

For Immediate Release

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NEWS RELEASE

**LA YOUTH AT WORK CONVENES CONFERENCE TO
ADDRESS CITY'S YOUTH EMPLOYMENT NEEDS
FACING A SUMMER OF DEEP BUDGET CUTS, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TRY
TO BRIDGE GAP BETWEEN YOUTH AND EMPLOYMENT BY
PARTNERING WITH LOCAL BUSINESS**

Two hundred representatives from local business and community-based organizations will join forces on Wednesday, June 4 at the University of California Los Angeles campus in the Covell Commons for the Building Better Business Relations Conference to brainstorm about joint ventures that could create more youth employment opportunities throughout Los Angeles.

The conference presented by LA Youth at Work, a new workforce development program of the LA Area Chamber, is designed to respond to municipal and federal budget cuts that have depleted the funds community-based organizations use to help young people secure gainful employment.

“Business and community organizations should tackle this problem together. The problem of too many eager, committed young people competing for too few job opportunities. If we don’t open the door to employment for them now, our regional economy will lack a qualified workforce tomorrow,” notes Rusty Hammer, president & CEO of the LA Area Chamber.

Patty DeDominic, immediate past Board chair of the LA Area Chamber, and founder and president of PDQ Careers, will deliver the keynote address.

Staff representing organizations from across the city will attend, including the Archdiocesan Youth Employment Services, the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Youth Opportunity Movement, as well as career counselors from LA Unified high schools.

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Sponsors of the event include the UCLA Center for Community Partnerships, Los Angeles Unified School District and the Community Development Department of the City of Los Angeles. Collectively they believe the conference's training is integral to spurring the creation of new entry-level jobs therefore they underwrote the cost of registration for attendees.

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The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, with 1,300 members, represents the interests of business in LA. County. Founded in 1888, the Chamber promotes a prosperous economy and quality of life in the Los Angeles region.