



Advancing Equity: Empowering Through Community Integration

August was bustling with activity at SCRS! Looking ahead, we're dedicated to enhancing community involvement for our consumers. By boosting skills from training sessions and preparing our EDGE students for the upcoming Fall semester, we're excited to provide more opportunities for growth and integration in their communities.

Understanding the significance of community integration, let's explore how it can address historical exclusion and foster inclusivity, benefiting individuals and society at large.

- **Historical Exclusion:** Individuals with disabilities are historically excluded from social interactions, job prospects, and education.
- **Widespread Impact:** Almost one in four Americans and over one billion worldwide live with disabilities, underscoring the scale of the issue.
- **Inclusive Approach:** Community integration ensures access to diverse social, educational, and professional opportunities.
- **Integrated Opportunities:** Opportunities embedded within existing communities, avoiding segregation.
- **Dual Benefits:** Enhances individual well-being and overall community health.
- **Empowerment:** Integration empowers individuals with disabilities to advocate for rights, influence policies, and raise awareness.
- **Equitable Society:** Aims at contributing to a fairer, more inclusive society benefiting everyone.

Read More

37 days until our 5th Annual Disability Pride Parade!

Scroll to the bottom to find out more information! Don't forget to RSVP!



Trunk or Treat ☐

Mark your calendars for a frightfully fun Trunk-or-treat event the following week - Oct 14, 5-8 pm! Get ready to join us and embrace the spooky spirit of the season! More information is below.



Regional Employment Services

Recent Highlights from Arcadia



Skill Building: SCRS consumers excelled at the mall, displaying communication skills and talking to managers. They engaged with employees, inquired about jobs, and faced challenges, benefiting community integration and skill growth.

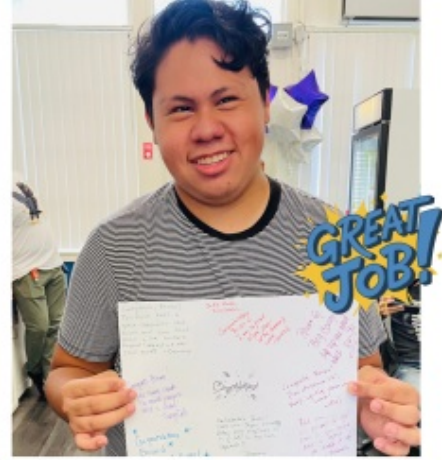
Internships Secured: Bright and positive, Daniel and Henry, despite job inexperience, embraced the opportunity at Grocery Outlet with enthusiasm after pre-employment training. They enjoy their roles, work a consistent schedule, and embrace their increasing job duties.

Prospective Partnerships: Arcadia staff connected with interested organizations, forging potential partnerships for employment and internships. Multiple connections were established, fostering a promising relationship for clients' career advancement.

Recent Highlights from Downey

CONSUMER OF THE MONTH

The featured consumer set a goal for himself to attend training every day in August. He has made considerable progress by attending training and being committed to doing the work and now feels confident in his interview skills and ability to advocate for himself. Featured consumer is always willing to lend a helping hand to his peers and support staff. Special shout out to SCRS staff, Alfredo for donating Knotts Berry Farm tickets to the consumer!



COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

Community integration training builds confidence and furthers independence by providing consumers with opportunities to develop skills in a practical manner. Consumers play an active role in training by identifying places in the community they would like to explore.



COLUMBIA MEMORIAL SPACE CENTER



MOBILITY TRAINING

Mobility training provides consumers with valuable tools needed to further their independence. Consumers have the opportunity to visit various locations while working on multiple goals such as accessing the community, visiting potential employers, social engagement, and more.



Learn more about our Employment Services Program [here](#).

Workforce Program



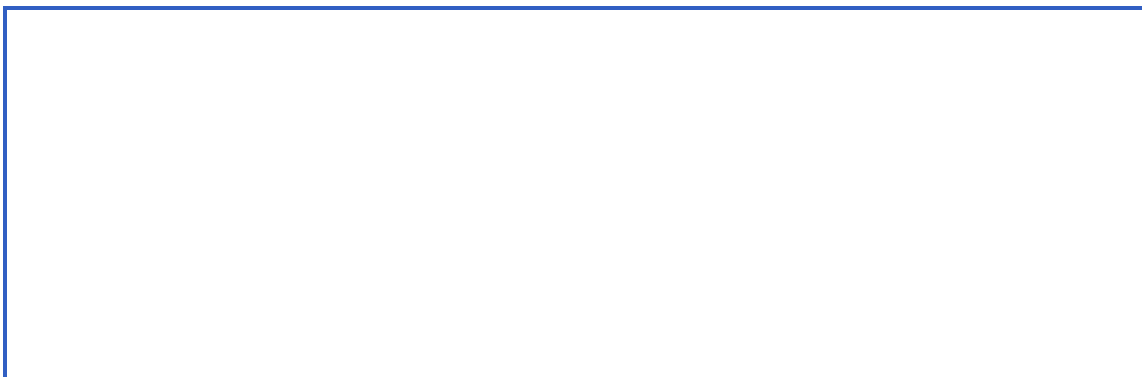
12th Annual Asian American Economic Development Enterprises Inc. Job & Career Fair

The goal of attending these events is to network with employers, provide information and resources to the attendees, and screen potential candidates for our job openings. Job Fairs also give us a glimpse into whether the candidate is a good fit for our organization's culture, thereby significantly shortening the screening process.

