



Several young people, who are working this summer because of the City's Hire LA's Youth jobs program, spent their first day on the job with CDD General Manager Richard Benbow and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. They joined with the Mayor and Mr. Benbow at a news conference calling on employers to hire youth for summer jobs. Hire LA's Youth, which is sponsored by the Mayor and City Council, has seven components targeted to put 10,000 youth to work this summer. Studies have shown that one-out-of-five young people between the ages of 16 to 24 are out of school and out of work in the City of Los Angeles. "This is a statistic that will stand unchallenged in our city unless we do something about it," said Mayor Villaraigosa. "We know that a young person who is not in class or on a job is a youth at a higher risk of falling into bad company or bad habits."

That's why the Hire LA's Youth program is so important, and it's also why the Mayor continues to call on businesses and private institutions to hire young job seekers. "We want to go beyond that 10,000 number and put as many young people to work as possible," said the Mayor. "Investing in young people is something we need and can do for a better city and for our future."



*CDD GM, Richard Benbow demonstrates how he carried a tray on his first job.*

One component of the jobs program, aimed at putting job seekers 18 to 24 to work, is the Work Readiness Certificate. The certificate signals to employers that they have a job candidate who has passed a course that prepared them on how to get and keep a job. The Work Readiness Certificate was developed by the L.A. Chamber of Commerce, the City of Los Angeles' Workforce Investment Board and Youth Council. CDD GM Richard Benbow said, "Employers, if you are greeted by a young job seeker with a Work Readiness Certificate, that means they are ready to interview and go to work."



*Mayor Villaraigosa shows youngsters how he learned to sweep on the many jobs he held as a youngster.*

The young people, who stood with the Mayor and Mr. Benbow, are from two components of the Hire LA's Youth program. One group, working in the Chinatown Business Improvement District, is from Clean and Green, a program that uses youth to clean specific outdoor areas and tend to plants. The second group of young workers is part of the Learn and Earn program. They are assigned as interns at the Community Development Department. Mornings are spent in an office working as interns. In the afternoon they participate in a study program keyed toward high school completion exams.