

500G for Immigrants' Hotel/Resort Ed

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A \$494,000 federal grant to provide hospitality industry training to immigrants at LaGuardia Community College was announced yesterday.

The grant is part of \$2.6 million allocated by the Department of Labor and is intended to develop a curriculum to teach individuals with limited English language skills the training they need to pursue a career in the hospitality industry.

"The fast-growing hospitality industry is very much in need of skilled workers. Thousands of workers will benefit from the outreach, English literacy and occupational skills" that grants will make possible, Labor Secretary Elaine Chao said.

LaGuardia was one of three institutions to share the grant package. Also receiving grants were the Southern Nevada Workforce Investment Board and Johnson and Wales University in Providence, R.I.

"LaGuardia's division of adult and continuing education has been in the forefront of workforce development programs for low-income individuals," said Jane Schulman, acting vice president of the division.

"The demand for entry-level workers in the hospitality industry in the city is high but many local immigrants are unprepared for these jobs," said Suma Kurien, director of the college's center for immigrant education and training.

During the 18-month project, some 40 students will attend a 16-week, 160-hour program that will integrate English language instruction with hospitality industry career training.

The college will be training a new crop of industry employees as the city's tourism industry thrives and workers are in demand.

According to the Occupational Employment Statistical Survey, maids/housekeeping staff openings are expected to be among the top 25 in the region, and one of the top 25 fastest growing job categories in the city will be hotel, motel and resort clerks.

Originally published on September 13, 2005

<http://www.nydailynews.com/09-13-2005/boroughs/story/345701p-295128c.html>