

HARBOR

Summer Interns, Prepared for the World

Port honors summer high-school interns.



The Port's Martín Chavez, innovator of the intern program, hosted the event.



Amy Grat, ITEP's new CEO, shared her thoughts of the importance of the opportunity given to the students.



Alameda Corridor Transportation Representatives (from left) Elaine Silvestro, Maria Melendres and Janice Putman pose with their intern, Vanessa Garcia.



Earning the Workshop Excellence Award was Edy Delgado, presented by Martín Chavez.



Martín Chavez presents the Outstanding Student Award to Cynthia Tejada.

For ten years, the Harbor Department has been "Opening the World Today and Preparing for Tomorrow" through its coordination of the International Trade Education Summer Internship. On Sept. 2, Martín Chavez of the Port's Human Resources Division celebrated the culmination of the nine week summer program. The event was held at Wilmington Banning High School's Woodson Hall.

During the summer, 49 students experienced jobs involved in public service, commerce and the maritime industry. "It is hard to believe a decade has passed and we have seen so many outstanding students grow into adults before our eyes and have gone on to have an impact in education, industry, and their community," says Chavez, who designed the program. "This has been possible because of the support from industry, education, public officials and the City."

Even with today's economic challenges, ten new employers came aboard this summer to hire students: Aquarium of the Pacific; Cal State/Dominguez Hills; CNY Distribution Hub LLC; International Cargo Equipment, Inc.; NYK Logistics; Ocean World Lines; Source Abroad; Congresswoman Jane Harman's Office; Club Deportiva Chivas USA; and Shell Oil Company/Total Western.

Under the direction of the Port's college intern, Cynthia Jaime, the students attended workshops on preparing their résumés, personal statements, interviewing, and how to properly knot a tie. Cynthia designed and added workshop sessions this year to assist the students to prepare for the SAT exam. Eli Romero of Pacific Gateway coordinated with potential employers and, with Cynthia, identified students to interview for employment with those organizations.

Each student prepared for their interviews by composing a personal statement; created a résumé; achieved a good attendance record; and practiced interviews. After having successfully completed these tasks, they were ready for the assessment interview. The assessment interview with Chavez is what every student "looks forward" to having. Students interviewed with new employers to the program and returning companies: Halcrow Engineering; Watson Land Co.; California State Lands Commission; Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority; Juanita's Foods; Moffat & Nichol; Pasha Stevedoring & Terminals; SA Recycling; and Tesoro Refining; as well as the Port of Los Angeles' Wharfingers, Risk Management, Information Technology, Public Relations, Real Estate, and Construction & Maintenance Divisions, to name just a few of the employers.

The interns attended workshops each Friday afternoon on topics by the Los Angeles Federal Credit Union on financial management; college admission requirements, presented by the Outreach Office from Cal State/Dominguez Hills; peer pressure, goal setting, positive communication skills, and public speaking presentations. Students also took math and vocabulary exams. The workshops were coordinated by Ms. Jaime, who had assistance this year from Elizabeth Machuca, who was a Summer Intern in 2008 and is currently a marine engineering major at the California Maritime Academy.

During the culmination reception, the interns were addressed by new ITEP CEO Amy Grat, who reminded them of their obligation to commit to becoming involved as leaders in their school and community, and continue preparing to enter higher education. She spoke about the need the international trade industry has for new employees and the advantage they have been given to enter the workforce.

The City Employees Club sponsored the 2010 Student Awards. The Outstanding Student Award was presented to Cynthia Tejada, who spoke to the audience about how hard she and each student had worked to be part of the program; the positives it has brought to their lives; and thanking the employers on behalf of her classmates for the great opportunity to work alongside adults in a professional environment. The Workshop Excellence Award was awarded to Edy Delgado for his scores on the quizzes and participation in the workshops; for his hard work, he earned two tickets to a Dodgers game. The Workplace Professionalism Awards were presented to Melissa Avila, Stephanie Aguirre, Benjamin Castaneda, Edy Delgado, Denif Lopez, Daniel Ruvalcaba and Oscar Vargas. Recognized for Outstanding Professional Development were Ana Mayoral and Luis Serafin. Samira Aguilera received the special recognition Experiential Education Award. Thanks to Los Angeles Harbor College, each student in the program is eligible to receive three units of college credit.

In his closing, Chavez reminded the students of how hard they had worked and how they had grown into being young adults, reminding them they are more than students. "They are representatives of Banning High School and their academies who committed to be more than teens – they are those who care about their community and their future." These students are opening the world today and preparing for tomorrow. *Congratulations to the 2010 ITEP summer interns!*



Intern Coordinator Cynthia Jaime thanks the students and employers for another great summer experience.



SA Recycling representatives Frank Muratalla and Ellinor Lester with their intern, Selena Aguilar.



Friendship Transport's Emily Chen employed Valentina Rivera, with benefactor Mary Ellen Bonner.



More than 250 people attended the culmination reception in Banning High's Woodson Hall.



Martín Chavez thanks Elizabeth Machuca, intern class of 2008, for her assistance with the 2010 intern program.



California State Lands Commission representatives (from left) Kim Rogers and Debbie Smith pose with intern Oscar Caballero.



SA Recycling representatives Frank Muratalla and Ellinor Lester with their intern, Selena Aguilar.



Watson Land Company representatives (from left) Kelly Justiniano and Susan Miller with intern Alexis de Anda.



The Summer 2010 interns.



Pasha Stevedoring's Peggy Barteske with her intern, Olivia Amaya.