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PALO ALTO COLLEGE

NEWS RELEASE

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Dislocated workers complete accelerated employment training at Palo Alto College

Thirty-nine dislocated or displaced workers will celebrate on Dec. 14 at a ceremony marking the completion of accelerated training courses at Palo Alto College.

They are enrolled in a program designed to help dislocated/displaced employees attain more marketable skills to improve their chances of finding gainful employment. The Corporate & Community Education Department at Palo Alto provided employment training for these workers in the areas of Secretarial Assistant, Customer Service Representative and General Office.

The College partnered with SER Jobs for Progress, Inc. and Alamo Workforce Solutions to provide the courses. The students are enrolled in the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) approved training site (Palo Alto Corporate & Community Education) headed by SER and funded by Alamo Workforce Solutions. Students must attend 25 hours, five days a week and meet with a case manager for a review of progress, attendance and other needs. They are provided gas cards, unemployment benefits and other services.

The training program provides intensive courses ranging from 2-1/2 months for General Office training to six months for a Secretarial Assistant Certificate, to a Customer Service Representative, which entailed six months of training and a two-month internship.

(more)

Alma Nelson, Mary Briones and Angela D. Young are three of the students completing an internship at Palo Alto College as part of their Customer Service Representative training program.

“The program courses really helped me understand how to use the skills I learned and how to apply the knowledge I acquired to the job itself,” Nelson said, “Everyone here at Palo Alto College is always willing to help.”

Young said, “I love the professors here at Palo Alto College. They really encourage you to think out of the box. I would consider taking more classes so that I can get an associate’s degree to go with my training.”

The internships are designed to give the student real world experiences working in a professional environment.

Briones says, “I could never have afforded paying for school on my own if it would not have been for the program. I am so blessed to have been offered a temporary position here at Palo Alto College as Accounting Clerk I on top of earning college credit for training.”

According to the Palo Alto College Corporate & Community Education Department, the 39 who completed the program will be acknowledged with a commencement ceremony on December 14 in the College’s Performing Arts Center.