

GOOD NEWS FOR FEBRUARY 2009

I recently received a few highlights from our list of alums in key broadcasting positions. Our students are not only heard on the air, but are programming, producing, managing and marketing radio as well. There are at least 10 in key positions at radio stations in San Jose, LA, San Francisco, and one in syndication. One of our former radio students, Emmy® Award winning Brett Larson is the most watched and listened to technology and environmental reporter in the nation.

Sandi Goudy has won her 2nd "SHINE" award from the Datatel Users' Group (DUG). The award is given to individuals based on their contributions to the national organization. Sandi represents Ohlone's continued leadership within the Datatel community.

Don Penrose of Strata Information Group and Ohlone administrators have developed a new enrollment planning tool using Datatel and Microsoft Excel. Academic deans will begin using this tool at the end of this month to plan and build upcoming course schedules. This tool was developed through the efforts of several individuals collaborating across departmental lines, and is a great improvement over past practices.

Sergio Suarez, part-time dance instructor, organized "All the Way Live" at Ohlone this past fall. The breakdancing festival has now been exported successfully to the Phillipines, where Sergio goes once or twice a year to work with disadvantaged youth. The Zhejiang Arts Academy in Hangzhou sponsored Sergio to be a guest instructor for several weeks last year to teach their students about contemporary American dance styles. "All the Way Live" will make an appearance at Ohlone again in 2010.

Great news in hard times, a student who has taken our Solar Panel Installation class has reported that opportunities are opening up for him as a result of the class. He's gotten temporary jobs as a solar installer, and now he has a new job with a company that is an innovator in the field. He is one of the first six employees hired to run their equipment in production. He emailed his instructor Narinder Bansal to thank him for the hands on training and the knowledge he gained.

On Dec. 15th Dave Smith (along with 23 other Mayors) was appointed to a special United States Conference of Mayors Working Group on the Main Street Economic Recovery Plan. The purpose of this group is to strategize ways to advocate for the Mayor's "Main Street Economic Recovery Package" that will create jobs and rebuild our nation's crumbling infrastructure. Their goal is to have as much funding as possible come to cities and not get stuck in state bureaucracies. Dave reports that they seem to be making an impact.