



# Removing Barriers...

## Campuses

**Abram Friedman Occupational Center**  
1646 S. Olive Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90015-3507  
(213) 765-2400

**East Los Angeles Occupational Center**  
2100 Marengo Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90033-1321  
(323) 276-7000

**East Los Angeles Skills Center**  
3921 Selig Place  
Los Angeles, CA 90031-3901  
(323) 224-5970

**Evans Community Adult School**  
717 N. Figueroa Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90018-2118  
(213) 613-7900

**Harbor Occupational Center**  
740 N. Pacific Avenue  
San Pedro, CA 90731-1630  
(310) 241-4800

**Los Angeles Technology Center**  
3721 W. Washington Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90018-1160  
(323) 373-2300

**Maxine Waters Employment Prep. Ctr.**  
10925 S. Central Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90059-1023  
(323) 357-7700

**North Valley Occupational Center**  
11450 N. Sharp Avenue  
Mission Hills, CA 91345-1232  
(818) 256-1400

**Slawson Southeast Occupational Ctr.**  
5500 Rickenbacker Road  
Bell, CA 90201  
(323) 729-6000

**Venice Skills Center**  
611 5th Avenue  
Venice, CA 90291-3512  
(310) 664-5888

**West Valley Occupational Center**  
6200 Winnetka Avenue  
Woodland Hills, CA 91367-3826  
(818) 346-3540

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## East LA Occupational Center Graduate Now a Business Owner

East Los Angeles Occupational Center (ELAOC) has been the pathway to success for hundreds of thousands of people since it opened its doors in 1969. Martin Millan decided to pursue a short-term career training in 1998 after being laid off from his job in a local hotel. Having an interest in computers he enrolled in an adult school but soon dropped out due to his necessity to find work and earn money, something nearly impossible to accomplish with his existing class schedule. Having heard from friends and neighbors that ELAOC offered great opportunities for adults with both morning and evening classes he decided to enroll. He was greeted by a warm staff that welcomed him from the beginning. His teacher was very accommodating and soon became his mentor, working with him on his schedule which allowed him to attend electronic and computer repair classes while keeping his job. "ELAOC was an inspiration for me to better myself and get a better paying job; it was a stepping stone for my career", Martin enthusiastically shared. After completing his program with us, he was able to get an internship at a computer store where he was offered a permanent position after three weeks. At the computer store over the next eight years Martin worked arduously, always using the skills he learned at ELAOC to become better and achieve more. In 2012, a lifelong dream of his came true when he opened up his own computer repair business, Geeks R US. Martin thanks ELAOC for helping him overcome barriers and providing him with a life-changing opportunity on his journey to success.



For community members who suddenly lose a job and feel helpless, he stated, "You have to have the will to better yourself. ELAOC welcomes adults from our community and will help you along the way. Don't give up on your dreams of becoming a better person. There will be struggles, but at the end it is worthwhile."

Martin is one of the many faces our school has proudly served for 50 years. We are honored to be part of his story and wish him a lifetime full of personal and professional success!

## LA's Central High/TRI-C College and Career Resource Fair



On Saturday October 5, LA Unified's Division of Adult and Career Education (DACE) Career Technical Education (CTE) Advisors Brenda Vela, Alejandra Salcedo, and Navigator Mark Lawrence, represented DACE at Downtown LA's Central High/TRI-C College and Career Resource Fair.

The event was a chance for students to explore opportunities with representatives from local colleges and adult education certificate programs. A few days earlier, DACE Principals and Navigators convened with Options School Principals and LA City Youth and WorkSource representatives to formulate strategies to better serve Opportunity Youth. Having a presence at a resource fair like this is one such way.

"The Central High/TRI-C event was a success. We were able to speak directly with Options students about DACE Career and

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## Career Resource Fair, cont.

Technical Education programs. Many students are not able or interested in going to college right now, but seemed enthusiastic about learning a trade like Cosmetology, Construction or Auto Mechanics. That's where we come in," said Alejandra Salcedo.

Brenda Vela adds, "DACE's Abram Friedman Occupational Center just received a Strong Workforce Program grant and, as a result, Central High students can attend any CTE class at AFOC for free (books and supplies included), even if they're still in high school. Having a HS Diploma AND a marketable skill when they graduate will really help them to hit the ground running!"

The new partnership with Options Schools and LA City YouthSource and WorkSource centers is part of DACE's continued efforts to help LA area residents obtain job skills that lead to meaningful careers, self-respect and financial independence.

## Calling All Alumni



Did you know that the newly relaunched [WeAreDACE.org](http://WeAreDACE.org) website provides our Alumni the opportunity to register with us?

Having proudly served our Los Angeles community for over 50 years, LA Unified's Division of Adult and Career Education (DACE) has enjoyed a long and rich history with the countless students we have served and continue to serve. Their challenges are our challenges; and their successes one with our own.

If you know of friends, family, neighbors or co-workers who have attended LAUSD Adult Schools over the years, please let them know that we would love to hear from them. DACE Alumni may register with us at [WeAreDACE.org](http://WeAreDACE.org) under Alumni/Alumni Registration from the main navigation bar or by visiting [WeAreDACE.org/alumni/](http://WeAreDACE.org/alumni/) directly.

## The Options Promise



On October 22, Principal Monica Gnirs-Balbuena held an Options Promise Partnership meeting to follow up and reflect on the Promise of providing coordinated services and supports designed to increase economic self-sufficiency of youth and their families. The meeting helped to further foster collaboration between the partnering organizations: LA Unified's Options High Schools of Local District North-West, the Division of Adult and Career Education, West Valley Occupational Center (WVOC) and the County of Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department.

In the meeting, Principal Gnirs-Balbuena discussed how we could collaborate with Options alongside WorkSource and YouthSource Centers to help remove barriers for students interested in pursuing Career Technical Education (CTE) courses. Joshua David, WVOCs Navigator, presented the different CTE courses that WVOC had to offer, from Certified Nursing Assistant to Culinary Arts.

To help showcase the various CTE courses, Culinary Arts Instructor, Darbee Prieto, and her class catered a luncheon for the attendees, where some of the students shared inspiring stories about how the course is changing their lives.

This meeting is one of many that West Valley Occupational intends to hold during this school year and beyond, to strengthen the partnerships they have while forging new ones, in their continuing efforts to fully realize the Options Promise!

## Industry Specific Training

DACE cosmetology teachers attended the American Association of Cosmetology Schools (AACCS) Annual Conference and Expo held in Las Vegas, Nevada from September 27-30, 2019. AACCS's primary task is to provide updated information and resources regarding new teaching methods, industry events, and federal regulatory updates through a series of seminars, conferences and conventions held throughout the year.

Lessons learned at the conference included: government relations, education implementation, trend forecasting, cybersecurity, incorporating student-generated content, social media strategies, compliance, business governance, reaching benchmarks, accreditation, job placement, and marketing. In addition, teachers networked with over 60 widely-known exhibitors such as Milady, Pivot Point International, Burmax, Supercuts, Dermalogica and Wella. Many of these companies are sponsors for SkillsUSA at the national level.

One of the most visible trends at the conference were techniques used for eyelash extensions along with products and educational programs associated with this skill.

The attendance and involvement of teachers at this conference made DACE's cosmetology programs visible to prospective employers, future sponsors, and industry professionals.

"Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century," the 2018 Perkins reauthorization focuses on industry specific teacher training. DACE will be sponsoring similar training opportunities in other industries throughout this year and into the future.

