



**Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew  
Visits PVJOBS in South L.A.; Meets with PVJOBS Veteran of the Year**  
*PVJOBS announces Participants of the Year Awards*

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**Los Angeles** –Playa Vista Job Opportunities and Business Services (PVJOBS) recognized their participants of the year at the September 24th PVJOBS recognition luncheon “Journeys of Courage.” One awardee, James Martinez, had the opportunity to meet with U.S. Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew during his visit to PVJOBS last Wednesday. Lew toured the facility and met with Martinez, who was honored as the PVJOBS Veteran Participant of the Year. Lew, who has served as Treasury Secretary since February 2013, met with Martinez for a one on one coffee.

Martinez was deployed with the Marines in 2012, serving in Japan after the tsunami and nuclear accident. When he was released from active duty, Martinez returned home to a four month old son and no job prospects. While visiting the VA Long Beach Medical Center earlier this year, Martinez noticed there was a job fair. After making his rounds from booth to booth, he came across one staffed by PVJOBS. Fortunately, that staff member knew of an employer looking for a licensed EMT and within a few weeks, Martinez received a call from the Walsh/Shea Corridor Constructors, the contractor for the Los Angeles METRO Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project.

Now Martinez gives thrice-weekly safety orientations to new workers, emphasizing how to avoid falls, electrocution and other accidents. In the military, he saw the devastating results of trauma. Now he works to prevent casualties.

In addition to Martinez, PVJOBS recognized Ron Miller, Executive Secretary of the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council as Visionary of the Year; Walsh/Shea Corridor Constructors as Contractors of the Year; and two other clients who have overcome significant barriers on their “Journeys of Courage:” LaDaya Epps as Core Program Participant of the Year; and D’Andre Hill, Right Turn Youth Program Participant of the Year.

Beverly White, General Assignment Reporter for NBC4 Southern California, served as the emcee for the event, which was held in The Center at Cathedral Plaza in Downtown Los Angeles.

For additional information visit [www.pvjobs.org](http://www.pvjobs.org), or call 323.432.3955.

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*PVJOBS is a nationally recognized, nonprofit organization that works with major construction projects, unions and 120 community-based organizations to provide construction job opportunities to local, at-risk residents. These at-risk youth and adults have either come from single-parent homes, have been welfare recipients, did not complete high school, have former gang affiliations, endured homelessness or have been incarcerated. PVJOBS has nearly 16,000 active, job-ready candidates in its database. Since its formation in 1998, PVJOBS has filled more than 7,000 positions, maintaining a retention rate of 89 percent.*

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