Los Angeles Trade-Technical College
Students for Higher Education (SFHE) Program
Model Program Serving At-Risk, Disconnected Youth in Los Angeles

The Students for Higher Education (SFHE) Program provides intensive intervention services for youth serving time in Los Angeles County Probation Camps. The purpose of the program is to move youth into post-secondary educational/occupational opportunities and reduce recidivism rates by providing education, training, mentoring/case management, leadership development, work-study, supportive services, and intensive transition support prior to and following youth being released from camp.

The primary goal of the program is to increase the academic success of youth who are 3-6 months from release of Camp, to subsequently enroll each of the program graduates at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College, and provide an environment conducive to learning. The program reintegrates youth into the community and assists youth in achieving a productive, crime free life.

SFHE is a collaborative program between Los Angeles Trade-Technical College (LATTC), the Los Angeles Youth Opportunity Movement (LAYOM), Los Angeles County Department of Probation (LACP), and Los Angeles County of Education (LACOE).

In a recent report--“A Call to Action: A Case for a Comprehensive Solution to LA's Gang Violence Epidemic” released and presented to LA City Council 1/18/2007--the SFHE Program was pronounced as a “promising comprehensive approach to gang prevention in the City of Los Angeles”. The report also states that the program "stands out as a stellar effort at collaboration, meaningful intervention, and mission driven dedication”. But most importantly, SFHE is applauded in the report because "the program works with a troubled population that others avoid—highest risk youth many of whom are already in gangs and all of whom are in a probation camp.”

On the following page is an excerpt from the report that describes the program. The report is available at http://www.advanceproj.com/doc/p3_report.pdf.

Program Description

Upon commitment by the court and the probation camp, Camp Gonzalez, 50 youth receive the services under the SFHE Program approximately three to six months prior to being released from camp. The LAYOM case manager conducts the initial assessment, pre-evaluations, and creates a profile which is maintained both online and through a hard file system. All activities, progress and support are documented. The case manager also coordinates efforts between probation and LATTC to enroll youth into an initial online math and English skills course.

After successful completion of a semester of college courses, youth are assigned to a case manager who is assigned to Los Angeles Trade-Technical College. They participate under the guidance of the YO! Case Manager, College Advisor and a probation officer. Youth are enrolled in at least 12 units during the first semester and participate in weekly meetings. They are highly encouraged to participate in a work-study program on campus for 10 – 15
SFHE is a “promising comprehensive approach to gang prevention in the City of Los Angeles.”


hours per week. The goal in the coming year is to expand the program from Camp Gonzales to an additional 3 facilities including the female camp.

The SFHE Program provides structured educational courses both online and through an instructor, vocational training opportunities, specialized tutoring, social enrichment and preparation for higher education. The fundamental objective of the SFHE Program is to support a successful transition from Camp to College and reduce the recidivism rate. Los Angeles County Probation DPO and the LAYOM Case Manager provide aftercare services to youth upon release. A thirty-day furlough is intensively supervised to insure prompt enrollment at LATTC, academic and career guidance, community service, work-study, and timely/effective supportive services are being provided to each youth.

LAYOM in collaboration with Los Angeles County Probation Department assist in enrolling eligible youth offenders into SFHE. LAYOM has three dedicated case managers (one at LATTC, one in the community, and one at the Juvenile Camp) to specifically handle initial assessment and case management of these clients. Once enrolled, clients have access to a variety of programs and services including education, vocational training, mentoring, leadership development, mental health counseling, work readiness training, job placement, and supportive services. LAYOM currently works with a network of community-based organizations and educational institutions that provide services and follow-up.

Recently the SFHE program and two of its participants was profiled on Pacesetters a Los Angeles Community based talk show that airs on KTLA-TV, Channel 5. The program is available for viewing online at: http://www.brightcove.com/title.jsp?title=823461922.

Program Results

Most importantly, SFHE has outcomes that demonstrates its exemplary success. Many of these outcomes are unprecedented with this type of at-risk, disconnected youth population. Of the fifty program participants in the pilot project:

- **41.1% obtained at GED or Diploma**
- **57.1% entered Post-Secondary Education - 22% at LATTC**
- 23.2% are working on a GED or Diploma
- **28.6% are employed**
- 8.9% are still in the camp
- 5.4% re-incarcerated

Overall, 85.7% of youth participants upon release from Camp have either entered post secondary education or are employed.

“For many of these youth, the idea that they could even think about attending college, let alone secure up to seven college credits while they are at camp was unimaginable.”

LATTC Collaborative Program Receives Recognition as a Promising Comprehensive Approach to Gang Prevention in the City of Los Angeles

In a recent report--"A Call to Action: A Case for a Comprehensive Solution to LA's Gang Violence Epidemic" released and presented to LA City Council 1/18/2007--the Students For Higher Education (SFHE) a collaborative project between LATTC, Los Angeles County Probation, Los Angeles County of Education and Youth Opportunity Program was pronounced as a promising comprehensive approach to gang prevention in the City of Los Angeles. The program is designed to move at-risk/disconnected youth into post-secondary educational/occupational opportunities to reduce recidivism rates through training, mentoring/case management, leadership development, work-study, supportive services, and intensive transition support.

