



PRESS RELEASE

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**South Bay Workforce Investment Board Hosts 16th Annual
Blueprint for Workplace Success Youth & Young Adults Job Fair**

HAWTHORNE – For the 16th year, the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) hosted the annual Blueprint for Workplace Success Youth and Young Adult Job Fair. The event was held Wednesday, May 4, at Inglewood’s Rogers Park, in collaboration with the City of Inglewood, the State Department of Rehabilitation, the State of California Employment Development Center, the Airport Area Chamber of Commerce (AACC) and the South Bay One-Stop Business & Career Centers.

More than **750** participating local area youth and young adults, ages 16-24, traveled to Inglewood for an opportunity to interact with representatives from more than **60** attending businesses and organizations in the hope of securing employment. For many, this is the first foray into the interviewing process. Students from **18** schools throughout the South Bay Area, including Hawthorne, Carson, Torrance and Redondo Beach, were selected by their school’s career counselors so they could meet face-to-face with potential employers. At event’s end, **158** were offered jobs on the spot and **186** are scheduled for follow-up interviews.

SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel shared a success story before the event officially began. “Two years ago we had a young lady here, just like you, trying to get a job. The following year, she was at a table hiring people. Next year I would like to see some of you back here doing the interviewing.”

Since its inception in 2000, more than **10,000** South Bay youth have participated in the job fair. Among the businesses and organizations present were multiple-time attendees Target, Costco, L.A. Fire Department, U.S. Army, EDD-Inglewood, GameStop and Old Navy.

Jay Fernandez, Director of Operations for Camacho’s Inc. said this was their first year attending the event. “We are impressed with the way the event has been organized,” Fernandez said. “This comes at the perfect time for us as we are hiring extra help for the busy summer months. We are also excited about giving young people an opportunity to gain employment experience,” Fernandez said.

“This is a tremendously successful event,” Mr. Vogel stated. “Our Blueprint participants and local youth get real-world experience in interviewing and the companies are able to select among a pool of work-ready candidates. It’s a win-win.”



More than **750** job hopefuls attended the 16th Annual Blueprint for Workplace Success Youth and Young Adult Job Fair at Rogers Park in Inglewood on Wednesday, May 4, 2016.