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## City Celebrates 280 Graduates as part of the HealthCare Academy

**San Francisco, CA**—The Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) celebrated the achievements of 280 students that graduated as part of the City’s HealthCare Academy program. The Academy trains residents with coursework in various occupations in the Health Care industry including Personal Care Giver, Home Health Aide, Certified Nurse Assistant, Medical Administrative Assistant, and Medical Assistant.

“Through the Office of Economic and Workforce Development’s HealthCare Academy, we are able to meet the workforce demands of the growing sector and help promote self-sufficiency for local residents by providing them with the skills needed for the competitive labor market,” said Michael Carr, Director of the Workforce Division at OEWD. “Through the Academy’s entry and mid-level trainings, incumbent worker trainings and employer customized trainings, collaboration is pivotal, and the City is grateful for the non-profit, educational, private and public partnerships that have made it a success.”

OEWD’s Healthcare Academy has placed 204 individuals this past year in employment opportunities citywide. OEWD partners with community organizations to educate, train, and work directly with the participants. Partners include Arriba Juntos, City College of San Francisco, Homebridge, Jewish Vocational Service, Self-Help for the Elderly, SF Human Services Agency and UCSF Medical Center. Their industry training, job readiness, placement assistance, and support services successfully help participants transition from the classroom to the workforce.

“San Francisco’s HealthCare Academy brings together employers, the Mayor’s office and community based organizations to get low-income San Franciscans on career paths in the growing health care industry. JVS is proud to celebrate the accomplishments of the men and women who built new skills for these jobs in the last year and honor Kaiser Permanente as an outstanding employer partner,” said Abby Snay, Executive Director, Jewish Vocational Service.

Since the launch of HealthCare Academy in 2010, a total of 1374 individuals have enrolled in training and more than 1,300 have been placed in sector-related employment. Academy participants have been placed at various health institutions including Kaiser, California Pacific Medical Center, North East Medical Services, UCSF Medical Center, Homebridge, San Francisco Health Care Rehabilitation, Dignity Health, SF Department of Public Health, Chinese Hospital, On-Lok and other local employers.

This year, Kaiser Permanente, a long-standing partner of the Academy, will be presented with an *Excellence in Community Engagement Award*, for their continued commitment to hire local residents. Employer partners such as Kaiser Permanente, play a pivotal role in the development and preservation



of the HealthCare Academy to ensure trainings provide participants with the necessary skills and credentials to successfully start their career path in the health care industry.

The ceremony will also recognize and award students in five categories, including *Outstanding Achievement*, *Service to the Community*, *Overcoming Barriers*, *Rising Star*, and for *Commitment in Excellence*. The event recognizes the students' dedication to successfully completing the rigorous coursework involved in training and taking the steps to be contributors to the Health Care community.

**About HealthCare Academy Student Celebration** – Thursday, May 25, at 5:30 P.M., 225 Bush Street, East Lobby, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor, Montgomery Burns Room, San Francisco, CA 94101

**About the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD)**

The Office of Economic and Workforce Development's (OEWD) mission is simple – to create shared prosperity in San Francisco. OEWD provides city-wide leadership for workforce development, business attraction and retention, neighborhood commercial revitalization, international business and development planning. For more information, go to: [www.oewd.org](http://www.oewd.org)

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