



## LA CONSERVATION CORPS

### May 21, 2010

This week we were thrilled to receive two donations! A \$10,000 grant from the **Union Bank Foundation** was approved for our Alternative Education Program and Support & Transition Services. We also learned that in the next two weeks we'll be receiving new server equipment from **IBM**. We'll receive three new servers with an estimated retail value of nearly \$25,000! This IBM equipment will provide a much-needed upgrade of our current data management and storage capabilities.

The LA Conservation Corps would like to congratulate our friends, the Taproot Foundation for receiving the 2010 Spotlight Award presented last week by Governor Schwarzenegger and First Lady Maria Shriver at the annual Governor and First Lady's Medals for Service event.

### Young Adult Corps

This week,

- New session corpsmembers were out at Camp Max Strauss for SPIKE training. Corpsmembers from the East LA Center, South LA Center, North East LA Center and SEA Lab were all present. These new session corpsmembers saw an amazing amount of wildlife, learned about native vegetation and power equipments.
- Corpsmembers from the Cal Releaf program received their S212 certificates from the US Forest Service. This is a federally recognized chainsaw certification that will allow certified corpsmembers to use chainsaws on any Forest Service land.
- Corpsmember Saul Remigio was placed in a job with Cal Trans based on the Cal Releaf and Cal Trans safety training he received over a month ago (picture below). Great job Saul!



- Crews continued their work on the Backbone trail in Malibu, accessible off of Latigo Canyon Road. Corpsmembers and staff are removing lots of overgrown vegetation and improving the overall appearance of the trail.
- Crews are heading out this Saturday to Vermont Square Community Garden in celebration of Harvey Milk Day. The corps will be opening 50 tree wells and planting 50 Cassia Leptophylla along south Vermont Avenue with 150 volunteers. The celebration will go from 9am to 1pm at 4712 S. Vermont Street, Los Angeles, CA 90037.
- RACLA will continue to provide recycling services at Dodgers Stadium. Stay tuned for pictures!
- The East LA Center has made a major push on the Cal Trans job site. In the past two weeks, we have installed over 2,500 linear feet of reclaimed irrigation lines, 10 irrigation valves and cleared brush from 25,000 square feet of Cal Trans property.
- Senator Barbara Boxer visited LA Trade Tech and was thoroughly impressed with the “sustainable and green” training on campus. Senator Boxer walked through the weatherization/carpentry class in Building B and talked to students from the Corps.



*Senator Barbara Boxer with corpsmember Haydee Almanza and Mario Hurtado.*

- The weatherization team completed 130 hours of training this week. Our corpsmembers weatherized homes in the Marivilla community and continued their lab training at LA Trade Tech. Our crews were successful in completing the homes and impressing the residents with their ability to explain the work being done.

Our East LA Center Director Teague Weybright will be part of a panel discussion on agriculture and environment assignments with the Peace Corps this Saturday, May 22 from 11am to 12:30pm at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens in San Marino. Admission is free to panel discussion attendees, but space is limited. Please send your RSVP to [jhall@peacecorps.gov](mailto:jhall@peacecorps.gov) or call (310) 356-1114.

### **LA Education Corps**

A group of students from EcoAcademy went to Manzanar this week on Thursday and into Saturday. Under the supervision of Jorge Hernandez, Tish Middleton and Elizabeth Vazquez, students cleared brush and weeds at the historic baseball field in Manzanar. Our students did such a good job that they were invited to play a baseball game on the field that they cleared.



The Youth Opportunity High School Art Night is scheduled for Thursday, June 10 from 6 to 9pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for children. Please contact Jesse Castellanos at [jcastellanos@lacorps.org](mailto:jcastellanos@lacorps.org) for more information.

### Corpsmember Development

- Corpsmembers from the Leadership Council are currently planning and promoting the upcoming Prom, Graduation and Grad Night events. The Leadership Council currently consists of the following corpsmembers: Kendrick Harris as President, Victor Garcia as Vice President, Kim Zulka, Christian Moraga, Andy Sandoval and Juan Carlos Portillo as Councilmembers.
- Prom is scheduled for Friday, June 4 from 6:30pm to midnight at the Proud Bird Restaurant. Donations are needed; please contact Mary Starks at [mstarks@lacorps.org](mailto:mstarks@lacorps.org) to help.
- Pre-program orientation for the YouthBuild Mentoring Program started last Saturday at the South LA Center. The next orientation is scheduled for this Saturday, May 22. The purpose of the orientation is to address the volunteers' questions, provide an overview of the mentoring program and pre-screen all volunteers for eligibility. 60 volunteers have already signed up to become mentors!