



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! - Inspiring the Next Workforce Generation from IRL



Did you know that the Census Bureau reported that 1.8 million adults in California live with one or more disabilities and that 63% of those adults are unemployed? And for those fortunate enough to have a job, their annual salary averages only \$15,000.

With those statistics in mind, and guided by our mission and vision, IRL's Transition and Adult Services (TAS) Program and Westmoreland Academy (WM), in collaboration with the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) in Pasadena, came together to present to our soon-to-be-graduates in the High School Diploma Bound program some of the job opportunities and/or services that are waiting for them in the real world.

On May 5th, IRL's Clinical Services Program opened its doors to host TAS' very first workshop. Led by Edith Zavala-Castillo (TAS Job Coach), 21 Westmoreland students

learned first-hand from some of their former classmates and other IRL clients what it means to have a job—the responsibilities, the benefits, and the challenges that they may face in the future.

Luis Covarrubias from Pasadena's DOR office was also able to join the present to the students some of the services that his department offers and how to enroll in their programs.

Students watched a six-minute video (<https://www.redesignlearning.org/almansor-transition-adult-services/>) (edited by Abel Villanueva) showcasing the success stories of eight TAS clients who are currently employed in different fields. From janitorial jobs to accounting jobs, admin jobs and graphic design jobs, and everything between, our soon-to-be graduates had a good first peek at what's available out there for them.

Building upon the video presentation, a panel of five TAS clients then shared their career journeys, highlighting their successes and providing advice on how to overcome the challenges that may be encountered in the workplace after graduation. The panelists then answered student questions.

After the programming, students, panelists, and staff had an opportunity to mingle and continue the conversation while they enjoyed a delicious lunch provided by TAS until the shuttles arrived to take all students back to their school in Pasadena.

Overall, students and staff enjoyed their experience. The panelists were proud of their accomplishments and provided insight and encouragement to young students. WM's teachers will follow up in the coming weeks by talking to students and their families about enrolling in DOR or TAS for services. We thank everyone for their support and cooperation in making this event a success.



Special thanks to Pasadena's DOR's Counselor Luis Covarrubias and panelists N.Pimentel (IRL's Janitorial Crew), C.Estrada (Rosemead Afterschool Program Staff), B.Heim (Stock Clerk at Walgreens), K.Ortiz (Courtesy Clerk at Northgate Market), and A.Villanueva (IRL's Office Assistant to the Development Department.)

IRL's Dodgers Fundraiser



DODGERS SCHOOL FUNDRAISER!

It's baseball season and IRL has partnered with the Dodgers for a fundraiser! If you're making plans to go to a game, please consider getting your tickets through IRL's link. IRL will get between \$2 and \$10 for each ticket purchased!

Order tickets by May 22nd for any game this season!



Scan the QR code and order your tickets before the deadline!

Farewell



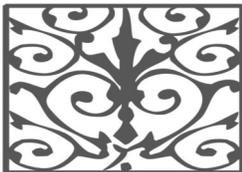
As Shawn Prokopec's time as Managing Director has recently come to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her hard work and commitment to enriching IRL's footprint in the community.

Over the last three years, Shawn's stewardship of IRL has been characterized by innovative ideas, strategic thinking and, most valuable, her tireless efforts to increase our community partnerships. The resulting recognition has become an asset to IRL, and the relationships she has fostered with our stakeholders will ensure IRL continues to advance empowering individuals of all abilities. Shawn's grace and leadership through the pandemic helped ensure IRL continued to provide services to our community.

Shawn's energy and devotion to the role will be difficult to match, but she leaves IRL a better organization and poised to continue making differences for our clients and community.

Thank you to Shawn for her dedication and all that she accomplished in her three years as Managing Director. We wish her all the very best in her future endeavors and we look forward to her ongoing involvement with IRL.

In the Community



PASADENA
SHOWCASE
HOUSE
for the Arts

During the month of March, in the midst of the preparation for the inaugural Empowering All Abilities 5K Run/Walk, IRL was awarded a grant from The Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts. The \$10,400 grant was awarded to start a new music program at Almansor Academy and Westmoreland Academy. This grant will allow us to partner with a local South Pasadena business, Encore Music and Performing Arts, to bring new opportunities for learning music to our 250 students.

To help support our work throughout IRL, please consider donating through our secure donation link on our website (www.redesignlearning.org).

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