



News for the week of Feb. 15, 2016



THOUSANDS OF LOS ANGELES OPPORTUNITY YOUTH ATTEND CONVENTION CENTER JOB FAIR AND RECEIVE ON-THE-SPOT OFFERS

Youth across Los Angeles streamed into the Convention Center Feb. 11 for the Los Angeles Opportunity Fair, the city's largest-ever hiring event targeted to teens and young adults. More than 6,000 youth ages 16 to 24 registered and preliminary indications show that hundreds of them walked out of West Hall with on-the-spot job offers. EWDD staff have been working since mid-December to prepare young people for interviews, coordinate transportation, recruit volunteers and create collateral materials. During the event, volunteers and staff pitched in where needed and cheered young people as they emerged triumphant

from interviews with more than 20 companies. A more detailed briefing will be in next week's report.

Grant submission: EWDD, on behalf of the Workforce Development Board, submitted an application for a \$400,000 grant to train Angelenos in the retail sector. EWDD is partnering with the Urban League.

Rapid Response: EWDD staff has contacted Coty, Inc. officials to offer Rapid Response services for an estimated 400 workers who will lose their jobs when the OPI nail polish manufacturing plant is relocated out of state. Rapid Response workshops were also held in Crenshaw and Chinatown for roughly 400 workers impacted by recent closures of Wal-Mart stores.

Reseda career fair: Staff at YPI YouthSource Center, an EWDD contractor, participated in the 4th Annual Career Fair at Birmingham Community Charter School in Reseda. There were over 40 vendors and businesses at the event. More than 170 students attended to learn more about employment and training resources that are available to help their transition from high school to employment or post-secondary education.

Brouwerij West in LA Times: In advance of its grand opening Feb. 27 Brouwerij West got a nice write-up in the Los Angeles Times. Click [here](#) to read. EWDD's Economic Development staff helped the founders of the San Pedro brewery obtain a \$442,845 equipment loan in February 2015. A Belgian-made "masher" uses less water and speeds up brewing time, producing an environmentally-friendly and tasty beer.

Biz Report:

Council office presentations: Economic Development staff is striving to raise awareness of the city's Small Business Loan program by holding presentations for City Council offices and other stakeholders. Staff recently met with Council District 13 officials to explain how the application and funding process works. The loan program's target market is new or growing businesses that cannot access capital through private lenders. To learn more about EWDD's Small Business Loan program [click here](#).

Loans and Services: The **Hollywood BusinessSource Center** helped Kwang Sup Shim open a new location for his market and helped Jean-Pierre Patie, owner of Cine Magic Arts, obtain a \$5,000 loan. **Mid-City BusinessSource Center** helped Robinson Galdamez, owner of MegaCargo Express, obtain a \$3,000 loan. **Harbor BusinessSource Center** helped Elise Rubio, owner of Chaparrastique Warehouse, obtain a \$30,000 loan, allowing her to retain five jobs. **Central/West BusinessSource Center** helped Alex Gonzalez, owner of Gu's Recycling, obtain a \$95,000 SBA loan to refinance a heavy-duty excavator. His new lower rate will save close to \$10,000 over the previous loan terms. Central/West also helped Daphne Burton, an attorney, obtain a \$20,000 loan for office space and a new hire.

Workshops: BusinessSource centers in **South Los Angeles, South Valley** and **Central West** regions held workshops, classes and overviews of the services they offer, drawing a total of 111 participants. District 4 Councilman David Ryu, right, gives a warm welcome to the 35 members of the small business community that came to the "How to Choose a Business Entity" workshop on Feb. 10 at the Sherman Oaks Library. South Valley Business Source Center, operated by ICON CDC, helped organize the event.

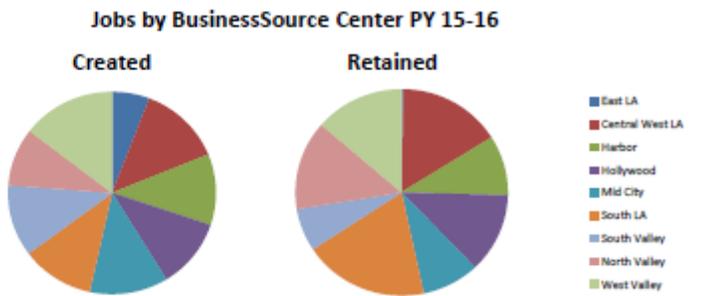
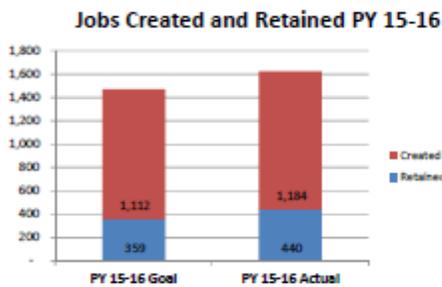
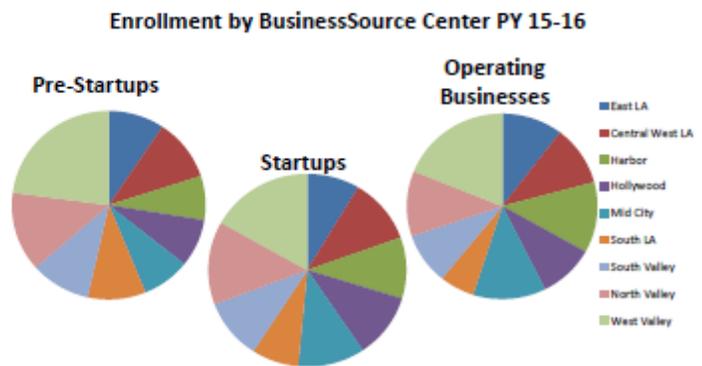
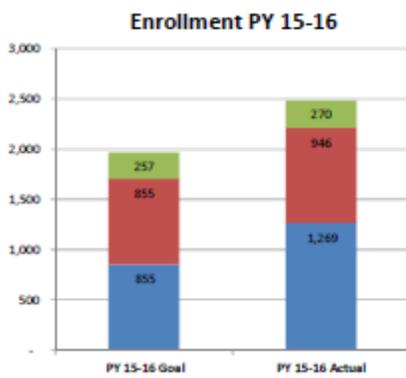


EWDD Metrics:

JobsLA website: 427 average daily users; 25% new.

WorkSource enrollments: 1761

**BusinessSource System Performance
Program Year 2015-16 (PY 15-16)
(Through January 31, 2016)**



“Updates” is produced by Catherine Saillant in EWDD’s communications department. If you have questions, comments or wish to contribute to an upcoming “Updates,” please contact Saillant at 213-744-9048 or at Catherine.Saillant@lacity.org.