



PRESS RELEASE

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South Bay Workforce Investment Board
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**South Bay Workforce Investment Board
Bio-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program
Graduates 14 South Bay Area Students**

HAWTHORNE - Fourteen South Bay area high school students graduated from the South Bay Workforce Investment Board's (SBWIB) Spring Bio – Flex Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program conducted over a five-week period culminating with a ceremony last month. The career pathway training program was developed in partnership with local employers to help attract people to the bioscience and life science industries and build a local workforce pipeline.

The students were selected to enter the training program from four area high schools including City Honors, Inglewood High School, Morningside High School, and Lawndale High School.

"I really want to thank the South Bay WIB for giving me this opportunity to be in the Bio-Flex apprenticeship program," said Lawndale High Junior Victor Imo. "It taught me how to be prepared for the workforce and I especially liked the interactive format and being able to select the courses I needed," he continued.

SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel credits the success of the pathway training program on the enthusiastic support provided by educational and industry partners. "Our Flex model for apprenticeship training is attracting an increasing number of volunteer bioscience educators in our southland colleges as well as our industry partners who serve as coaches for the students," he noted.

During the training students completed the Blueprint for Workplace Success curriculum which included development of resumes with the support of coaches, practiced interviewing with peer and coach support. They also completed four Biotech Primer courses of their choice and learned about the wide variety of job opportunities in the biosciences during two expanding career event panels with seven employers.

In addition to its bioscience centered pre-apprenticeship program and highly successful Aero-Flex apprenticeship program for aerospace and advanced manufacturing, the SBWIB is also developing pre-apprenticeship in support of other high demand work sectors including Healthcare, Information Technology, Digital Media and Energy/Climate.

The SBWIB operates four One Stop Business & Careers Centers within the South Bay area providing adult, youth, and business services at no cost to the public, plus two Teen Centers in Inglewood and Hawthorne and a YouthBuild program in Lennox. For more information, please call (310) 970-7700 or visit www.SBWIB.org.

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