Job Fairs are extremely valuable to attend for the Workforce Department. Access to job fairs gives us an opportunity to network and speak with employers to get insight into their job opportunities and expectations. This information is then passed on to our consumers. The goal of attending these events is to network with employers, provide information and resources to the attendees, and screen potential candidates for our job openings. Job Fairs also give us a glimpse into whether the candidate is a good fit for our organization's culture, thereby significantly shortening the screening process.

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Learn more about our Workforce Program [here](#).





Paula's Remarkable Journey: Overcoming Obstacles to Excel as a Manager

By Anne Carey, Workforce Employment Specialist

Paula was referred to SCRS in November of 2021, and she was a very impressive candidate. She had amazing volunteer work experience, but her main barrier was a lack of paid work (excluding a brief stint with the Census) for almost 20 years. SCRS worked with her on many different opportunities, and she eventually got to interview with Pacific Coast Community Services, one of ES's best Federal employers. She got the job offer to work at HUD in LA as a mailroom clerk in January of 2022. The only problem was that the Federal government was so backed up and dysfunctional that it took them well over one full year for client's background checks and clearances to go through! She was incredibly patient, never gave up hope, and even took a Customer Service job at LAX in the meantime to keep herself busy. She stuck with that job, even though it was very tough on her physically. Finally, she got to start at HUD in Santa Ana in May of 2023! Soon after Paula started working there, her boss went out on stress leave, and Paula took over her role and responsibilities, with her salary of \$38/hour! She has been flourishing in her role as Mailroom Manager, just recently reached her 90th day, and could not be happier! Both her PCCS supervisors and HUD supervisors are incredibly happy with Paula's work, and all of her patience, perseverance, and determination paid off for her!

**Educating Disability Groups
through Education – E.D.G.E**



Summer EDGE Workshop: Connect & Prep for Fall 2023 Semester

This Summer, the Downey EDGE team hosted a 2-week workshop program. Students and educational assistants from all the different colleges socialized and spent a few hours a day learning new tips and tricks for the upcoming Fall semester.

Students learned the importance of meditation, healthy eating habits, and more. Students were excited to meet each other, and they were excited to find out how much they all had in common. They all share the same interests in movies, food, and music genres. They connected when they ate lunch together and played group activities such as Bingo and Uno.

These workshops formed new friendships and tested the students' independence as well as expanding their socialization skills. They concluded their Summer with a pizza party held at the Downey office. Students enjoyed the workshops so much that they have requested more in the future.



Below is student input regarding summer workshops:

"I liked the program and how they organized it. They first did the slides, then they gave us a break to get rested for a while, and then we met again. Afterward, we played games. It was really fun because we were spending time with other people that we didn't even know. It was fun and a way for me to go out and get away from the house so we don't spend time in the house all the time and be bored. I learned some healthy tips: to take it slow and get small portions. Don't get a second plate of food and just take one plate of food. I am wondering if there are going to be more workshops so we can do more fun activities and so we can socialize outside of school." **Compton College -Samantha M.**

"I think the workshop is a great place where students should get useful resources and advice for what they need to do during the first year of college. I learned about how to be on the right diet and the difference between Academic Integrity and Dishonesty. I would like to see more workshops in the future for helpful tips about college." **CSULA - Anthony G.**

"I personally really enjoyed the workshops as they were a nice thing to do outside of the house. I learned things that could help with my schoolwork. I would like to do more workshops in the future." **ELAC - Darwin Q.**

Learn more about our EDGE program [here](#).



A big shoutout to our outstanding SCRS team members celebrating their August work anniversaries!

Lynda Gomez - 4 years
Bruno Camarena - 3 years
Shirley Aldana - 1 year
Veronica Marquez - 1 year
Kimberly Umanzor - 1 year

Interested in nominating an SCRS Employee for going above and beyond?
Above & Beyond recipients can be nominated by SCRS-IL consumers, employees, management, volunteers, community partners, and stakeholders.

Upcoming Events



Southern California's Disability Pride Parade & Festival

Join SCRS-IL this year for our 5th Disability Pride Parade & Festival. Come march in solidarity for disability rights. Bring your friends and family. There will be food, music, a petting zoo, and a pumpkin patch for your enjoyment.

This event can also be found and shared through [Eventbrite!](#)

Free Event | Registration Required | All Ages | [Sun, Oct. 8, 2023 10:00 AM](#)

Read
More



SCRS-IL Trunk or Treat

Join us on October 14, 2023, for a free SCRS Spooktacular Event! Enjoy a haunted maze, candy, a petting zoo, giveaways, costume contest, and disability community resources. Don't miss this frightfully fun day!

Vendor Application Link: [Click Here](#)

Free Event | All Ages | **Sat, Oct. 14, 5-8 PM**

How can we make our newsletter better? Choose an option. Thank you for your participation!

Increase interactive elements (quizzes, polls, etc.).

Shorter articles for quicker reads.

Reader Stories: Feature personal stories and experiences from our subscribers.

More Visuals: Include more images, infographics, and visual content.



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