

El Camino Compton Center students hired into growing aerospace fastener manufacturing industry

From staff reports

COMPTON—Jairo Juarez-Lazo spent his summer learning how to make aircraft parts while enrolled in El Camino College Compton Center's eight-week Aerospace Fastener Manufacturing summer program. For Juarez-Lazo, the highlight of the program came when he successfully implemented all of the knowledge he had gained and

manufactured an actual part. The summer training program motivated Juarez-Lazo to continue his education in the field and he is now enrolled in the ongoing Machine Tool Technology/Aerospace Fastener program under ECC Compton Center's newly established Career Advancement Academy.

Through its Career Advancement Academy, the center is providing students with the pro-

grams and training they need for careers in industries that are currently hiring. The academy offers programs in machine tool technology/aerospace fasteners and welding. Enrolling in one of these programs is a proactive first step for students wanting to gain valuable, marketable skills and set themselves up for successful careers.

Juarez-Lazo and his father, Jose Juarez, completed the summer training program in aerospace fastener manufacturing, the mechanical joining of two or more objects, together. After graduating from California State University Dominguez Hills with a degree in graphic design, Juarez-Lazo struggled to find a full-time position in the field and saw the program as an opportunity to start a career in manufacturing. While Jose Juarez, a centerless grinder and veteran in the industry, viewed the program as a way to advance his career. The program has enabled him to strengthen his blueprinting comprehension, which he was confident would lead to a more lucrative position.

He was right. Since completing the summer program, Juarez was hired at ALCOA Fastening Systems, the world's leading producer of aluminum. And an additional six ECC Compton Center students from the Aerospace Fastener Manufacturing program have been hired in the last year by California Screw Products.

"By completing the program together my dad and I were able to benefit from each other's strengths," said Juarez-Lazo. "My background in graphic design allowed me to help him better understand blueprinting, while his 15 years of experience were a great resource for me in the machinery courses. The instructors were also very helpful in identifying our strengths. When one of them discovered I had a degree in graphic design, he opened my eyes to a career I had never considered — making the actual blueprints for the parts."

The aerospace fastener industry is centered in Southern California. Local aerospace

fasteners, manufacturers and distributors currently employ over 10,000 Southern Californians. Many of these veteran workers, however, are due to retire and it is anticipated that numerous local employers will be looking to hire skilled students over the next five years. The Career Advancement Academy at ECC Compton Center is part of a statewide initiative to cultivate programs that train students for jobs that actually exist in the local community, like aerospace fastener manufacturing.

The future of the Career Advancement Academy is strong with a \$662,700 grant from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and technical assistance from the Careers Ladders Project. This support gives enrolled students the opportunity to attend a variety of career skills workshops, build interpersonal skills necessary in the workplace and receive industry-specific sustainability and total quality management training. One of the biggest ad-

vantages offered by the programs is a career fair with employers looking specifically to hire Career Advancement Academy graduates.

Preparation for the career fair includes learning how to write a resume, dress for an interview, and skillfully answer potential employers questions during the interview process. "The career fair was the ideal way to end the program," said Juarez-Lazo. "I already had one interview and am preparing for another. My dad had lots of offers and secured a better position in the field." In the meantime, Juarez-Lazo has decided to take the advanced training courses in the Aerospace Fastener Manufacturing program at ECC Compton Center and continue to build his skills.

For more information regarding ECC Compton Center's Career Advancement Academy and its programs, please contact Alicia Zambrano at azambrano@elcamino.edu, or by calling 310-900-1600, Ext. 2779.

Miss Diane Spiritual Reader & Advisor
Now here from the Louisiana bayou
Past, Present, Future Helps on all matters of life

Removes all evil & bad luck
Guarantees Peace of Mind

Call Now (562) 860-3687
8415 Florence Ave. Downey CA 90240

PARTICIPATE IN...
the future
OF THE
MLK
MEDICAL CENTER CAMPUS

WHY?
We will share the results from the second community meeting and present a series of planning options for community input. You will help shape the future MLK Medical Center Campus Master Plan, it's relationship to the surrounding neighborhood, and play a role in our community's overall health and wellness.



SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS INVITES YOU...
to the **third Community Meeting** for the Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Hospital and Medical Center Campus Master Plan.

WHEN?
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26th, 2011
from 5:30pm - 7:30pm

WHERE?
H. Claude Hudson Auditorium
Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Center Campus
12021 S. Wilmington Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90059
Refreshments Provided

PLEASE RSVP TO
Clarice Nash, Project Manager
tel: 626.300.2363
MLKJR.MP@gmail.com

Have questions or want to get involved?
facebook.com/MLKJR.MCCMP
MLKJR.MP@gmail.com
ridley-thomas.lacounty.gov/mlk/

ROP/CTE courses give middle, high school students a head start

From staff reports

COMPTON—Compton Unified School District's Regional Occupational Program and Career Technical Educational courses are open to the public throughout the 2011-12 school year.

