Finding Employment Success with the Re-Entry Population

The University Community Partnerships Program’s Workforce and Economic Development Initiative, in partnership with Goodwill Industries and the San Francisco Job Developers Association (SFJDA) is excited to host a series of all day training sessions for managers and staff of workforce development agencies serving the re-entry population. These training sessions are designed to give workforce development professionals tools to improve employment outcomes of ex-offenders. According to the U.S. Department of Labor over twenty-five percent of the U.S. population has a criminal record on file. This population faces a number of both supply and demand side barriers when attempting to re-enter the workforce. Ex-offenders oftentimes suffer from limited formal education and limited work experience while at the same time having to overcome employers’ expectations about the ex-offender population.

Led by Larry Robbin, Executive Director of Robbin & Associates, the trainings provide information on how to identify and overcome barriers to employment through successful job hunting tactics, hiring experiences, job development and long term job retention strategies. Robbin has over 40 years of employment and workforce development experience and has trained over 100,000 people on topics related to employment throughout the country. He is widely regarded for his expertise in the issue of improving employment outcomes for ex-offenders. Participants will receive training manuals with practical tools and handouts they can share with their clients who are making the transition into employment or educational programs.

“It is exciting for UCSF to be able to sponsor this type of training which can have such a positive effect on all of our communities,” said Damon Lew, Workforce Development Coordinator, UCPP. These workshops will result in a greater understanding of the unique needs of the ex-offender population. Participants will be empowered to provide support for the individual by understanding the comprehensive picture of an ex-offender’s move to employment. The workshops are scheduled for September 18, October 16 and December 11 at UCSF’s Mission Bay campus. Cost: $25 per workshop. For more information contact Damon Lew at dlew@cgr.ucsf.edu.

Partnerships in Action...

This month, we are highlighting the Women’s Health Internship Program at UCSF National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health (UCSF CoE). The program, open to college, graduate, and professional students as well as transitional age young women, fulfills multiple missions of UCSF CoE including advancing the health and well-being of women and girls from diverse communities and filling the health career pipeline with bright, talented women committed to advancing women’s health.

The program is designed to open doors for motivated girls and young women by offering the opportunity to learn about and contribute to women’s health through projects around research, clinical care, education and community involvement. Leadership development is a key characteristic of the program designed to provide guidance, support, and enthusiasm for pursuing a career in women’s health. Intern project sites include UCSF and a multitude of community partners in San Francisco. “Interns are involved in many projects throughout the city. They are often times a breath of fresh air in these programs bringing new ideas, energy, and skills,” said Kim-Shree Maufas, Program Director. Recently, interns have participated in bringing health information to the Mayor’s Summer of Unity events and have worked on the annual Young Women’s Health Conference, hosted by the Center of Excellence.

The program is currently looking for more partners to act as hosts for interns. If you are interested in working with an intern, or you would like to become an intern yourself, please visit the UCSF CoE website at: http://www.coe.ucsf.edu/coe/intern.

Other Department and Council Happenings...

We are delighted to welcome our new Partnerships Assistant, Eileen McCormick. Eileen is excited to have the opportunity to work with the community in her new role. “All my pervious jobs have had some sort of interaction the community and when I started working in the private sector there was that void of working with and giving back to the community. Being able to work with UC faculty and the community seemed like such a unique experience from which I could learn a lot,” McCormick said. Eileen will be instrumental in supporting the work of the Council and program staff.

Welcome to our new Council members: Jane Weintraub, DDS, MPH, Lee Hysan Professor and Chair, UCSF School of Dentistry; Anni Chung, Executive Director of Self Help for the Elderly; and Sharon Youmans, Associate Dean for Diversity, UCSF School of Pharmacy. In June, we also said a fond farewell to several Council members. Thank you to Lorie Rice, Eli Horn, Nora Rios-Redlick, Francisco Ramos-Gomez, and John Nickens for their service to the Council! We will miss you.

(Photos: New Council members Anni Chung and Jane Weintraub.)

Beginning in September, the University Community Partnerships Program, in partnership with the Community Partnerships Resource Center and the CTSI Community Engagement Program, will be hosting a series of free brown bag lunch workshops. Topics include: Fundamentals of Partnerships, Asset Based Community Development, and Board Development for Non-Profits. To receive announcements about these and other events, please join our listserv by emailing partnerships@ucsf.edu.

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