

## HIRE LA YOUTH-A SUCCESS!



*Mayor Villaraigosa recognized some of the private employers and public agencies that hired young people.*

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa congratulated, cheered and cajoled nearly 1,500 young people at a special culmination celebration that marked the end of the summer's Learn and Earn program. Learn and Earn is one part of the Mayor and Council's Hire LA Youth 2007 jobs program.

During the summer, Learn and Earn participants in the 11th and 12th grades attended classes in the morning and gained work experience in the afternoon. The Los Angeles Unified School District provided classes for students who needed to pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE).

"Be all you can be," the Mayor encouraged. He noted that rather than wasting time during the summer months, the young people at this gathering "learned and they earned."

The Community Development Department through its WorkSource and OneSource Centers spearheads the Mayor and Council's Hire LA Youth employment initiative. That means recruiting, training and placing young job seekers. Early work experience is important to the development of youth as they move toward adulthood and job responsibilities.

"This summer we had a dozen Learn and Earn student workers in our offices," said Richard Benbow head of the Community Development Department. "They started out looking scared and awkward, but in just a few short weeks they gained confidence and a level of maturity that was amazing and encouraging to watch."



*Entertainment included singing, dancing, sports and manicures.*



*Job recruitment was important in putting more young people to work.*



*During the celebration at Griffith Park, participants enjoyed a lunch.*

Employers are key to the Hire LA Youth initiative. Dozens have stepped forward to make the program a success. So far this year 8,000 young people have been placed in full or part-time positions, with a goal of 10,000, set by the Mayor. The Community Development Department

continues to seek employers who want to help build L.A.'s future by hiring young people.

For more information on the Hire LA Youth Program, call 1-800 FOR-A-JOB.