Long Beach has been a hub of early aviation and aerospace manufacturing going back to the early part of the 20th century, flourishing in the 1940’s with the arrival of Douglas Aircraft and continuing to grow with Boeing and its suppliers. More recently we have seen a boost in the number of private space and satellite launch companies moving and growing within our city limits driven here by the need for top talent and desire to be close to major suppliers. Currently, over 6,5k jobs in Long Beach are directly connected to the Aerospace Industry.

On Monday, January 13th Pacific Gateway convened the inaugural gathering of the Long Beach Aerospace Council, an industry sector partnership following the NextGen model of an employer lead collective with the sole purpose of supporting one another and a focus on growing the industry locally.

Participating companies include Boeing, DASCO Engineering, Deering Industries, Gulfstream Aerospace, M4 Aerospace Engineering, NC Dynamics Inc., Neill Aircraft Company, NuSpace, Plasidyne Engineering & Manufacturing, RBH Aerospace, Rocket Lab, Ross Aviation, Rubbercraft, Shimadzu Precision, SpinLaunch, Virgin Orbit, Weber Metals and Wyatt Precision Machine. In addition, the Council was joined by a grouping of supporting partners including Cal State Long Beach, City of Long Beach Economic Development, Long Beach Airport, Long Beach City College, Long Beach Unified School District, Pacific Gateway Workforce Development Board and the Port of Long Beach.

Recognizing the challenge English Language Learners face in today’s job market, Pacific Gateway held its Bilingual Job Fair at the Veterans Park Community Center in Long Beach to bring together local community English language learners with 21 businesses seeking individuals whose language skills range from fully bilingual to individuals with little English speaking skills. Over 60 attendees met with participating businesses recruiting for a wide variety of open positions ranging from industrial warehouse positions to therapists and case management. Many attendees indicated they would be moving on to in-person interviews.
TSE SUCCESS STORY – Mr. Farley

Mr. Farley came to The WorkPlace in April of 2019 after experiencing a lay-off in the healthcare industry in which he had a thriving career spanning over 20 years, and recently holding a Disaster Coordinator position. At nearly 70, Mr. Farley became concerned his main barrier was likely ageism, but remained realistic about his job prospects and expressed his desire was to continue to work in any capacity given the opportunity to give back and be helpful to others.

Given his wealth of industry knowledge, Mr. Farley was encouraged to continue seeking and networking in his field. Mr. Farley attended Skills Workshops, and met regularly with his Career Specialist conducting one-on-one mock interviews and learning strategies on how to sell his skillset and work experience while focusing on salary negotiation. With the help of his Career Specialist, Mr. Farley was able to regain his confidence.

Mr. Farley began interviewing in the fall of 2019 with UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland, CA. After many interviews and traveling back and forth to San Francisco, Mr. Farley put into practice the various skills and knowledge he gained from our Skills Workshops as well as his one-on-one afternoon meetings with his Career Specialist. His hard work paid off in November when UCSF extended an official offer as their Lead Disaster Coordinator, earning a six-figure salary and a $5,000 signing bonus for relocation fees. The new salary nearly doubled his previous earnings.

Mr. Farley’s official start date was January 13, 2020 and he is thriving and thoroughly enjoying his new work and life in the San Francisco area. Aside from his strong work ethic, skills, and education, Mr. Farley demonstrated a gracious, kind, and professional demeanor always.

In an email Mr. Farley addressed to his Career Specialist:

“It's going exceedingly well! Nice people. All of what I learned in previous jobs is making me shine up here. Unbelievable, they really need my knowledge, so I’m pouring it out. All I can say is Wow! … you were there for me every step of the way guiding, encouraging, and directing me on interviewing and negotiating my salary. I’m forever grateful.”

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From Cook to Chef

December 16th, 2020

In an effort to provide at risk and disconnected young adults with an opportunity to develop skills and gain work experience in the culinary industry, Pacific Gateway partnered with Globally Delicious “GD BRO” Burger Managing Partner, Hue Nguyen to develop the “From Cook to Chef” program. The program provides underserved young adults with 4 months of free services that include:

- A California Food Handler’s Card
- A Customer Service Certificate by the National Retail Federation
- 6 Mentorship Sessions with a Mentor with Experience in the Restaurant Industry
- Soft Skills Training
- Work Readiness Training
- Skills Training
- 260 Hours of Paid Work Experience at GD Bro Burger

Partners EDU Consulting and Purple Reign will provide training and specialty services developed to better prepare youth as they enter the workforce. Mentorship sessions will cover a variety of topics detailing mentors’ industry knowledge and experience in an effort to build resilience and self-esteem, empowering the young participants to overcome challenging situations.

From Cook to Chef is currently recruiting the first cohort of young adults and is expected to launch in March 2020. We look forward to report on the overall progress and impact this model for success has on our local Long Beach youth.