

## SMART & FINAL HELPING STUDENTS GROW

Hector Montes, a junior at A.B. Miller High School, is always eager to learn and experience new things. He has been a member of Upward Bound since 2014. His goal is to attend college and one day work for the FBI. His teachers say he is a good student, always completes his work, asks where he can make improvement, and is a dependable and respectful young man.

Hector has been a part of WorkAbility I since the eighth grade at Alder Middle School. He couldn't wait to enroll for WorkAbility I job placement and completed the paperwork months before turning the required age of 16 in his sophomore year.



*Hector's mechanical bull  
"Toro"*

Hector was fortunate to have gained some work skills prior to WorkAbility I by helping out with the family's mechanical bull business. He schedules appointments for events, and sets-up and monitors the mechanical bull. He had the desire to branch out on his own and try a new job experience while still helping with the family business on weekends.

WorkAbility I staff sent Hector to Smart & Final where he aced the interview. The manager "liked that he played soccer and connected it with teamwork required for the job. He was always ready to work, eager to get the job done, and go above and beyond. He was so great to have, that I hired him!"

Hector has learned many skills at Smart & Final such as stocking merchandise, doing cart runs, cleaning the store, and helping customers with carry outs. Since being hired as a Service Clerk, he also works with the incoming loads, taking product off pallets, and putting it on the sales floor. Hector was recently promoted to "Main Facer" at the Fontana Smart & Final. Hector says, "All the staff at Smart & Final are friendly and helpful. They have helped me grow and become a valuable asset to the team. I couldn't have come this far without their support." Thank you Smart & Final for your ongoing partnership and support!



*Hector Montes, "Main Facer!"*

## COMMUNICATION = SUCCESS

Josephina Martinez is a senior currently enrolled at American Legion High School in Sacramento. I first met Josephina last school year as she was referred to the Sacramento City Unified School District Office, WorkAbility I Program for an interview.

Josephina presented herself as a mature, responsible young woman who was dressed for success, showed interest, maintained eye contact, and lightly shook my hand. Although she met some of the soft skills employers are looking for, it was apparent that she was a bit quiet and shy. An opportunity arose for a student placement at the local Employment Development Department (EDD) and I felt confident that it would be a great site for Josephina. Historically, WorkAbility I Program is in the 35th year of existence and began as a collaboration partnership with EDD.

Some of Josephina's job tasks include data entry, preparing packets and folders, answering the phones and transferring calls. Josephina said she was most nervous about answering the phones and talking to people. Every day she became more comfortable asking questions, speaking to others and answering the phone. Tiori Randolph, Youth Specialist, said that "Josephina came out of her shell and was a great asset to their department." In speaking to Josephina about her experience at EDD, she said, "I feel proud of myself now, being comfortable to talk to my peers and others in my community." Josephina is thankful for this experience to grow as a person and she is aware that communication is the key to success.



*Josephina is all smiles  
on her job at Sacramento EDD!*