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## Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, and the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Challenge Employers to HIRE LA's Youth

**(May 4, 2008-Los Angeles, CA)** Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) officially kicked off the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Youth Employment Program on Monday, May 4, 2009, making Los Angeles the first city to put youth to work using stimulus funds. Starting with an exclusive employer engagement breakfast held in City Hall, Mayor Villaraigosa challenged employers to hire committed and resourceful Los Angeles youth in charting the City's path back to stability.

"Everybody remembers their first summer job," said Mayor Villaraigosa. "These jobs will set our youth on course toward a steady paycheck." With businesses such as Kaiser Permanente, Vons, and Aarrow, Inc. in attendance, the engagement breakfast produced 1,962 new job pledges for youth including 600 from the Los Angeles County Fair. Building on the momentum of the employer breakfast, the Mayor and WIB members then walked to the steps of City Hall to join Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to officially launch the start of summer jobs thanks to ARRA funds.



"As a state we are working around the clock to put every Recovery Act dollar to work," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "Again I encourage local elected officials to ensure this funding is pumped into the California economy as quickly and effectively as possible."

With more than 300 youth in the backdrop, the Mayor, Governor and several City Councilmembers stressed the importance of recovery through youth employment. Under the umbrella of HIRE LA's Youth campaign, the City of Los Angeles will place more than 16,500 youth in paid positions by June 30, 2010. With the help of stimulus funds, the City will place 1,250 young people in subsidized employment as a prelude to the summer program. The WIB plays an instrumental role in developing a strategy to successfully and efficiently connect youth with employers and recruits new businesses to join the City's efforts.



“The City of Los Angeles Workforce Development System welcomes the challenge of placing more youth in year-round job experiences,” said Gregory Irish, Executive Director of the WIB. “The business community plays an integral role in HIRE LA’s success. We are incredibly grateful to the dozens of employers who have pledged paid positions.”

**For more information on HIRE LA’s Youth, please visit [www.hirelayouth.com](http://www.hirelayouth.com) .**

**CAPTION:** HIRE LA participant Nicole Graves shares her experiences as a member of the 2008 HIRE LA's Youth News team. Graves, a student at El Camino College, applauded President Barack Obama and Mayor Villaraigosa for believing in the power of young people.

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