

Welcome from the Executive Director

Welcome to *What's Cookin'* – HTA's newsletter about the programs, people, and events at the heart of what we do. Through strong partnerships with employers, educators, and community organizations, we move vulnerable individuals from poverty to economic independence by opening pathways to life-changing careers in the hospitality industry.

March is Women's History Month, and we want to recognize the women apprentices, staff, and partners who support and shape our work. I'm inspired by the amazing women who come through our doors and take the opportunity to enrich their careers and the livelihood of their families. We take this moment to recognize the past history makers and celebrate the changemakers of tomorrow.

Thank you for being part of our community and supporting our mission to strengthen the hospitality industry—and the people who make it work.

ADINE FORMAN

Executive Director, Hospitality Training Academy (HTA)

Meet Barista Boss: Missy Mayhugh



Lead HTA Barista Instructor Missy Mayhugh doesn't know what she would do without coffee. She started working in cafes more than 20 years ago and has advanced her career in the industry as a barista, manager, consultant, and Specialty Coffee Association-certified trainer. An award-winning coffee mixologist and latte artist, Missy now serves as a Head Judge for the U.S. Barista Championships, "the U.S. Open for barista competitions," and contributes to the Competitions Working Group, advancing training and standards for the industry. [READ MORE](#)

HTA IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Training Support for Impacted Workers

As Southern California embarks on the long road to recovery from the wildfires, we share our gratitude for the emergency personnel who kept us safe, and our support for friends, neighbors, and colleagues impacted by this disaster. Beyond those who lost their homes, many domestic workers, service workers, and restaurant workers have also lost their jobs. Our free training and apprenticeship programs offer a pathway to new skills and life-changing careers with family-sustaining wages and benefits.

If you know someone who has lost their job due to the fires and is looking for retraining opportunities in the hospitality sector, please reach out to training@lahta.org.



Java Journeys Begin at the HTA Barista Lab

Starting a career in coffee can be challenging, but HTA's Barista/Latte Artist Apprenticeship Program—the first of its kind in the country—is helping to brew careers, one cup at a time. To hone their craft, our students run Mock Cafés, where they practice taking orders, mastering pour-over techniques, and perfecting latte art. From lavender and cinnamon lattes to white mochas with fresh whipped cream, they're learning to create custom drinks with precision and flair.

Every day, our coffeehouse pros-in-training sharpen the speed, efficiency, and expertise needed to thrive in their caffeinated careers.

[VIEW MORE PHOTOS](#)

Employer Partner Spotlight: Compass-Levy Restaurants



“We’ve been working with the HTA for more than 10 years, since we first collaborated on a culinary training program to upskill our employees at Dodger Stadium. When we partner with the HTA on large job fairs, the number of people who show up grows exponentially, and we attract a more diverse talent pool, thanks to HTA’s tremendous outreach into the communities we serve. Also, the baseline caliber of potential employees is higher when we work together, drawing people who are more knowledgeable and prepared for the job world. The HTA staff are an impressive motivating presence and resource to build our workforce; and as the first point of interaction for people at our hiring fairs, the HTA relationship has greatly enhanced ‘the Levy experience’ for everyone.”

RHIANNON COVEY

Regional Director of Human Resources, Levy Restaurants (Dodger Stadium; Intuit Dome; Crypto.com Arena; Kia Forum; Dignity Health Sports Park; Los Angeles Convention Center)

Community Partner Spotlight: Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County



“Neighborhood Legal Services sees the law as a powerful tool to unravel disparities that have resulted from injustice, systemic racism and institutionalized inequality. Our collaboration with the HTA is one of the most effective partnerships we have developed to bridge the gap between job training and legal services. Information is power; and in providing HTA students with free hands-on support, case management, legal services and resources around legal issues, public benefits and housing rights, we play a pivotal role in removing barriers that could impact their training experience and future livelihood. Working together, we are transforming the lives of HTA trainees so they can successfully gain employment and advance on the path to economic stability.”

YVONNE MARIA JIMENEZ

President & CEO, Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County

Let's Roll: Apprentices Hone the Art of Sushi-Making



HTA is invested in the long-term success of our students. Two dozen graduates of our Line Cook Registered Apprenticeship Program assembled at the HTA Kitchen in Koreatown to learn the art of sushi-making. They put on *tenegui* headbands and learned to prepare an array of sushi, cut rolls, hand rolls and authentic sushi rice, and mastered the techniques that produce the raw fish creations. Everyone went home with their own sushi-making kit to hone their craft.

[VIEW MORE PHOTOS](#)

HTA SPOTLIGHT

HTA: Breaking the Cycle of Poverty



"It is no secret; just how transformative a union job can be in interrupting generational cycles of poverty. We must address the structural issues impacting working people in our communities. And we must come together to make meaningful changes to

Student Success Spotlight: Freticia Johnson



"What I loved about going through the HTA experience is the support they provided all the way around. That meant financial support because the classes are free and HTA provides the tools, knives, and uniforms we need. They also gave emotional and mental

address poverty and homelessness head-on. The HTA is a vital institution and its apprenticeship programs are key in the fight to abolish poverty in Los Angeles.”

YVONNE WHEELER

President, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor

health support to people who may be facing personal or community issues. The HTA made us feel like a family and the team continues to do that throughout my career; I appreciate that I can always lean on the HTA.”

FRETICIA JOHNSON

HTA Line Cook Registered Apprenticeship Program graduate and Chef at the Club Lounge, Sheraton Grand Los Angeles

ABOUT THE HTA

The Hospitality Training Academy (HTA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit labor-management organization that provides free training and best-in-class apprenticeships to prepare people for high-quality, in-demand jobs in the hospitality, food service, leisure, and tourism industries. We connect our partner employers in Southern California and the State of Arizona with well-trained workers, upskill the current workforce, and help move vulnerable people from poverty to self-sufficiency through life-changing careers.



Get In Touch



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