Local 1000’s groundbreaking LVN-to-RN Apprentice Program celebrated another milestone on May 1, recognizing our 2018 graduates and 2019 participants.

The program was launched in 2016. Seeing a major gap in the upward mobility opportunities for our members, we partnered with state agencies and local colleges and won access to nearly $10 million in grants to create new career pathways and more sustainable careers. Already, more than 50 LVNs have entered or completed the program.

Originated at San Joaquin Delta College in the Central Valley, where many of the state correctional institutions are located, the offering grew to Sacramento City College and will soon expand to Riverside City College in Southern California.

LVN apprentices retain their permanent positions while in the program and receive time off without loss of pay (“20/20 time”) for a combination of classroom theory, clinical experience and on-the-job training.

Local 1000 also offers Information Technology apprenticeship opportunities in networking and client services/help desk.

"Being able to work and to attend classes at the same time was truly a blessing. I'm proud to be part of a union that invests in its members"
Gursharn Gill, RN
2018 Apprentice Graduate
California Health Care Facility, Stockton

"Building my career helped me become a better provider for my family. I'm grateful for the opportunity my union membership provided."
Roderick Omari, RN
2018 Apprentice Graduate
Mule Creek State Prison, Ione

This week we celebrate the extraordinary work of nurses and nursing assistants who are at the heart of our health care system. They’re the Unit 17 and 20 employees who do so much to provide for their patients in a range of state facilities in often difficult and sometimes dangerous working conditions. Dorrie Steadman, who provides care for inmates at the R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility in San Diego County, is just one example of the thousands of nurses our union represents, and she says it best: "Nurses choose to be nurses because we care about others."

"I keep inmates healthy so that they can attend rehabilitation programs and become productive members of society."
- Dorrie Steadman, RN, R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility
Remembering John Delloro
Organizer, Educator, Activist, Community Leader

Each May, we pay tribute to the generations of Asian and Pacific Islanders who have enriched America's history and contributed to its future success. This week, we honor one of our contemporaries, John Delloro, who was an activist and an organizer who impacted the lives of many—including members and colleagues at two SEIU locals in California. John was tragically lost in 2010 to a heart attack at the age of 38.

Delloro served as Executive Director of the Dolores Huerta Labor Institute and also was the national president of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA).

Throughout his years as an activist, John mentored countless numbers of member activists and new organizers.

Delloro said his eyes were opened at UCLA, where he received his B.A. in Psychology in 1994 and his M.A. in Asian American Studies in 1996. Growing up in Southern California, “I didn’t identify as ‘Filipino’ or even as a ‘person of color,’ ” he said. “It took me over twenty years to finally confront many memories I had hid away.”

“Eventually, I went from carrying picket signs protesting the exploitation of Asian immigrant garment workers to joining a civil disobedience with mistreated Latino janitors in Beverly Hills and Los Angeles.”

His first position in the labor movement was organizing hotel workers in Las Vegas with the Culinary Workers Union 226. He went on to organize clerical workers with AFSCME and health care workers with SEIU 399 in Los Angeles.

He was a participant in the APALA Organizing Institute, a program that has trained the next generation of Asian Pacific American union organizers and community activists.

While at SEIU 399, he created a member organizer program that trained hundreds of rank and file members that actively participated in external organizing campaigns. In 2003, he was promoted to the Southwest Area Manager of SEIU Local 1000.

In 2006, he was hired as the first Executive Director of the Dolores Huerta Labor Institute, an organization that is expanding the labor studies curriculum within the Los Angeles Community College District, which has over 130,000 students. Under his leadership, the program has strengthened labor studies on all nine campuses and has exposed thousands of community college students to unions.

John Delloro is survived by his wife Dr. Susan Suh, a sociologist and community activist, and their two children. We celebrate his contribution and efforts to make a better life for all Californians.

Have a question about sick leave or vacations? Are you working out-of-class? Our online search tool offers easy-to-use access to hundreds of articles that govern our wages, benefits and working conditions. You can search by simple key words, or you can read article-by-article.

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