



**Office of the Mayor
City of Los Angeles**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 21, 2007**

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MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA, LAUSD BOARD PRESIDENT CANTER CHALLENGE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO “HIRE LA’S YOUTH”

Job skills development program will provide up to 10,000 jobs for youths throughout Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES – As part of an annual effort to increase summer job opportunities for young people across Los Angeles, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, LAUSD Board President Marlene Canter, members of the City Council and local business leaders gathered at City Hall to kick off the HIRE LA’s Youth 2007 program.

“To ensure the brightest future possible for our City and its residents, we must prepare the next generation for the workforce,” said Mayor Villaraigosa. “By working together, we can make sure that every young Angeleno who wants to work will have an opportunity to do so.”

HIRE LA’s Youth 2007 provides teens and young adults between the ages of 14 and 24 with jobs in the public, private and non-profit sectors. Recent studies show that one in five young Angelenos are out of school or out of work. The initiative provides youth with opportunities to develop necessary skills and enter the workforce while supplementing their educations.

HIRE L.A.’s Youth takes a multifaceted approach to recruiting and employing young adults throughout the City. Among its seven programs, “Learn and Earn” targets 11th and 12th grade students who did not pass the California High School Exit Exam. Participants attend classes in the morning and work part-time in the afternoon.

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The HIRE LA 18-24 program offers job training and workforce development programs to Angelenos between the ages of 18 and 24. Participants receive a Work Readiness Certification and get placed in private sector jobs around Los Angeles.

"The best way to prepare young people for the 21st century economy is to give them actual work experience," said Gary Toebben, President and CEO of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce. "The LA Area Chamber is proud to support Mayor Villaraigosa's HIRE LA's Youth program through employer outreach and our Work Readiness Certification initiative, a job training program that both helps prepare youth for employment and then links them directly with qualified employers."

Last year, HIRE LA's Youth offered jobs to 7,500 participants. The 2006 effort also benefited from \$2 million from the Community Development Department and \$2.6 million from LA County. Mayor Villaraigosa challenged local businesses to join City government and non-profit organizations in reaching this year's goal of 10,000 summer youth jobs.

Additional information about HIRE LA's Youth can be found at www.hirelayouth.com.

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