Below is an excerpt from the report that describes the program. The report is available at [http://www.advanceproj.com/doc/p3_report.pdf](http://www.advanceproj.com/doc/p3_report.pdf)

### Youth Opportunity Movement Watts Students for Higher Education Program

The Youth Opportunity (YO!) Movement has been a bright spot in the City's youth employment effort for many years. With a grant from the Department of Labor, the City was able to build a network of Youth Opportunity centers to provide career, education, and supportive services to youth. There are currently three YO! centers in Watts, Boyle Heights and the San Fernando Valley. Of these, YO! Watts, in collaboration with the County Probation Department, County Office of Education, and Los Angeles Trade-Technical College, is piloting the Students for Higher Education Program and stands out as a stellar effort at collaboration, meaningful intervention, and mission driven dedication.

While the collaboration among City, County, and higher education institutions is in and of itself to be applauded, the program works with a troubled population that others avoid—highest risk youth many of whom are already in gangs and all of whom are in a probation camp. As a pilot, the program currently operates at Camp Gonzalez with 50 youth who receive a mix of case management, mentoring, leadership development, access to college credit courses, vocational training, and intensive transition services. The stated goal is to reduce recidivism rates among these youth, but the program does much more. For many of these youth, the idea that they could even think about attending college, let alone secure up to seven college credits while they are at camp was unimaginable. Some of the youth participate in the culinary training program learning real-life vocational skills that can help them to secure jobs when they exit from the camp. The most important component of this program, however, is that there is intensive transition support for youth by YO! Case managers who regularly visit them at the camp and follow up with them immediately after their release. After being released, YO! case managers take the youth to Los Angeles Trade Technical College to enroll them and provide financial support for basic necessities and school supplies. They continue to track the youth for the next 12 months by mentoring, giving support, and helping them solve problems.

The targeted services to high risk youth, mixing of opportunities with support services, intensive transition support from probation camp, and case management follow-up over a significant period of time are all part of a successful strategy that should be replicated elsewhere. The program is also a reminder to the City that while prevention is the best strategy for most youth, intervention strategies, even with those youth who are gang involved, are not only possible but already being implemented successfully.
**Students for Higher Education (SFHE)**
**COLLABORATIVE ORGANIZATIONS**

The SFHE Program is a collaboration between Los Angeles Trade-Technical College (LATTC), the Los Angeles Youth Opportunity Movement (LAYOM), Los Angeles County Department of Probation (LACP), and Los Angeles County of Education (LACOE). The matrix beneath outlines the roles & responsibilities of each collaborator.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAYOM</th>
<th>LATTC</th>
<th>LACP</th>
<th>LACOE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Two case managers (one at the camp; one at LATTC)</td>
<td>• Provide custom-made courses at probation camps w/ instructor, online or in blended fashion</td>
<td>• Identify candidates for the SFHE program</td>
<td>• Provide Educational services for minors at the Juvenile Camp &amp; Halls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Assessments/documentation</td>
<td>• Academic advisement</td>
<td>• Allow online/classroom courses on site at probation camps</td>
<td>• Coordination assessments of minors</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Intensive transition services/Case management</td>
<td>• Occupational training skills</td>
<td>• Tuition payments and/or scholarships</td>
<td>• Provide access to computers for online courses</td>
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<td>• Leadership development/Mentoring</td>
<td>• Contextual basic skills</td>
<td>• Supportive services (book reimbursement, bus passes, etc.)</td>
<td>• Assign at least 1 staff member to implement program</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Referrals</td>
<td>• Work-study opportunities</td>
<td>• Tutoring on probation camps</td>
<td>• Purchase educational material including books for onsite services</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Coordinate supportive services</td>
<td>• Coordinate enrollment efforts w/ LAYOM case managers</td>
<td>• Assign a DPO to the program</td>
<td>• Meet with LAYOM, LATTC and Probation staff for monthly updates</td>
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<td>• Tutoring services</td>
<td>• Computer literacy</td>
<td>• Cover personnel costs of two case managers</td>
<td>• Coordinate supportive services</td>
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Students for Higher Education (SFHE)
FLOW CHART

STEP 1
Probation identifies potential pool of qualified youth

STEP 2
Youth is assessed by LAYOM Case Manager

STEP 2.a.
Youth is deemed eligible and is approved for initial phase of SFHE

STEP 2.b.
Youth is deemed ineligible and is referred back to probation liaison

STEP 3
Youth is enrolled into online and instructor-led classes with LATTC

STEP 4
Youth completes online class and is released from camp

STEP 5
LAYOM Case Manager works w/ youth to enroll into LATTC

Other Concurrent Services:
- Case Management/Mentoring
- Leadership Development
- Work Study
- Training
- Supportive Services
- Documentation