

APPRENTICESHIP

Hospitality Training Academy Alum Perseveres During Pandemic



Carlotta Blowe had escaped an abusive relationship and found success in HTA's culinary apprenticeship program. After completing the prerequisite classes and interviews, Carlotta was thrilled to learn that she had been admitted into the program, which she officially started in October 2019.

The Hospitality Training Academy (HTA) offers culinary and room attendant apprenticeships that train workers for housekeeping and line cook positions in LA's high-growth hospitality industry. HTA works with low-income job-seekers on their resumes to prepare for interviews and provides job skill training.

Carlotta completed the program in December, shortly after she started working as a Line Cook with CREWS of California at LAX Airport in Terminal 1. Carlotta loved the airport and was very happy working in her position. She was learning new skills and continuing to practice so that she could get faster and more skilled at her trade. Unfortunately, though, when COVID-19 hit in March and the stay-at-home orders went into effect for Los Angeles County, Carlotta, like so very many thousands of others, found herself laid-off from her job at the airport.

HTA reached out to assist her in applying for UI benefits and enroll in an Emergency Relief Funds Program they launched with the Foothill Workforce Development Board and the South Bay Workforce Investment Board. Through this she was offered access to additional skills training and employment readiness services. Working with an HTA apprenticeship coordinator, Carlotta successfully completed an advanced culinary skills class that focused on preparing high-level Asian cuisine. She also received help with her resume and mock interviewing, as well as assistance with applying for hospitality-related jobs until such time as she can be considered for rehire at the airport.

As HTA continues to support Carlotta's job search, they were thrilled to be able to hire her as an assistant to chef instructors for some of the online culinary training classes being offered during the pandemic. And, most recently, have been able to successfully help her secure employment as a line cook in October. Carlotta is excited to be working

as a cook again and is grateful for all of the opportunities she has been afforded through HTA.