



# CDD NEWS

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## CELEBRATING SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT



Gregg Irish, WIB Executive Director, told the audience, "Giving youth jobs is the ultimate stimulus program." Irish thanked the various worksite employers who gave the young workers "...the break they needed for this first job."

During the celebration, the young people explained what they learned by studying the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. Some were also recognized for characteristics any employer would value such as initiative, conscientiousness and, perfect attendance. All received gift cards, certificates of completion and, the valuable Work Readiness Certificate, recognized by the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce that the holder is "job ready."

The group's achievements underscore a recent announcement by U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, "...Simply put, we have succeeded in our efforts to increase job skills and career readiness for our nation's youth through this targeted program." (See full statement at <http://wib.lacity.org/> under News and Reports)

*Gregg Irish and Michael Dolphin (R), WIB member, share the joy of the young participants.*

Summer may be over, but the celebrations to mark the success young people experienced in the City's summer jobs programs continue. On September 23, 2009, more than 100 youth participants in the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) were fêted in a culmination program at the historic La Fonda Restaurant just west of Downtown.

Community Career Development, a Community Development Department (CDD) partner agency, which runs the Wilshire Metro WorkSource Center recruited, trained and placed the young people in a variety of agencies and private businesses. Some of the worksites included the Los Angeles Fire Department, the Center Theater Group and the USC Minority Business Enterprise Center.

Funding was provided by the federal government's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which is administered by CDD and under the guidance of the City's Workforce Investment Board (WIB). Training included work readiness classes that gave the group the "know how" to get and keep a job. The young workers also participated in a financial literacy course to help them understand how to judiciously save and spend their earnings. The SYEP program is one element of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and the City Council's Hire LA's Youth campaign.



*Shock and joy registered on Jacqueline Johnson's (R) face when Gina Gonsalves of the LA-D-Fenders announced Johnson would have a full time job with the team. The LA-D-Fenders is the NBA's official minor league team in Los Angeles.*

*Equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.*

For more information on the Community Development Department and its programs, visit our websites at [www.cdd.lacity.org](http://www.cdd.lacity.org)