

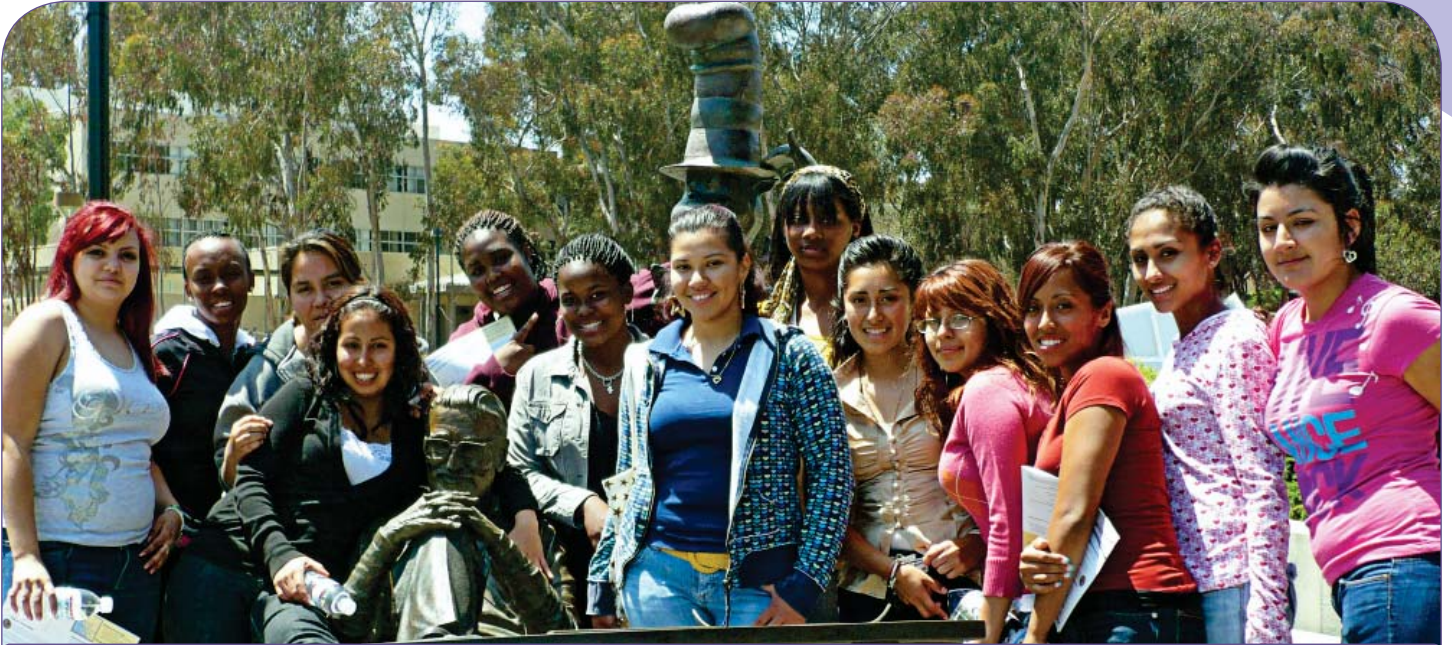


LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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Girls, Let's Go To College!



The group poses with a sculpture of the late Dr. Seuss, on campus at UC San Diego. Shatterra is pictured right of the Cat in the Hat sculpture.

June is graduation month. It's the time many young people look forward to college in the fall. For some, college doesn't always appear to be an option.

Shatterra Williams was not making the grade in her high school classes and graduation was a long shot. That's when she learned about the Community Development Department's Youth Opportunities High School (YOHS) in Watts. The charter school's class sizes of 15-20 students allowed teachers to give more individualized attention. This approach was best for Shatterra and made possible her recent high school graduation.

Counselors at the YO! Centers make every effort to guide young people to positive and productive experiences. That's why counselors at the Watts site organized a college tour for Shatterra and 11 other young women from the local community.

Prior to graduation, the group visited the University of California, San Diego, San Diego State University and Cal Poly Pomona. They took walking tours of each campus, attended

admissions workshops, met current students, ate at Cal Poly Pomona's student dining hall and toured dorm rooms.

Visiting college campuses made a significant impact on the girls; many had never traveled outside their community. They especially enjoyed meeting college students from similar backgrounds. This interaction allowed the girls to believe college could be an option for them.

Once the tour ended YO! Watts counselors met with each student to develop a future education plan. Now Shatterra Williams has college in her future plans.

"Going on this trip allowed me to see myself in a college classroom," Shatterra said. "I want to attend a two-year community college and transfer to a four-year University."

CDD's mission is to create jobs and strengthen families. With a college degree, a brighter future is in store for Shatterra and her family.