

The LOS ANGELES URBAN LEAGUE'S BUSINESS AND CAREER CENTER hosted a great 'Economic Roundtable Discussion' for the February 2007 meeting of the P.O.W.E.R. Collaborative Network (**PCN**). The **PCN** especially wishes to thank **Antoinette Anderson**, Interim Director, **Elainea Robbins**, **Anita Wallace** and **Leslie Belt** for extending their resources in hosting such an informative economic roundtable .

Dwayne Gathers, Regional Manager, LOS ANGELES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (LAEDC) was a wealth of information pertaining to the growth of Los Angeles County. The highest growth over the past years from 2005 – 2006 was the Antelope Valley, followed closely by Santa Clarita/Valencia. The area that is showing the slowest growth is the eastern San Fernando and southern Los Angeles areas. **Mr. Gathers** indicated that the major attraction for business is centered on the newly designated Enterprise Zones. South Los Angeles is officially an Enterprise Zone, designated November 2006 , by California Governor Schwarzenegger.

Companies moving into and working within the enterprise zone qualify for hiring tax credits, water rate reductions, and many other benefits including sales and tax credits. The health fields are growing, along with professional services, hospitality and leisure related jobs.

The LAEDC's mission is to attract, retain and grow business and jobs in the regions of Los Angeles County, as well as to identify trends and affect positive change for the local economy. **Mr. Gathers** encouraged the **PCN** members to visit LAEDC's web site to obtain economic reports and studies about the county. The web site address is www.laedc.org

Mr. Gathers can be reached at (213) 680-1888, or by email at, dgathers@laedc.org

Catherine Rhee, Director of Corporate Development, VNESTO Capital Management addressed the PCN members with an inspiring and informative presentation on financing and the credit. **Ms. Rhee** shared her personal family experience from the LA riots of 1992 where her family business was destroyed and how she was thrust into learning about disaster relief loans and Small Business Administration assistance. **Ms. Rhee** worked with the California Job Assistance Center, which helped her to appreciate and understand the important role front line job developers play in the making of economic growth.

One major aspect of **Ms. Rhee's** presentation disclosed how FICO scoring is critical to job clearance and acceptance. People with poor credit may lose job placement opportunities and may not know why. **Ms. Rhee** shared how to obtain a free copy of your personal tax credit report and methods to repair improper credit derogatory applied to your record.

Ms. Rhee can be reached at (213) 382 -1600, or by email at, crhee@vnesto.com

The next **PCN** meeting is set for **Monday, March 12, 2006**, hosted by our **PCN** partner **Los Angeles Southwest College**, 1600 Imperial Highway, Los Angeles, CA 90047. This meeting will give the **PCN** members will get a chance to learn about the City of Los Angeles' new job hiring programs. Specially, **David Eder**, WorkSource California and **Gregory Scheib**, Business Services Group will share **The Hire LA 18-24 Program** -- Providing young adults the opportunity to meet and interview with local businesses pledging jobs . In addition, **the L.A. City Works Program** -- Providing undeserved populations in the City of LA an opportunities to move into City of Los Angeles civil service positions after a one-year probationary period in an exempt entry-level City position.

PCN Meeting Attendees for February 2007

Aida Victoria Dominguez, Mexican American Opportunity Foundation

P.O.W.E.R. Collaborative Network (**PCN**)

Meeting Summary

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Angela Scott-Hill, Los Angeles Urban League - West Adams WorkSource

Anita Wallace, Los Angeles Urban League Business and Career Center

Antoinette Anderson, Los Angeles Urban League Business and Career Center

Arelettia Jones, Los Angeles Opportunities Industrialization Center (LAOIC)

Blanche Octave, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department

Bonnie Barraza, Mexican American Opportunity Foundation

Calvin Cooper, Boys Republic – School for Boys

Carolyn Christian Hines, Hines Hospitality Group

Catherine Rhee, VNESTO Capital Management

Cecile Harris Walters, City of Long Beach Workforce Development Bureau

Cecilia Rodriguez, SASSFA

Connie Brown, Prepaid Legal & Identity Theft

Darlene Neilsen, Harbor Occupational Center/LAUSD

Dean Jones, Southland Partnership, Inc.

Della Clark (seeking employment opportunity)

Dwayne Gathers, Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation

Elainea Robbins, Los Angeles Urban League Business and Career Center

Fiarella Del Carpio, Crystal Stairs

Garry Phillips, Mentors International

Gene Persip, Community Build, Inc.

Jamie Gutiérrez, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA)

Jeanellie Labrada, VA Industries – PM&R VA Rehabilitation

Jennifer Frank, Mentors International

Jeremy Rosen (seeking employment opportunity)

Jim Threatt, Business Enterprises Development

Belinda Stringfield, Crystal Stairs

Joanie Knight, Forte Tax Academy

Joe Rouzan, City of Los Angeles Community Development Department

Joseph Alvarado, Los Angeles County Community Development Commission

Joseph Rouzan, Los Angeles Community Development Department

Joshua Carrin, Covenant House California

Karen Robinson, Jes.US, Inc.

Kena Simmons, American University of Health Science

La Toya Laymon, Covenant House California

Lanette Ramirez, Didi Hirsch - CMHC

LaTasha Hawthorne, Mid-Wilshire Education & Career Center

LaVonté Jackson, Goodwill Serving the People of Southern L.A. County

Leslie Belt, Los Angeles Urban League Business and Career Center

Lynette Johnson, Los Angeles Community Development

Maryd Miller, City of Los Angeles youth Opportunity Movement – Boyle Heights

Merwin Gerard, Los Angeles County DPSS, GROW Program

Michael Richardson, Los Angeles Unified School District -- 'We Build'

Naomi Sot, Los Angeles CAUSA Youth Build

Nicole Jones, Didi Hirsch – CMCH

Rafael Mijangos, Los Angeles Urban League

Robert Hamm, Los Angeles Unified School District

Rose Cote, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA)

Susan Tenner, Abram Freidman Occupational Center

Tab Ndipagbor, Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services

Tatyana Pavloskaya, Los Angeles Unified School District - Grow Program

Terrell Johnson, Community Development Commission

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Terry Patterson (seeking employment opportunity)

Tyrone Horn, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department

PCN started in January 2001, focused on job coordination for community residents, assisting them with public & private sector work placement. The **PCN** members are community builders serving to identify, nurture, & mobilize local assets by enhanced networking to rejuvenate economies, strengthen business investments, & ultimately build up civil society. The **PCN** meets monthly sharing job recruitment, funding, training, workforce projects, & other related topics at various member locations.

