



# Removing Barriers...

## Campuses

**Abram Friedman Occupational Center**  
1646 S. Olive Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90015-3507  
(213) 765-2400

**East Los Angeles Occupational Center**  
2100 Marengo Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90033-1321  
(323) 276-7000

**East Los Angeles Skills Center**  
3921 Selig Place  
Los Angeles, CA 90031-3901  
(323) 224-5970

**Evans Community Adult School**  
717 N. Figueroa Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2118  
(213) 613-7900

**Harbor Occupational Center**  
740 N. Pacific Avenue  
San Pedro, CA 90731-1630  
(310) 241-4800

**Los Angeles Technology Center**  
3721 W. Washington Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90018-1160  
(323) 373-2300

**Maxine Waters Employment Prep. Ctr.**  
10925 S. Central Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90059-1023  
(323) 357-7700

**North Valley Occupational Center**  
11450 N. Sharp Avenue  
Mission Hills, CA 91345-1232  
(818) 256-1400

**Slawson Southeast Occupational Ctr.**  
5500 Rickenbacker Road  
Bell, CA 90201  
(323) 729-6400

**Venice Skills Center**  
611 5th Avenue  
Venice, CA 90291-3512  
(310) 664-5888

**West Valley Occupational Center**  
6200 Winnetka Avenue  
Woodland Hills, CA 91367-3826  
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## Success Story | Integrated Education and Training (IET)

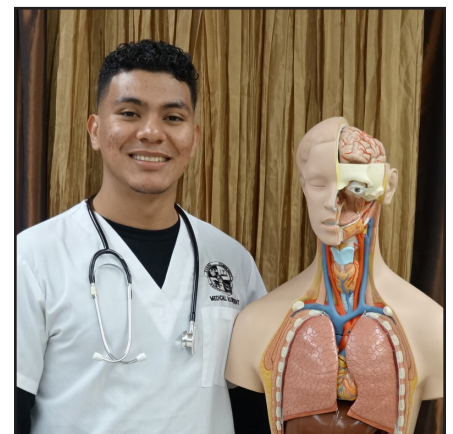
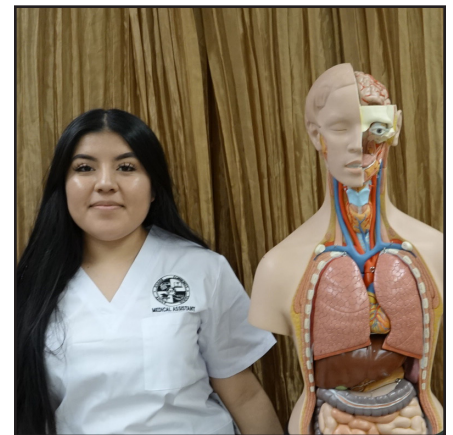
By Michael Javier and Gloria Tavera

In July 2019, Prisca Acevedo, Felix Angeles, and Douglas Santos enrolled in the Evans Community Adult School (Evans) Integrated Education and Training (IET) pre-medical assistant class. IET classes provide career technical education (CTE) training paired with instructor-driven contextualized English as a second language (ESL), reading, or math support. The students who demonstrated proficiency in the class, taught by Medical Assistant Instructor Gloria Tavera and ESL Instructor Michael Javier, earned certificates from the IET program in August 2019. Prisca, Felix, and Douglas continued along their career pathway by completing Ms. Tavera's medical assistant program and completed an externship in which they volunteered in local clinics, practicing the skills they learned at Evans in real life.

Becoming a medical assistant is no easy feat. Prisca, Felix, and Douglas studied anatomy and biology; learned and demonstrated skills such as taking blood pressure; and earned CPR certificates from the American Heart Association. They began saving lives too, by donating blood during an Evans drive. The next pathway step of the medical assistant program is an externship in which students volunteer in local clinics, practicing the skills they learned in real life. The students began their externships in November 2019 and finished them at the start of January 2020.

