BUSINESS JOURNAL COMMENTARY

(February 3, 2014) The writers, Michael Kelly and Kevin Klowden, have hit on several topics that are specific to the work we are doing at the City of Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department. They noted the need for a skilled workforce.

“The Region’s workforce development system needs to further adjust its programs and policies to better align with demographic shifts, technological advancements and global labor trends. The success of this effort remains tied to the region’s local universities, community colleges and private sector industries, which all play a crucial role in rebuilding and expanding apprenticeship programs and the further development of LAUSD’s programs that focus on getting more students involved in science, technology, engineering math and the arts.”

Currently the City of Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department is in a Request for Proposal (RFP) process as the City restructures its WorkSource Centers to align their efforts and prepare our workers to meet new and evolving workplace demands. Currently there are 18 centers throughout Los Angeles, funded through the federal Workforce Investment Act. Annually, approximately 150,000 clients utilize services at the centers. They offer job listings, computer access, resume writing assistance and connections to job training opportunities. Under the RFP, we are seeking contractors with a strong training component in growth industries including healthcare, advance manufacturing (i.e., biotech, high-tech manufacturing), logistics, hospitality, construction, entertainment and fashion. We expect those contractors to offer training and access to jobs in many of employment sectors mentioned by Kelly and Klowden.

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The City has also partnered with the community colleges like LA Trade Tech to train students in construction, and nursing and qualify workers for jobs that are being created through development to meet the demand. We are working with the LAUSD to return students who have dropped out, back to school and connect them with job training and opportunities for them to achieve a higher level of education.

As the economy improves we want to have a workforce that is ready to meet the demands of the local job market. Investment in human capital with the knowledge that market forces are changing, demands an investment in the workforce of tomorrow. Los Angeles will continue to work to meet these demands.

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