

DoD-HACU Partnership Provides Opportunity for DPMS Intern

By Jessica Walter-Groft, DDC Command Affairs

In a new agreement signed in October 2003, the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) partnered to broaden the role of Hispanic-serving institutions in support of DoD's mission and to increase employment opportunities within DoD for students under its National Internship Program.

HACU is a national association representing the accredited colleges and universities in the United States where Hispanic students constitute at least 25 percent of the total student enrollment. The HACU National Internship Program (HNIP) recruits college students for paid summer- and semester-long internships at federal agencies and private corporations throughout the country. These internship programs give college students direct experience in a diversity of careers in the

federal and corporate sectors. Any individual can participate in the internship program, regardless of race, age, sexual orientation or disability.

Through this partnership, Imani Richards of San Pablo, Calif. has been selected to complete an internship in the Distribution Planning and Management System (DPMS) Program Office.

Hispanic Employment Program Manager Betty Durham leads DDC's recruiting efforts for the internship program, and she considers it successful. "The interns we have received from the HACU program have brought cutting edge ideas and fresh perspectives to DDC."

Richards' primary duties include coordinating data relating to DPMS training and preparing briefings and presentations. "I'm using my marketing background to help update the DPMS presentations and



The DoD-HACU partnership gave Imani Richards the opportunity to complete an internship in the DPMS Program Office.

highlight the benefits of the system," said Richards who has a bachelor's degree in business administration and is currently pursuing a master's degree in broadband advertising at California State University, Hayward.

"During this internship, I hope to better my communication skills and learn how this organization functions so that I can apply that knowledge to my career in the future," said Richards whose career goals include owning an advertising firm and becoming a real estate broker.

DDC Welcomes PEP Participant from DSCR

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The Defense Distribution Center (DDC) welcomed Industrial Hygienist Ariel Rosa from Defense Supply Center Richmond (DSCR) in January. As part of DLA's Professional Enhancement Program (PEP), Rosa will be working in DDC's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Office.

DLA's Professional Enhancement Program (PEP) is designed to improve the knowledge and capability of the DLA workforce through training assignments that broaden a participant's knowledge of DLA's mission and functions. While in the DDC EEO Office, Rosa hopes to sharpen his conflict resolution skills that will help when he returns to the Safety and Health Office at DSCR.

Although the functions of the EEO Office seem to differ greatly from those of the Safety and Health Office, Rosa contends that both have similar missions in that they both seek to protect the employee. "Even in the Safety and Health Office (at DSCR), we sometimes deal with conflict among supervisors and employees or unions and attorneys, so I hope to gain experience that will help me resolve those disputes," said Rosa.

"As a member of our EEO team, Mr. Rosa will gain a better understanding of other people's problems and ideas, and how to get people to work together to resolve issues in a positive manner," said Patricia Compton, DDC's Equal Employment Manager.

Ariel Rosa, an Industrial Hygienist from DSCR, will spend six months in DDC's EEO Office as part of DLA's Professional Enhancement Program.



During Rosa's six-month stay at DDC, he will work closely with the EEO officers to see how they handle difficult situations and reach win-win outcomes. In addition to those assignments, he will also be working on other diversity-related projects.

For more information on PEP, visit <http://www.hr.dla.mil/j1/pep/main.htm>.