The program offers students a wide range of programs that earn high school credits as well as valuable skills they can use in the workforce. Classes are held at Centennial, Compton, Dominguez, and Chavez high schools and at CUSD's ROP/CTE satellite locations.

Benefits for participating students include earning community college credits, attending field trips to various business/industry locations and colleges, and preparation for industry certifications. Students will also earn certificates of program com-

pletion that may assist them with future job opportunities.

Students learn the basics of automotive engineering in the ROP auto specialization course, design a new career in the fashion clothing occupations class or bring their imaginative ideas to life in the graphic communications and animation course. ROP/CTE programs also include commercial photography, nursing, culinary arts, and building and remodeling.

This year ROP is offering a five-month computer training and office occupations course for \$50 to all Compton residents. Two open houses showcasing the class curriculum will be held Thursday, Oct. 20, from 4 to 6 p.m. and Wednesday, Oct. 26, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the ROP office, 700 N. Bullis Rd.

Reena Singh, the program's senior di-

rector, said that although the district is charging for the computer training and office occupations course, its value is unparalleled. "Although this year the course is \$50, it is still very affordable compared to the hundreds of dollars our community members would have to spend to receive career-ready skills elsewhere," she said. "We have managed to keep the cost low for our community and we encourage them to take advantage of it. By enrolling in this course, students will learn a great deal about computers, software, and a multitude of skills suitable for employment. Considering all that they'll learn, this course pays for itself."

For more information and to register for ROP's computer training and office occupations courses call 310-898-6499 or e-mail ROPcom_offclass@yahoo.com.

CUSD to launch pilot swim program at Carver

From staff reports

COMPTON—Students, teachers, community members and sponsors celebrated the launch of a new pilot swim program at Carver Elementary School on Wednesday, Oct. 5.

Sponsored by a grant provided by the Los Angeles County Office of Education the new program, which is held at nearby George Washington Carver Park, 1400 E. 118th St., Los Angeles, is designed to help more than 115 fourth- and fifth-graders fulfill their physical activity requirements by teaching them the basics of swimming and water safety.

Instructors from the Larry Krayzelburg Foundation instruct students in all four strokes: freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, and butterfly. Fourth- and fifth-grade classes gather for a morning swim two to four times a week. The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation maintains and operates the pool.

Carver's swim program's launch ceremony included CUSD administrators including Interim Superintendent Karen Frison, Carver Elementary Principal Theophane Korie, grants administrator Tami Foy, Ph.D. and CUSD Board of Trustees members.

Guests also included program sponsors and representatives four-time Olympic Gold Medalist swimmer Lenny Krayzelburg, founder of the Lenny Krayzelburg Foundation; Larry Turkheimer, co-founder, the LA Tri Club; Mikaela Randolph, assistant policy analyst, RENEW LA County; and Eloisa Gonzalez, M.D., M.P.H., director of Physical Activity and Cardiovascular Health Program for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Korie said the school is fortunate to have both a nearby swimming pool and the new program. "It is such a huge blessing for us," he said. "Our school district is very grateful for the support we are receiving from our program's sponsors.



Photo courtesy of CUSD

Four-time Olympic gold medalist swimmer Lenny Krayzelburg said he is excited to expose students at Carver Elementary School to swimming and water safety through a new pilot program.

This is a great opportunity for our kids to learn about water safety and to experience the fun of swimming. Hopefully, it'll be something they'll take on someday. We hope our children may find they feel at home in the water. Here at Carver we try to encourage our students to stay active and lead healthy lives." Interim Superintendent Karen Frison praised the program's sponsors and said it will open Carver's students to a sport that is inaccessible for many low-income families. "Compton Unified takes pride in making every effort to provide all our students with new opportunities for mental and physical growth," she said. "The swim program is the latest example of how we can give our students new experiences through the collaborative efforts of our partners."

Krayzelburg, who established the Lenny Krayzelburg Foundation to provide high quality swim instruction and water safety to at-risk youth in underserved communities, said he is excited to expose Compton students to his sport. "By giving the children at Carver Elementary School the gift of swimming, our foundation hopes to empower them to learn the values of self-discipline, decision-making, hard work, and dedication that will forever change their lives," he

said. "I know, because it changed mine."

Mikaela Randolph, assistant policy analyst for RENEW LA County, said the new swim program is overflowing with benefits for Carver students and their community. "This program increases physical activity and education for these children. It's been so exciting," she said. "We actually have adults; some of them are parents, who participate in the program every morning before the kids swim. It's great to see them getting more comfortable in the water."

Randolph also commended Carver students' passion for learning. "The students are so energetic and enthusiastic. They've been listening to their instructors and some of them are showing some real talent."

Foy, grants administrator for CUSD, said the number of students learning how to swim surprises her. "It's wonderful to see how much the students have caught on to what they're learning. They take the program very seriously, but they also enjoy it," she said. She explained that the program also provides students with an opportunity to learn skills that may one day save their own or someone else's life. I wanted to provide access to a different sport, but this program may also make a huge difference for them as they continue to grow."