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Hire LA's Youth and Kaiser Permanente's Summer Youth Program—A Perfect Match



Kathleen McIntire, L.A.U.N.C.H. coordinator at KP's facilities in Hollywood, is working with Mayor Villaraigosa, the City and the WIB to "Hire LA's Youth."

Hire LA's Youth, who are part of the KP L.A.U.N.C.H. program, are working in the Sunset Blvd. facility.

The Workforce Investment Board, (WIB) a citizen's commission that leads the City and Mayor Villaraigosa's employment and business initiatives, is on the forefront of the citywide campaign to "Hire LA's Youth." Board members, many from industry and business, are finding jobs for young people. Among them is Vicki Bittle, a WIB member since 2000, and an executive with Kaiser Permanente (KP).

The hospital has a high school student summer internship program; until this year it had never connected with the Mayor's Hire LA's Youth. Ms. Bittle made the program director aware of the highly motivated young people who are job ready. Fourteen were hired for the 20 slots the hospital allocated for its summer internship program that's called Learn About Unlimited New Careers in Healthcare (L.A.U.N.C.H.).

Putting Hire LA's Youth in the L.A.U.N.C.H. program is a perfect match. The KP program, which has been in place since 1968, provides underserved high school students meaningful employment experiences in the health care field. In addition to work assignments, the youth participate in educational sessions and motivational workshops. Some of the workshop topics include: Dress for success, how to make great first impressions, resume and cover letter writing, interview skills, how to be a successful employee and business ethics and compliance.

"According to Kathleen McIntire, who coordinates the L.A.U.N.C.H. Summer Youth Employment Program at KP's Los Angeles Medical Center in Hollywood, the Hire LA's Youth kids are doing "great." One student observed an open-heart surgery, another

was able to watch a stent be put into a patient's heart valve. All of the students have expressed an interest in working in the field of medicine based on their KP experiences.

Kaiser Permanente's program meets the Mayor's goal with Hire LA's Youth because it gives young people a first job and a look at what the world of work is all about. This is a summer success story for the young people and one that was made possible by WIB member Vickie Bittle.



Workforce Investment Board programs are available to workers and businesses through "WorkSource Centers" located throughout the Los Angeles Area. Most services are available at no charge. For more information on the WIB, visit www.lacity.org/wib/