



News for the Week of August 31, 2015

L.A. BREAKS NEW GROUND BY TEACHING DAY LABORERS U.S. BUILDING STANDARDS

Los Angeles is leading the nation in bringing U.S. safety and construction standards to the day laborer population by offering free, intensive courses that train workers in the building trades. The first “Becoming a Journeyman” class of 27 students graduated in August. A new session with 40 day laborers is underway at L.A. Trade Tech College. Students



are learning OSHA-approved techniques, tackling progressively more complicated projects: first a tool box, later a scale model of a house, and finally, solar panel installation, a highly marketable skill in California. “We really stress that because it’s an industry that’s taking off,” said Tessie Borden, a spokeswoman for CARECEN, one of several immigrant and labor groups involved in the innovative program. “It gives them a chance to be at the front end of the industry, instead of the back, where these folks often end up.” Workers in the first group, many of them older men, commented that they’ve been doing this type of work for a long time but didn’t know how to do it correctly. One man said he had two work-related accidents that he could have avoided if he knew the proper way to do the work. Students were recruited at seven City of L.A. Day Laborer centers operated by EWDD contractors Central American Resource Center (CARECEN), Pomona Economic Opportunity Center (PEOC) and Institute of Popular Education of Southern California (IPEPSCA). The classes are grant funded. The program received a nice [write up](#) in La Opinion.

Workforce monitoring: EWDD workforce monitors and management staff met Sept. 3 for a process improvement review of current monitoring standards, procedures and policies. The recommendations will be presented to EWDD GM Jan Perry and the Workforce Development Board oversight committees.



EWDD greets Chinese delegation: EWDD management and staff hosted 25 government officials who toured the Garland Building administrative offices on 7th Street and learned more about the City of LA's workforce programs and business development strategies.

LA Fellows get front-page treatment: The Los Angeles Daily News on Aug. 28 ran a [front-page story](#) on the LA Fellows, "How the LA Fellows Program is Putting People Back to Work." The former Community Development Department and the Workforce Investment Board were the initial funders of the successful program and the EWDD has continued to support it through WorkSource center referrals. EWDD has also assisted in supporting grant applications.

Other economy-building events:

- **The Central West BusinessSource Center**, operated by PACE, held its *State and Federal Payroll Tax* class on Aug. 25. This training was presented by PACE BusinessSource Center consultants. The workshop included topics such as: calculating payroll taxes and completing payroll tax forms. Other topics dealt with tax treatment for employees v. independent contractors and managing unemployment costs. Seventeen business owners were in attendance.
- **The Central West BusinessSource Center**, operated by PACE, held its *Search Engine Optimization* class on Aug. 26. This training was presented by PACE BusinessSource Center consultants. The workshop included topics such as: How to properly and effectively optimize your business website for improved search engine results and how to increase web traffic. Fifteen business owners were in attendance.