



**PRESS RELEASE**

July 31, 2017

South Bay Workforce Investment Board  
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**South Bay Workforce Investment Board Presents  
Aero-Flex Pre-Apprentice with Certificate of Completion**

**HAWTHORNE** - The South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) and the Unilateral Apprenticeship Committee (UAC) members of the Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship program congratulated six additional students in their completion of the Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship (AFPA) program on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Parents of apprentices were in attendance to witness as students received their certificates and talk to companies about their experience in the program.

This employer-centric earn and learn model for engineering is intended to meet the workforce development needs common to the aerospace advanced manufacturing industry in the South Bay and Los Angeles County. Pre-Apprentices have a chance to learn about exciting, well-paying local engineering career opportunities and to connect with top employers while gaining valuable work experience and technical instruction in employer-designated and valued skills. The pre-apprentices in this class intend to continue their education in both community and four-year colleges.

During the presentation, students had an opportunity to give their impressions of the Pre-Apprenticeship and answer questions by the employers and education partners from the UAC. Present were: West L.A. College, Northrop Grumman Corp., USC Center for Economic Development, Magnetika Inc. and El Camino College. Companies also a part of the UAC include: L-3 Communications, Impresa Aerospace, Space Vector Corporation, TEN TECH, Verisurf Software and Zodiac Aerospace.

Students completed three program tracks: Work Readiness training through the “Blueprint for Workplace Success” curriculum, both online and in person; Technical Instruction – online classes selected by their internship employer from multiple Engineering related courses that were offered; Work Experience/On-the-Job Training through an internship with Northrop Grumman in El Segundo and Space Park, Redondo Beach. “The online and in-class work was informative, user friendly and related to what we were doing as interns,” commented graduating student Matthew Paysse.

AFPA will soon expand from the pilot class to over 100 students and more employers throughout Los Angeles County, thanks to an accelerator grant provided by the California Workforce Development Board and the Employment Development Department. “This employer-centric pre-apprenticeship will ensure our advanced manufacturing firms can find the talent they need locally and provide the hands-on experience employers want,” expressed Jan Vogel, SBWIB’s Executive Director.

The SBWIB operates four One Stop Business & Careers Centers within the South Bay service area plus two Teen Centers in Inglewood and Hawthorne providing adult, youth and business services. Companies interested in being a part of the program, or for more information on the Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship, please contact Deborah Shepard at dshepard@sbwib.org or call (310) 970-7700.

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**Photo Caption**

South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) and Unilateral Apprenticeship Committee (UAC) members of Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship (AFPA) Program present students with certificates to congratulate their completion in the program on July 19th, 2017. Pictured from left to right-back: Barry Sloan, West LA College; Katherine Reed, Northrop Grumman Corp.; Dion Jackson, USC Center for Economic Development; Sergio Frausto, Pre-Apprentice, graduate from Hawthorne H.S.; Andy Roberts, Northrop Grumman Corp; Catherine Holdbrook-Smith, Magnetika Inc.; Ben Traina, El Camino college; Jose Anaya, El Camino College. Middle row-left to right: Matthew Paysse, Pre-Apprentice, graduate from El Segundo H.S.; Jan Vogel, SBWIB Executive Director; Donald Mckinzie, Northrop Grumman Corp. Front row left to right: Rachel Wang, Pre-Apprentice, graduate from El Segundo H.S.; Roderick Hughes, Pre-Apprentice, graduate from City Honors H.S.; Veronica David, parent/representing Joseph Soto, Pre-Apprentice, graduate from City Honors H.S.; Kristin Villanueva, Pre-Apprentice, graduate from El Segundo H.S.; Karen Latuner, El Camino College.