

# On Site

Playa Vista Job Opportunities and Business Services

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## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*Ernest Roberts  
Executive Director, PVJOBS*

It is with my deepest gratitude that I thank all of you who supported and attended our PVJOBS "Building on the Foundation of Hope" Awards Luncheon. It is important and refreshing to know that PVJOBS has the support of the local labor, business and civic community. Without such camaraderie and cooperation, our job would be nearly impossible.

It has been said that those who work with hard-to-serve clients eventually suffer from burnout because of the emotional difficulty encountered from working with such a clientele. While there may be some truth in supporting this point of view, my staff and I have discovered that each success story breathes new life into our commitment. On almost a daily basis, we witness the remarkable life transformations of our clients, and we highlighted a few of them at our awards event. Each one of these success stories gives our staff a renewed optimism in assisting those less fortunate than ourselves. It is a remarkable feeling.

I am so proud of my hard working staff. Without their hard work and dedication, PVJOBS would not be the organization it is today.

## Trainee Graduates Praised by Union Leaders at Special Grad Ceremony

Commitment, perseverance and hard work were three characteristics used to describe the trainees who attended the Laborers Joint Apprenticeship Council's Inaugural Graduation



*PVJOBS Union Liaison Jeffery Henderson and ECIS Coordinator Cheryl Mitchell share in the festivities with Local 300 Business Manager Sergio Rascon and Laborers Recruitment Coordinator Mike Rubio.*

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## Sheriff Lee Baca and Cardinal Roger Mahoney Honor PVJOBS Award Recipients

Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca and Cardinal Roger Mahoney joined more than 300 labor, business and community leaders at the PVJOBS Sixth Annual Awards Luncheon recently held at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. Themed "Building on the Foundation of Hope," the event honored at-risk individuals who have turned their lives around by building careers through the PVJOBS Program.



*From left: Cardinal Roger Mahoney; Michael Hill, PVJOBS Visionary Award Recipient; L.A. County Sheriff Lee Baca; Mary Richert, PVJOBS Board President; and Ernest Roberts, PVJOBS Executive Director.*

Employee of the Year Awards were presented to two PVJOBS workers – laborers Rob Dates and Thomas Palamino – for building successful construction careers through the job program and overcoming significant obstacles. In only a three-year period, Dates went from struggling on the streets of Los Angeles to establishing a thriving construction career. Palamino is a former gang member who is now a successful laborer at the Playa Vista development site. (\*See their stories inside this issue.)

A Career Champion Award was presented to James "Rock" Farmer for his hard work that led to a series of promotions as well as for starting his nonprofit, "Why I Can Achieve," a community after-

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# PVJOBS Employee of the Year

## THOMAS PALAMINO

Thirty-one-year-old Thomas Palamino had childhood aspirations of working in the construction industry. His hopes ultimately materialized when PVJOBS hired him nearly four years ago to work at the Playa Vista development site. As a laborer for Playa Vista contractor California Plastering, Palamino is one of the most solid workers on his construction team.



Thomas Palamino

But since becoming a PVJOBS worker, Palamino has not only helped to construct buildings, he's also reconstructed his life. While growing up in the Los Angeles community of Maywood, Palamino grew up in a close family who lived in one of the area's toughest neighborhoods. Although gang activity was prevalent in the community, Palamino managed to stay away from gangs by playing on a neighborhood football team that his big brother Andy coached. But at age 12, his life took a tragic turn when his older brother suddenly died from a mysterious stomach illness.

Unsure of how to cope with his brother's death, Palamino sought acceptance from local gang members. Over the next decade, Palamino's gang involvement took him down a dark path, spiraling his life out of control and ultimately leading to a prison term.

After his prison release, he realized he wanted to make something right out of his life. His parole counselor persuaded him to study a construction trade by joining a firefighter camp outside of Nevada. Palamino jumped at the offer, and soon enrolled in the camp training program that positioned him to work on two state construction projects.

With his parole behind him and two successful construction projects under his belt, Palamino returned to Los Angeles searching for work, where he learned about PVJOBS. He beat out 15 other job candidates because of his sheer determination to use his skills to excel in a new career.

A successful construction worker, Palamino today feels good about where his life is headed. As he reflects on his life's transition, he says, "Growing up, the gang was my world. But since I've started my career, I now know that there's a much better side of the world."

## PVJOBS Award Recipients Honored

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From left: James "Rock" Farmer, PVJOBS Career Champion Award Recipient; Rob Dates, PVJOBS Employee of the Year; Michael Hill, PVJOBS Visionary Award Recipient; and Thomas Palamino, PVJOBS Employee of the Year.

school computer tutorial and gang prevention program.

Former PVJOBS Board Director Michael Hill received the Visionary Award for his work in steering the job program over the past decade. Warmington Homes received the Contractor of the Year Award for maintaining a stellar record in hiring PVJOBS workers and demonstrating a sincere commitment to the PVJOBS mission of providing career-track opportunities to the local at-risk.

