



NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA • COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Post Office Box 120128 • San Diego, CA 92112-0128

Release: Immediately
Date: 8/5/15

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Art Transforming Lives Spotlighted at 2015 Passport to Life Expo

A nationally known muralist and former gang member is set to inspire youthful offenders during the 7th Annual *Passport to Life Career and Education Expo*. Fabian Debora will explain to hundreds of young people, whose offenses placed them in the juvenile justice system, how creative expression has helped him make positive changes in his life. The Expo annually provides probationary youth information, tools, encouragement, education and career resources to help them transition into productive adulthood.

Passport to Life is open to youth, 14 to 24 years of age, who are currently on probation or have a probation history. The event focuses on the importance of finishing high school, the value of obtaining higher education and of building work-readiness skills. The event will be held on **Friday, August 7, 2015 at the San Diego City College campus (1313 Park Boulevard) from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

Debora, this year's keynote speaker, is a former East Los Angeles gang member and drug addict, who turned his life around. His art work has been showcased in solo and group exhibitions throughout the United States. He is currently the Director of Art for the Latino Producers Action Network (LPAN) and the Director of Substance Abuse Services at Homeboy

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Industries in Los Angeles. Debora uses art as a vehicle to communicate, educate and touch people throughout his journey.

“The Passport to Life Career & Education Expo entails a lot of work by many people who are committed to helping our youth. When we hear of the accomplishments: young offenders finishing high school, completing college, getting jobs, it makes this program so worthwhile. Passport to Life changes lives. Other cities are taking notice and asking about our program,” says San Diego Superior Court Judge Carolyn M. Caietti.

Each year, Judge Caietti collaborates with Chief Probation Officer Mack Jenkins to produce this event with numerous public and private organizations.

Chief Probation Officer Mack Jenkins says, " This is one of the highlights of our year. It is both heartwarming and inspiring to see this effort come together to provide opportunities for youth. We know, after having done this for several years now, that many youth will take advantage of Passport to Life to chart a course to go to college or perhaps pursue a career".

The program kicks off with the opening session followed by multiple breakout workshops with topics such as:

- *Overcoming Barriers*
- *Landing and Keeping a Job*
- *Healthy Relationships*
- *Education Beyond High School*
- *Why You should Care about your Digital Reputation*

There will also be a lunchtime “Dress for Success” fashion show, which features the proper attire for job interviews and employment. In addition, Debora will also spotlight his artful talents at lunchtime with a “live” creation of a mural.

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Approximately 80 organizations representing schools, branches of the military, careers, training services, and other resources will staff informational tables and provide opportunities for one-on-one interaction.

Passport to Life is a collaborative effort of the following organizations:

- San Diego Superior Court
- San Diego County Probation Department
- San Diego City College
- San Diego Workforce Partnership
- San Diego County Office of Education; Juvenile Court and Community Schools
- San Diego County District Attorney's Office
- San Diego County Public Defender's Office

Note: Up to 800 young people between the ages of 14 and 24 are expected to attend. Some individuals and their parents have signed media waivers agreeing to on-camera and print interviews.

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**PASSPORT TO LIFE CAREER AND EDUCATION EXPO
SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2015

8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Event Schedule

ARRIVAL: 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Harry West Gym

OPENING SESSION: 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. in the Harry West Gym

- ~ Dr. Marilyn Harvey - Interim Director, First Year Services, San Diego City College
- ~ Professor Kahalifa King - San Diego City College - Master of Ceremonies
- ~ Honorable Carolyn Caietti - Presiding Judge, San Diego Superior Court Juvenile Division
- ~ Dr. Anthony E. Beebe - President, San Diego City College
- ~ Mack Jenkins - Chief Probation Officer, San Diego County Probation Department

Keynote Speaker

Fabian Debora – Art Director, Latino Producers Action Network (LPAN)

~ Jason Druxman & Dr. Marilyn Harvey - Participant Orientation

1ST WORKSHOP SESSION: 10:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

2ND WORKSHOP SESSION: 11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

LUNCH ACTIVITIES - 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

All lunch activities will take place in the Gorton Quad
Free Lunch complements of the Allied Gardens Kiwanis Club
Resource Fair
“Dress for Success”, Fashion Show
Raffle

RESOURCE FAIR: 9:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Exhibitors representing education, career readiness, military, training,
community resources and an art demonstration presented by
Fabian Debora in Gorton Quad.

EVENT CONCLUDES: 1:30 p.m.



2015 Passport to Life Career and Education Expo

What	<i>Passport to Life</i> , a career and education expo for youth on probation is presented by the San Diego Superior Court, Juvenile Division; San Diego County Probation Department; San Diego County Office of Education, Juvenile Court and Community Schools; San Diego City College; San Diego Workforce Partnership; San Diego County District Attorney's Office and the San Diego County Public Defender's Office.
Purpose	<i>Passport to Life</i> is aimed at youth, ages 14 to 24, who are on probation or have been on probation in San Diego County. The event offers user-friendly information about resources and opportunities available to them as they transition from being a youth on probation into adulthood with adult responsibilities. The goal is to provide them with ideas, tools, motivation, encouragement, and hope for their future. It is based on the premise that all youth, including adjudicated youth with probation histories, have the ability to succeed if they have the right training, support, and opportunities.
When	Friday, August 7, 2015 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Where	San Diego City College – 1313 Park Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92101
Credits	Participants will earn up to 12 community service hours
Cost	Free
Format	Check-in is between 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. The day begins with the opening session featuring world renowned muralist, Fabian Debora, sharing his transformative story of how a near death experience awakened him from the darkness of gang life, incarceration and drug addiction and how art changed his life. The opening session will be followed by workshops and a resource fair. Lunch is provided and lunchtime activities will include the "Dress for Success" fashion show illustrating appropriate attire for a job interview, school and the workplace.
Workshops	Immediately following the opening session participants will have the opportunity to attend workshops on a variety of topics related to education and careers. Topics will include (just to name a few): education beyond high school, financial aid, overcoming barriers, landing and keeping a job, financial responsibility and using the internet responsibly. In addition, workshops will be offered for parents so they are better prepared to guide and support their children.
Resource Fair	Will feature more than 75 exhibitors representing schools, branches of the military, career opportunities, training services and other resources.
Registration	Register on-line at www.ptlsandiego.com or at any San Diego County Juvenile Probation Office.
Donations	Tax deductible donations to support the event can be made to the: San Diego Justice Foundation P.O. Box 122724 San Diego, CA 92112-2724 Attn: Angela Parker
Questions	For additional information visit ptlsandiego.com or contact Julie Myres at 619-450-7176, Julie.Myres@sdcourt.ca.gov or info@ptlsandiego.com .