



January-June 2009 BSP Report

ADVANCE PROGRAM CLASSES

- Launched our first classes at Apple (Brilliant General Maintenance) and Watergate Towers (Hines/ABM) in Northern California. This winter we have restarted classes at Google, Genentech, Bishop Ranch, Adobe, Applied material and other key sites.
- Six sites in Los Angeles have graduated from the worksite Advance program this year. Included in these classes were two Douglas Emmett buildings (Warner Center and Sherman Oaks Galleria), Wells Fargo (Maguire Properties), Watt Plaza, Century Plaza Towers (JP Morgan/ABM), City National (Thomas Properties/DMS). The Warner Center site was the first Advance class for Peerless Building Maintenance.
- Current Advance classes in Los Angeles include: 10100 Santa Monica (ABM), Kilroy Airport Center (Long Beach), MGM Towers, Wells Fargo (2nd group) and Union Bank (Hines/UBM).
- On June 24th, 18 janitors graduated at Novartis in Emeryville, a Pacific Maintenance Company site, where we extended the program from 70 to 100 hours due to high attendance.
- We've met with employers in San Diego and we are looking at a pilot class with a joint effort between Paragon Building Maintenance and ABM.
- At the Oakland Coliseum, we continue to support collaborative efforts by SMG and SEIU to develop a fair assessment system for determining which janitors have high enough English and customer service skills to work events.



March 25, 2009: Joint graduation for Janitors from Warner Center & Sherman Oaks Galleria cleaned by Peerless Building Maintenance & ABM, respectively.



Brilliant General Maintenance President, Daniel Montes, congratulates an ADVANCE Program graduate at El Camino Medical Center in Mountain View in late April.



SEIU LOCAL 1877 UNION HALL CLASSES

- The Spring 2009 ESL and computer courses at the Los Angeles SEIU Local 1877 union hall began in January with an enrollment of 45 students.
- Computer classes in Oakland and San Jose restarted in April. In Oakland, the computer lab was moved to a bigger space and an extra Saturday class was added to accommodate increased demand. ESL classes in San Jose also restarted in April.
- Low –wage workers in Los Angeles received Free Tax preparation through the VITA program provided by California State Controller, John Chiang,
- 17 Students in Los Angeles are currently enrolled in the Saturday Citizenship Class.

Marcia Gomez, an ABM janitor at Wells Fargo, recently became a Citizen and credits BSP's Advance and Citizenship program for helping her pass her Citizenship interview.



PARENT EDUCATION AND UNIVERSITY WORKSHOPS

- 25 students and some parents attended the 20th annual Latino/a Youth Conference at Santa Monica College. Over 600 students throughout Los Angeles attended this conference that included a career fair, college fair and workshop motivating and informing students about college.
- We have 5 UCLA student interns working with us this Spring and Summer. The students will survey members and help prepare the Parent University workshops for summer 2009.
- \$6,100 was raised for BSP's first Scholarship Season. Scholarship applications are due June 30th, 2009.
- The 2009 Parent University Workshops will begin on July 10, 2009. This year, besides focusing on middle school and high school aged children, we will be offering a workshop targeting young adults who would like information about obtaining their GED and enrolling in a technical/vocational program or a 2 or 4 year university.



Parents and students at the Santa Monica College Latino/a Youth Conference



HEALTH EDUCATION

In Northern California, a grant from the California Wellness Foundation grant has allowed us to bring general health and safety curriculum into ADVANCE Program classes. Our English instructors pre-teach basic health vocabulary and concepts before professional trainers are brought in.

Kaiser sends bilingual Doctor Ambassadors out to worksites to present on diabetes prevention and other preventative health topics of particular concern for Latinos. The janitors can also ask questions directly of doctors in Q&A sessions which follow. Street Level Health Project provides training for janitors on stress management, stretching to prevent repetitive stress injuries, and other health topics.

The model and curriculum developed in Northern California will be replicated in Los Angeles, where we are beginning to work with the health and welfare fund and Kaiser to plan training for its members.

The balance of this 250k grant over three years will be transferred from the LTEF to the new statewide BSP upon completion of the first year on June 30, 2009.



(Above) Janitors at Novartis review a BMI (Body Mass Index) chart presented in the training by a Kaiser doctor. (Right) Janitors do a stress management exercise and learn how to better take care of their health.