The awards event's premiere sponsors were DMJM/JGM; Hathaway Dinwiddie Construction Company; Playa Vista; and Trammell Crow Company. Event sponsors also included Bernards Brothers Construction; Jackson, DeMarco & Peckenpaugh; Keller CMS, Inc./Warmington Homes California; Laborer's Local #300; Miller Environmental; Morley Construction; Psomas; Southern California-Nevada/Regional Council of Carpenters; Statistical Research, Inc.; and The MWW Group.

## Trainee Grads Praised

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Ceremony in January. The ceremony was held to honor graduates who completed classroom training and work hours required to obtain journeymen status.

PVJOBS workers Cameron Williams and Lawrence Jackson were two graduates who were honored at the event. Williams works as a laborer for Salsbury Engineering, while Jackson serves as a laborer for Penhall Construction.

The ceremony drew several prominent laborer leaders, including Laborers International Union of America (LIUNA) General President Terrance O'Sullivan; LIUNA Regional Vice President Rocco Davis; Local 300 Business Manager Sergio Rascon; and Local 802 Business Manager Angel Sambrano.

O'Sullivan delivered a passionate speech about the importance of the graduates maintaining an involvement in union activism, civic and union politics, and social justice causes. He also praised the graduates for their career achievements, adding that their families will also benefit from their hard work.

Graduates received special commendations from Los Angeles Department of Public Works Commissioner Valerie Shaw and Public Works Labor Compliance Officer Manny Perez, both of whom are ardent supporters of the PVJOBS Program.

# PVJOBS

## Employment Update

As construction activities increase, so does the need for craft employees. Laborers Local #300 needs union members with HazMat certification. Certifications can be obtained through a qualified training agency or by the Laborers' training school after indentureship. PVJOBS periodically hosts meet and greet orientations with various Locals to introduce union leaders to our clients. Please call PVJOBS at (310) 448-4684 to learn more about these trade opportunities and our next orientations.

CONSTRUCTION TRADE	ACTIVE IN DATABASE
Carpenters	1901
Flooring/Carpet Layers*	113
Concrete Masons/Finishers	276
Electricians	305
Iron Workers	302
Laborers	3395
Tile/Marble/Brick Masons	586
Operating Engineers*	80
Painters	893
Plasterers	255
Plumbers	716
Roofers	332
Sheet Metal Workers*	73

*\*Trades Specifically Needed*

Since 1999, the overall rate of compliance at Playa Vista is 13.7%, well above the 10% commitment. Beyond Playa Vista, construction activity has begun for Trammel Crow's 2000 Avenue of the Stars. The Los Angeles Community College District's Proposition A and AA bond programs for construction on all nine campuses has also begun, and more than 60 clients have already been placed through the LACCD e7 Jobs Program. These projects will greatly increase our placement potential.

As of March 2005, 939 PVJOBS candidates have gained employment, filling 1,727 positions. Also, 332 candidates have completed a minimum of 500 hours of labor, and 44 candidates have completed more than 3,000 hours. We expect to fill an additional 150 to 200 positions this quarter at Playa Vista and elsewhere. However, many of these positions will be filled from our out-of-work list, per our internal policies, reducing the number of new placement opportunities.

Bear in mind that many candidates listed in the table above are already working. We specifically need candidates to fill positions as sheetmetal workers (with welding experience), flooring laborers and operating engineers. Candidates for these specific trades need to submit an application to the applicable union and pass the union test before they are eligible for referral to work through PVJOBS. Please call PVJOBS for more details about these job opportunities.

# PVJOBS Employee of the Year

## ROB DATES

Ever since laborer Rob Dates was hired by PVJOBS nearly three years ago, he's been hot property. Dates started off working for Playa Vista contractor Colich & Sons. But after his assignment ended, a succession of other construction firms hired him to work at their projects, as well. Over the past year, 28-year-old Dates has come full circle by working again for Colich & Sons, which recently gave him one of the highest performance marks that led him to becoming an award recipient of the PVJOBS Employee of the Year.



Rob Dates

With each position, Dates has added new skills to his resume – from laying pipelines to operating machinery. He says that his new construction career has given him an opportunity to demonstrate his potential, and he feels like he's now controlling his destiny. Taking control over his life is something that Dates would never again give up.

Born in Kalmuga, Alabama, Dates at age eight moved with his mother and four older sisters to Los Angeles after his parents' separation. Following his graduation from Dorsey High School, Dates worked at his stepfather's tire shop for two years. But after expressing differences with his stepfather, he left the job and took refuge in the streets. A self-described "hustler," Dates began drinking heavily and cut corners to survive. His heavy drinking turned into alcoholism, and he lived on the streets for nearly the next five years.

Realizing his life was moving toward a dead-end, Dates began searching for a new beginning. One day, he ran into a high school friend who told him about PVJOBS, adding that he'd "be a fool" not to take advantage of the job program.

