



# IRL Newsletter

March 2021

ISSUE 13

## Our Mission:

To empower individuals of all abilities to take charge of their own learning and lives, making it possible for them to be competent, caring and contributing members of society; and to provide learning opportunities for families, professionals, and communities to support those efforts.

## In the Spotlight! Almansor Success Story!



*"I am going to graduate from high school and work super hard to get my diploma and find a job to become independent."* These are the words of a past Almansor Academy student, Lexus Rosales, who is now seeing her dreams come true.

Lexus (18 years of age) graduated from Almansor Academy (AA) in June 2020. Despite the challenges brought on by COVID, she enlisted the support of Transition and Adult Services (TAS) program right away, completing her intake with the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) and embarking on a job search. We are happy to share that Lexus successfully received an offer for a janitorial position with South Pas Fitness (current IRL partner) through

our On the Job Training (OJT) program funded by DOR.

After some months in her new job, Abel Villanueva, also a TAS client and employee, had the opportunity to check in with Lexus and see how she was doing.

A: What's your favorite memory from Almansor?

L: Graduation. To be able to get my diploma and also to get a job.

A: What was your favorite subject?

L: English.

A: What did you take from Almansor that is helping you to succeed in your role at South Pas Fitness?

L: To be responsible and to be on time at work.

A: How long have you been working at South Pas Fitness?

L: It is going to be four months.

A: What's your work schedule?

L: I start at 7:30 am and I finish at 1:30 pm, Wednesday through Friday.

A: How do you get to work and go back home?

L: I take the bus, the 176 and 487, to go back and forth from home.

A: What's your daily routine?

L: I get to work, I check in with my supervisor, Josch, get my assignments. I clean my hands, change my mask, grab the cleaning products that are designated for the machines and start cleaning and sanitizing all the equipment. I also regularly sanitize the equipment right after a customer finishes working out at that station. If I am not cleaning or sanitizing the equipment, I am usually welcoming the customers at the front door when they check in. I ask them how they are doing, and they also ask me how I am doing... I like to interact with the South Pas Fitness customers.

A: How is this job helping you on a daily basis?

L: It helps me to communicate with others, to have responsibilities, and to make some money so I can buy the things I like.

Lexus' story is one of many success stories that embodies the mission of IRL and illustrates why our staff are always willing to walk the extra mile for our clients... So they can take charge of their own learning and lives and be independent and empowered members of society.

## In the Community

### South Pasadena Grocery Outlet

Don't forget to shop at Grocery Outlet South Pasadena and show your laminated card so that IRL receives 10% of your entire purchase until 4/1/21. If you need a card, please email Gabriel Vazquez at [gvazquez@redesignlearning.org](mailto:gvazquez@redesignlearning.org).

**We are starting a podcast!!  
Stay tuned for more details!**

IRL was awarded Excellence in Safety for our outstanding commitment to safety during the 2019-2020 policy year by ICW Group and HUB.



## March is Developmental Disabilities Month

Celebrating Individuals with Developmental Disabilities by: Nancy J. Lavelle, Founder, Institute for the Redesign of Learning

All *learners* develop at their own pace and in their own way. Taking a first step, smiling for the first time, or waving “bye bye” are called developmental milestones. Children reach milestones in how they play, learn, speak, behave, and move. When children do not meet average milestones at or near the age they are expected to meet that milestone, we say that they are delayed. It is important to consult your child's doctor if you have any concerns about your child's progress in meeting their developmental milestones. After careful monitoring and screening, a child may be identified as “developmentally disabled”, an important step in ensuring that each child receives the educational, medical, rehabilitation or Regional Center services and support he or she needs.

At the Institute for the Redesign of Learning, rather than labeling a child or adult as “disabled”, we hold that we are all *learners* (i.e. children, parents, teachers, therapists, etc.). As *learners*, we are all whole, able and complete just as we are and just as we are not. Our goal is to open possibilities for all *learners* to reach their full potential. Working in partnership, we empower learners to identify their concerns, and take the steps necessary to handle their concerns from daily living, to community accessibility, to work, job and life-long learning skills. We are grateful and proud to join with others during the month of March to celebrate every *learner* and ensure that they are fully included in our communities!

## We're Reopening!!

As the COVID-19 infection rate drops in Los Angeles County, our schools are allowed to open for all grades. As we have a tremendous amount of planning and preparation for our campuses to ensure that our students and staff have the safest environment possible, Almansor Academy and Westmoreland Academy need assistance in purchasing basic items for our students. Our staff would greatly appreciate your assistance in purchasing crayons, markers, colored pencils, and pencils to get our K-6 classes well-stocked before bringing the students back on campus. Please click on the link below to purchase items from our Amazon Wish List. Our staff and students thank you for your continued support of our schools.

<https://www.amazon.com/registries/custom/3RCLD4KP6TXXN/guest-view>

## Ways You Can Help...

To help support our work throughout IRL as we begin to reopen all programs supporting children and adults on-campus and at home, please consider donating through our secure donation link on our website ([www.redesignlearning.org](http://www.redesignlearning.org)) or click the Donate Here button below.

**Donate Here!**

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#WheresIRL