

DEPT. ON DISABILITY

A Day for Abilities

Mentoring program helps those with disabilities.



At Berth 145-157 Wharf Construction project at the Harbor were (from left) Senior Construction Inspector Michael Chung, Public Works/Contract Administration; mentee Robert J. Washington; mentee Marcia Villanueva; and Senior Construction Inspector Roosevelt Bagby II, Public Works/Contract Administration.

Story by Adriana Miranda, Dept. on Disability;
Photos courtesy Roosevelt Bagby, Public
Works/Contract Administration

On Oct. 21, 37 City employees participated in a unique mentoring program: Disability Mentoring Day 2009 (DMD). DMD is a large-scale national effort that promotes career development for students and job seekers with disabilities through hands-on career exploration and on-site job shadowing, leading to internship and employment opportunities. It is celebrated every year on the third Wednesday of October as part of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The Dept. on Disability (DOD) partners with Disability Rights Legal Center (DRLC) for this event that connects nearly 20,000 students and job seekers with disabilities with thousands of employers in more than 300 locations in every U.S. state and territory and in more than 24 countries worldwide each year.

This year, DMD had 35 City Mentors from 13 participating City departments: Community Development Department; Public Works/Contract Administration; Public Works/Engineering; Public Works/Street Services; Rec and Parks; DWP; Environmental Affairs; Office of Finance; Harbor; Human Services; LAPD; Airports; and Councilman Dennis Zine's Office. The 60 mentees learned things including how a computer program can take dictation, taught by Programmer/Analyst Howard Wolf, ITA, without the touch of a keyboard or mouse. Others like Joseph Hernandez saw the inside of

a helicopter with his mentor, Survey Party Chief Brian Szramowski, Public Works/Engineering, Survey Section.

For more on LA Disability Mentoring Day 2009, please visit: www.disabilityrightslegalcenter.org/help/DisabilityMentoringDay2009.cfm

DOD was created in 1998 by the mayor and the City Council. It is the first department of its kind at any municipal government level in the nation. DOD services more than 15,000 people with disabilities every year and provides technical assistance to hundreds of organizations (private and public), as well as to local and international governments.

For more information on the Dept. on Disability, go to: www.lacity.org/dod/



DRLC Executive Director Paula Pearlman (left); Dept. on Disability Executive Director Regina Houston-Swain (right); and this year's honoree, Betty R. Wilson.



From Left to Right: At Port Police Headquarters were (from left) Senior Construction Inspector Victor Curiel, Public Works/Contract Administration; mentee Robert J. Washington; mentee Marcia Villanueva; and Senior Construction Inspector John Grimaldi, Public Works/Contract Administration.



Los Angeles City Employee Chicano Association

Holiday Party & Toy Drive

Join Us For Our 38th Annual Holiday Celebration and Toy Drive

Thursday, Dec. 17, 5:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.

Tamayo's Restaurant
5300 Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90022

2009 Toy Recipient: East Los Angeles Community Youth Center

Dinner, dancing, door prizes and much more!
Dance to the music of DJ Maximus and
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COST:

LACECA Members \$15 - Non-members \$25
and one unwrapped toy, valued at \$15

RSVP with ticket purchase by Friday, Dec. 11
Thereafter, all tickets are \$35 each

For tickets, please contact one of the following:

Lupe Durazo, lupe.laceca@gmail.com

Leonor Garcia, leonor.laceca@gmail.com

Thomas Trujillo, tomtrujillo@hotmail.com
(213) 847-2229

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