Dates took his advice. Within weeks of signing up with PVJOBS, he was hired as a laborer for Colich & Sons.

Today, married and the father of two young children, Dates feels empowered about his life. He's already a member of the union, and he's becoming a construction trade specialist as his career evolves. He says he owes much of his life turnaround to PVJOBS. Explains Dates, "Before, street life was all I knew. But PVJOBS gave me the opportunity to provide for myself and my family. So now I'm making it happen."



# PVJOBS Community Partners

## APPRENTICE PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Century Community Training (Ms. Clinkenbeard) 310/673-3941  
Los Angeles Technology Center (Ms. Kerr) 323/732-1053

## WORKSOURCE CENTERS

Career Planning Center-Marina (Ms. Waters) 310/309-6000  
Career Transition Worksource Center (Mr. Fernandez) 562/570-3728  
Community Centers WorkSource Center (Mr. Ruvalcaba) 323/752-2115  
Compton Career Link WorkSource California (Mr. Smith) 310/605-3050  
Hollywood WorkSource California (Ms. Gardner) 323/960-1300  
LA. Urban League W. Adams/B.H. WorkSource (Ms. Hall) 323/732-7867  
Metro North Worksource Center (Ms. Zakarian) 323/223-1211  
Wilshire Metro WorkSource (Ms. Shakoor-Akbar) 213/365-9829  
WLCAC Southeast/Watts WorkSource (Mr. Blake) 323/563-5669

## YOUTH AND ADULT PROGRAMS

All People Christian Center (Ms. Bryant) 213/747-6357  
CCFP/Meals On Wheels for Children (Ms. Moore) 323/755-8038  
Chrysalis/New Directions (Ms. Fontaine) 310/914-4045  
Chrysalis/Santa Monica (Ms. Slayton) 310/392-4117  
Communities in Schools (Ms. Arredondo) 818/891-9399  
Community Build (Mr. Bektamba) 323/789-9950  
CRTD FaithWorks (Ms. Richardson) 310/673-0277  
DARE U TO CARE (Ms. Parker) 323/756-3208  
Employment Development Dept. S.M. Branch (Ms. Thomas) 310/576-6431  
FAME Renaissance (Mr. Prince) 323/730-8354  
Homies Unidos Inc. (Ms. Belrran) 213/383-7484  
Housing Authority of L.A. (WtW Division) (Ms. Rasheed) 213/252-1800  
Human Potential Consulting-LLC (Ms. Windsett) 310/745-1560  
Jobs of the Future/Homeboy Industries (Father Boyle) 323/526-1254  
Joint Efforts Inc. (Mr. Twain) 310/821-2358  
IAM Care Carson (Ms. Kimbrough) 310/518-8235  
L.A. Family Housing Corporation (Ms. Ramirez) 818/982-4091

## YOUTH AND ADULT PROGRAMS continued

Mar Vista Family Center (Ms. Diaz) 310/390-9607  
Meaning And Purpose (Mr. Moore) 323/296-2553  
NABSIO/Cutting Edge News (Mr. Perkins-Ali) 323/755-6024  
NO GUNS (Mr. Marroquin) 310/695-7438  
Public Allies Los Angeles (Mr. Gonzalez) 213/251-2777  
Save Our Future (Mr. Jordan) 323/544-0039  
South Central Projects With Industry/SCRS (Ms. Williams) 310/345-5713  
Testimonial Community Love Center (Ms. Pantaleon) 323/296-2082  
The WorkPlace (Mr. Solis) 213/386-1994  
Union Rescue Mission (Mr. Hopkins) 213/347-6300  
Unity One (Mr. Taylor) 213/963-5843  
U.S. VETS (Ms. Harris) 310/348-7600  
Venice 2000 (Mr. Hayward) 310/823-6100  
Walden House SASCA Region 111 (Mr. Wilson) 213/741-3720  
West Angeles Community Development Corp. (Ms. Welch) 323/291-1472

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

Archdiocesan Youth Employment Services (Mr. Gutierrez) 213/736-5456  
Boyle Heights Youth Opportunity Movement (Mr. Burks) 323/260-4796  
CCEO YouthBuild (Mr. Starks) 310/225-3060  
Covenant House of California (Mr. Sterle) 323/957-7455  
Goals for Life (Mr. Berry) 562/698-1501  
L.A. Youth at Work (Ms. Hererra) 213/580-7505  
PACE YouthBuild (Mr. Leonares) 213/580-0020  
Peacekeeper ARK (Ms. Adams) 310/276-9046  
United Friends of the Children (Ms. Raphael) 213/580-1850  
VCHC YouthBuild (Ms. Caldwell) 310/399-4100  
YES YouthBuild (Mr. Whelchel) 323/567-0091  
Watts Youth Opportunity Movement (Mr. Burks) 323/789-2773

*For more information, call PVJOBS at 310/448-4684.*



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