

## **Inaugural Don and Rosemary Vial Awards for Digital Inclusion Exemplary Individual Performance Nominee**

### **Patricia Celidon**

Technology and Training Director  
CDTech



Patricia Celidon is a passionate and tireless advocate for Digital Inclusion. She has worked most of her professional career to ensure that those with the least have access to the technology and broadband applications they need to be part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.

Patricia Celidon joined the CDTech team in the Spring of 2006 as the Technology Program Manager in charge of re-opening the CDTechLink Center located in the heart of Vernon-Central, a community of concentrated poverty in historic South Central Los Angeles. Thanks to Patricia's efforts, the center re-opened in 6 months

and grew from an initial 20 participants to 200 participants by the end of her first year. Patricia was promoted to Director of Technology and Training at CDTech, developing an extensive network of critical partnerships and launching the TechREADY program with Carver Middle School. Over the past three years, her stature as a visible leader in Vernon-Central has been established with residents, public officials, educators and non-profit organizations. Patricia led efforts that have strengthened the community's infrastructure through the development of the Information Technology Advisory Committee of public, private and non-profit leaders in South Central Los Angeles and the Vernon-Central Education Network composed of principals, key administrators and faculty from elementary, middle and high schools that are committed to building and implementing the Kindergarten – Postsecondary Education system technology-based career and technical education (CTE) pipeline.

Patricia has also played instrumental roles at key points in the development of: 1) the Central Avenue Business Association; 2) the Vernon-Central Workforce Development Network that provides disconnected youth with case management and work readiness and leadership development programming; and 3) the LISC Building Sustainable Communities Initiative for Vernon-Central.

In November 2010, Patricia expanded CDTech's technology opportunities beyond the Vernon-Central community by launching Digital Literacy workshops for youth and adults in the Jordan Downs housing project in Watts. She holds advanced degrees in electrical engineering and technology education and yet one of her greatest joys is helping someone turn on the computer for the first time.