

LDC Students Host Chaffey College Art Exhibition Reception

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On the evening of Wednesday, October 25, 2006, students from the Chaffey College Learning Development Center (LDC) were given the opportunity as part of their job readiness program to host the "Radiant Spaces: Private Domain Southern California" art exhibition reception being held at the Chaffey College Wignall Museum/Gallery. The Radiant Spaces exhibit is composed of paintings, drawings and sculptures by Southern California artists with developmental differences. The LDC is a job readiness and job placement program offered by Disability Programs & Services (DPS) at Chaffey College, offering classes and hands-on lab experience to assist students with disabilities in successful job placement. This event was an excellent opportunity for students to take the job readiness skills that they have learned in the program and apply them to a realistic work experience.

Students spent the weeks prior to the reception preparing for the event in their Job Skills Practicum lab class. Two job coaches work with students in the lab providing hands-on simulated work experiences primarily associated with food services, janitorial, retail/warehouse and office skills to prepare students for entry level jobs in, but not limited to, these areas. In addition, students receive instruction in Job Readiness courses which include Interpersonal Awareness, Money Management, Job Success Skills, Current Events, Online Computer Job Search and Job Search Preparation. The Job Readiness classes and Lab help to achieve the goal of the LDC program, which is to have students be competitively employed within a two-year period.

In preparation for the reception, the students spent a great deal of time preparing a wide variety of menu items including: meat balls with Ms. Guido-Deutsch's special sauce, homemade cheese puffs, and cream cheese tortilla pin wheels. The DJ can be quoted saying, "This is the best food we've had for an opening!" In addition, they honed their serving and clean up skills in preparation for the special event. The students rotated working thirty minute shifts, greeting guests and replenishing menu items; however, they really showed off their job skills when it was clean-up time. We are extremely proud of the responsibility that each of them took throughout the evening and the initiative they showed to complete a job well-done!

It is a privilege to realize that the LDC program may have had a small part in assisting students with disabilities to become meaningfully employed on their quest to achieving greater self-sufficiency and independence. It was a joy to witness the transformation that these students have undergone throughout their participation in the program as they stepped up to the plate this month to participate in the special event and take themselves one step closer to the goal.



Anthony K., Alexandra L., Miriam C. and Tracie R.
work the buffet table.