

The P.O.W.E.R. Collaborative Network (**PCN**) July 2007 meeting opened new doors of opportunity for many job development specialist. Our great host was **CRYSTAL STAIRS INCORPORATED**, which is celebrating their 27th year of business. Every **PCN** member was delighted to see such a top-notch enterprise that is the largest nonprofit childcare and development corporation in California.

Crystal Stairs is improving the lives of families through childcare services, research and advocacy to over 25,000 children each year. The members in attendance were treated to meet the CEO, **Ms. Holly Mitchell** that provided an overview of **Crystal Stair's** achievements.

Ms. Holly Mitchell stated that the SAGE Program in Nickerson Gardens is one of its direct community service of the many programs that **Crystal Stairs** delivers. The organization administers federal and state grants for childcare support, through the efforts of over 400 employees and an annual budget of \$170 million. **Crystal Stairs** is operating the finest services for community care in the State of California. **Ms. Mitchell's** office number is (323) 421-2667, or by email; hmittchell@crystalstairs.org

Sharon Cruse is the founder and CEO of Purple Reign Life Skills Center. **Ms. Cruse** gave the attendees a huge dose of how her organization can help enhance a job seeker's appreciation of the workplace. The **Purple Reign** training processes deliver self-esteem, character, ethics, common courtesy, proper dress, hygiene strategies. In addition, her staff instructs of the use of Microsoft office applications, basic typing-must type at 45wpm before end of training, mock interviews, job applications and resumes writing.

This is offered through customized training, where **Purple Reign** teaches how to develop, maintain, retain personal & professional relationships. The classes show budgeting, money management and job retention techniques. Unlike other companies, Purple Reign's deliverables include how the job seeker can become a complete person. Ms. Cruse can be reached at (213) 718-8307, or by email; admin@purplereignlifefskillscenter.com

Cecile Harris Walters coordinates the **Center for Working Families -- Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network**. **Ms. Walters** shared a vast array of valuable human services under her responsibility. Particularly job training and placement programs from the Federal Highways Administration that has a Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program and the Environmental Protection Agency that has a Construction Environmental 5-Week Training Program.

The designated workforce areas include Life Skills, Work Readiness Preparation, and Math/Reading Skills classes. Overall, the **Center for Working Families** is well equipped to place people in construction, healthcare, and logistical labor positions. **Ms. Walters** can be reached by telephone, (562) 570-4788, or by email; Cecile_Walters@longbeach.gov

The **Los Angeles Urban League**, 12700 S. Avalon Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90061, is hosting our next P.O.W.E.R. Collaborative Network meeting on **MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2007**, **BOBBI SMITH AND ELAINEA ROBBINS**, CO-Hosts, can be reached at 1(323) 525-3754 / bsmith@laul.org or 1(323) 600-1106 / erobbins@laul.org, respectively.

PCN Meeting Attendees for JULY 2007

April Lawrence, Office of Representative Maxine Waters
Arelettia Jones, LAOIC
Billy Williams, United Latinos In America
Blanche Octave, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
Bobbi Smith, Los Angeles Urban League
Carmen Hayward Stetson, MAXIMUS Health Care Options
Carolyn Christian Hines, Soledad Enrichment Action
Cecile Harris Walters, Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network
Darlene Neilsen, LAUSD/Harbor Occupational Center
Darryl Fisher, West Los Angeles Employment Development Department
Dean Jones, Southland Partnership Corporation
Devona Gardner, US Pretrial Services
Donnicus Cook, Broad Spectrum, CDC
Fiorella Del Carpio, Crystal Stairs, Inc.
Holly Mitchell, Crystal Stairs, Inc.
James Jones, Gangsters for Christ
Jamie Gutierrez, Los Angeles World Airports
Jonane Walker, Los Angeles Urban League
Joshua Carrin, Covenant Ho use California
Kisheen Tulloss, Crystal Stairs, Inc.
LaVonté Jackson, Goodwill Serving the People of Southern L.A. County
Lynette Johnson, LACDC
Maren Ramirez, LA County Children's Planning Council
Marisha Morris, Roots to Grow Foundation, Inc.
Michael Bennett, Los Angeles Urban League
Michael Richardson, LAUSD 'We Build'
Mindy Owes, RAFT, Inc.
Rose Cote, Los Angeles World Airports
Salvador Barajas, Goodwill, Long Beach
Sammy Darling, The Hyssop Branch
Sharon Cruse, Purple Reign Life Skills Center
Stephen Thompson, LAOIC
Sylvia Rodriquez, Department of Public Social Services – Region VI GAIN
Udawna Neal, Human Potential Consultants
Victoria Westerskov, SCROC

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*PCN started in January 2001, focused on job coordination for community residents in order to assist in 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.*