

# Ontario Donates Computers



## ■ LA/Ontario International Airport donates its older computers to assist local students.

Story by Harold Johnson, Principal Public Relations Rep, LA/Ontario; Photo courtesy Airports

**AIRPORTS** — Members of the LA/Ontario International Airport (ONT) Utility Crew delivered more than 90 used personal computers to the Esperanza Scholarship Foundation (ESF) in Upland April 13.

"It is a pleasure to see our former equipment used for the education of local students," said Jess Romo, Ontario's Airport Manager. "This is a much desirable option [rather] than [throwing them away]."

The Ontario IT Department personnel boxed the computer CPUs, mice and keyboards for

delivery. These systems, formerly used by Los Angeles World Airports employees, were sent at the request of Ontario Mayor Paul Leon for donation to underprivileged students.

"Esperanza was established to encourage and support educational success of residents of San Bernardino County, assisting students to achieve their educational goals and dreams by providing financial aid and academic support," said Gabe Chavez, president of the foundation. "The foundation advocates for closing the educational achievement gap for all students, as measured by high school completion and college graduation rates.

"Our intent is to redeploy them into the community. By working with the local school district, we will identify worthy recipients that are able to benefit by one of these computers," Chavez added. "One of the issues still existing is what is known as the digital divide that impacts elementary grade level school children. Our goal is to make a difference in this area."

Mayor Leon named Esperanza as the beneficiary of the computers because of its track record in helping students. Making a difference is shown by success stories that include a student who attended Chaffey College, transferred to the University of Southern California then enrolled in the pre-medical program at Loma Linda University School of Dentistry. Today this student is a dentist. Another student attended and graduated from Claremont McKenna College, and now is a supervising certified public accountant employed by one of the "Big 4" auditing firms. Presently the foundation is assisting two local students who are attending Harvard. A great number of these ESF Scholars are first members of their family to attend college.

The foundation was formed in 1991. Since its beginning, ESF has awarded \$157,000 in scholarships, ranging from \$500 to \$6,000, to assist 131 local students to attend college.



LA/Ontario International Airport Utility Crew members (from left) Arturo Saenz, Fernando Alday and Robert Garcia delivered more than 90 used computer CPUs, mice and keyboards to the Esperanza Scholarship Foundation in Upland for donation to underprivileged students.

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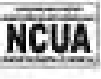
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