

# Workforce Investment Board announces 60 training places @LIKE

Six months ago the future looked bleak for 24-year-old Jeanette Rivali. Jeanette had three children, and was without a job. Today, she is working full-time in the medical field and is going back to school to further her career – all thanks to @LIKE, a no-cost job training program from the County of San Bernardino Workforce Investment Board.

The @LIKE project, Linking Innovation, Knowledge, and Education, was launched in February 2013 and has already enabled and inspired 66 young adults, ages 18 to 24. @LIKE provides resources and encourages participants to improve career and life skills, attend vocational training programs, pursue higher education, and find jobs.

Jeanette was provided with training and placed in an @LIKE paid work experience opportunity at St. Mary's Medical Center. After completing 125 hours of training, she was hired permanently. In addition, Jeanette received help with college costs, transportation support, and a work clothing allowance through @LIKE.

The County of San Bernardino Workforce Investment Board has announced 60 openings for 22 to 24-year-olds in the @LIKE program.

"We are delighted with the program's success so far and are glad to have the funding for more young people to take part," said Emily Petrus of the Workforce Investment Board.

The @LIKE initiative is funded by a \$6 million grant, spread throughout four counties, from the U.S. Department of Labor Workforce Innovation Fund.

In the case of 23-year-old mother

of two, Maurilia Alonso, the @LIKE program helped with attainment of a high school diploma and assisted her to complete national certifications in customer service and safety. As a result of the program she was hired in a retail store and within a short time was recognized as Employee of the Month. Maurilia is now preparing to study at the College of the Desert for an Associate of Arts degree in Sociology. She plans to become a social worker.

Sandy Harmsen, Executive Director of the Workforce Investment Board, believes there are more great success stories to come: The @LIKE program is currently seeking youth, ages 22-24, that have not been in school, employed, or in the military for at least 90 days. For more information call (909) 387-9859 or email [epetrus@wdd.sb-county.gov](mailto:epetrus@wdd.sb-county.gov). To apply visit [www.atLIKE4U.com](http://www.atLIKE4U.com)