Prisca, Felix, and Douglas—accompanied by their medical assistant classmates—celebrated their graduation from Evans' medical assistant program on January 22, cheered on by district administrators, teachers, students, family, and friends. Prisca fulfilled her goal of working in the medical field, as she now works at AME Urgent Care in Lynwood. She also received an LA Unified scholarship that paid for her medical assistant program fees. Felix, now a certified clinical medical assistant (CCMA), is considering taking a job at the externship site, Century Family Medical Group in Bellflower. And CCMA Douglas Santos, who dreams of becoming a registered nurse, now works at Clinica Medica Samaritana in Los Angeles. The graduation on January 22 reunited the students with the two DACE IET teachers who inspired them to succeed on their pathways in the medical field.

Congratulations Prisca, Felix and Douglas! We are sure this is just the beginning of many great things to come for each of you.



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## 100% Pass Rate

This past January, the Fall 2019 medical assistant class of East Los Angeles Occupational Center (ELAOC), one of LA Unified's Division of Adult and Career Education schools, took the certified clinical medical assistant (CCMA) certification and every student passed! While CCMA certification is not a state requirement, many employers are choosing candidates who have passed it. This is Ms. Neal's second group of students that have achieved 100% pass rate for the CCMA certification. Instructor Neal told us, "I am extremely proud of this group. They worked very hard and put in many outside hours to study for the test." She then added, "In addition to this certification, seven of the students have opted to take the California Certifying Board for Medical Assistant (CCBMA) examination, which will in turn make them both national and state certified."

One of her former students, Kimberly Arazo (Fall 2018), was Ms. Neal's first student to become certified in both the national (CCMA) and state exam (CCBMA). Kimberly is now working for the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS) as a medical assistant and was able to negotiate a higher salary, in part because of her dual certification. Current student Jenny Caceres mentioned, "Passing the CCMA opened more doors of opportunities for us to work across the nation. It makes us official medical assistants with this certification."

Please join us in congratulating Instructor Neal and her students for this significant accomplishment and wishing the best to our hard-working students taking the CCBMA in the next few weeks.



## Student Success | Manuela Jaramillo



Manuela Muñoz Jaramillo

Manuela Muñoz Jaramillo came to this country from Colombia in 2013. She got married when she was very young and had a daughter shortly after coming to the United States. She didn't know a single word of English but started taking English as a Second Language (ESL) classes at Eastside Learning Center, a branch of East Los Angeles Skills Center (an LA Unified Division of Adult and Career Education school). In 2016 she completed the ESL program.

Manuela, a single mother, tells us that moving to a place where she didn't have any family or know anyone has been a challenge. But her daughter, now seven years old, is her inspiration to continue working and going to school. Every day she takes her daughter to school and picks her up, all while working two cashier jobs to support them both.

Currently Manuela is balancing work with school by taking math and HiSET preparation classes. To that end, her plan is to get her HiSET certificate first and continue with her high school diploma after.

Congratulations on becoming a U.S. Citizen Manuela! Keep up the great work!

*The game is won  
90 feet at a time.*



## Alumni Mentors

On Tuesday, January 21st, East Los Angeles Occupational Center (ELAOC) had the pleasure of being visited by three outstanding community mentors, Juan Romero, Ricardo Acosta, and Dulce Acosta.

Mr. Romero, an employee of the City of Los Angeles Community Development Department, gave an insightful presentation on resume writing and job application filing techniques while Ricardo and Dulce Acosta discussed the importance of education and being able to succeed in life.

Richard, a supervisor in the construction department at Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), and Dulce, an employee of the University of Southern California's (USC's) Keck Medical Center, both attended ELAOC in the late '80s. They agree that the programs they completed at ELAOC provided them with valuable life lessons and skills to be successful. Since then, they have continued their educational journeys with Ricardo working on an associate degree at LA Trade Tech, in the electrical field, and Dulce, who has a master's degree in social work, pursuing her Ph.D. degree at USC.



ELAOC Electrical Motor Controls students

All three speakers were raised in the Boyle Heights area and are passionate about paying it forward to empower the East Los Angeles community. On this specific Tuesday, their purpose was speaking to and motivating our electrical motor controls students on employability skills and pathway options.

ELAOC Instructor Eduardo Ramirez stated, "The presentation motivated students and was a positive experience that fueled many questions and provided students with valuable information in seeking and gaining employment, as well as furthering their education."

ELAOC is grateful to Mr. Romero and the Acostas for investing their time in our current students.